

It Almost Takes a Revolution Just to Get a Mere 55c an Hour

By WALTER WEISS

Freedom from want is one of Roosevelt's famous Four Freedoms. Freedom from want is also part of the Atlantic Charter. Freedom from want is also, to get right down to earth, fifty cents an hour or less in the United States at the present moment. So say the decisions of the War Labor Board, which have fixed a minimum hourly wage that ranges from forty to fifty cents. No worker has yet collected on the Four Freedoms or the Atlantic Charter. Pay envelopes are still based on the orders of the WLB. And these orders say \$16 to \$20 as the minimum for a forty-hour week.

WLB "MIGHT" RECOMMEND RAISE

There were reports last week that public members of the WLB, now considering some textile wage cases, might recommend a boost to fifty-five cents—or a little more, or a little less. Of course, there would be exceptions—as there are to the present fifty-cent "sub-standard" level. Not every employer can pay wages this high, according to the employers and the WLB. The employers claim that fifty-five cents an hour would be al-

most a revolution. Wages of \$22 a week—and before deductions at that—would be almost a revolution!

After all, it is true that 21.7 per cent of the American working class now earns less than fifty cents an hour, less than \$22 a week. One out of every five workers. These are figures of the War Labor Board itself, and they don't even include farm workers, the lowest paid of all.

WHAT IS A "DECENT" WAGE?

Way back in the 1920's, government estimates showed that an American family required \$2,500 a year to live "in decency, health, and comfort." That meant \$48 a week.

At this very moment, with wartime prices and taxes prevailing, about eighty-seven per cent of the workers are earning less than \$48 a week. These, too, are WLB figures and not do include low-paid farm workers.

It doesn't take a mathematical genius to discover, on the basis of the above figures, that under present conditions, even \$1.20 an hour for a forty-hour week is too little to guarantee real freedom from want.

What has the Textile Workers Union done in this case? It has proved that seventy-two cents an hour, \$28.80 a week, is

necessary to maintain a family of four on a WPA "minimum subsistence" budget. An "emergency" budget—and even this would be dangerous to health is continued for long—would require eighty-seven cents an hour. You can see that our figure of \$1.20 is none too high.

Having proved that seventy-two cents was far too little, the union asked for sixty cents.

As compared with forty cents, they asked for a fifty per cent increase—a big raise.

But the unions have also proved that the cost of living has gone up almost fifty per cent since 1941.

They are therefore asking for a wage that does no more than equal forty cents at pre-war price levels.

WE NEED FREEDOM FROM BUNK, TOO

The public members of the WLB, empowered by law of Congress and executive order of the President to "correct sub-standards of living," suggest fifty-five cents as a basis for discussion.

Freedom from want! What a miserable farce! So miserable that even Senator Pepper has introduced a sixty-five-cent minimum bill in the Senate—strictly for talking purposes, of course. So miserable that the labor members of the WLB, shameless creatures

though they are, have been ashamed to demand less than seventy-two cents—strictly for talking purposes, of course.

All this goes on in an industry in which, according to different estimates, profits have risen 600 to 800 per cent over pre-war levels.

All this goes on in a country able to produce an income of \$100 per week for every family.

END COLLECTIVE BEGGING

The workers get nowhere by begging the WLB for favors. The unions need to clear their members out of the WLB talking-shop. They need to take back the right to strike.

Now—before post-war unemployment makes their bargaining position far weaker, as even union leaders say will be the case.

The workers get nowhere by begging Roosevelt and his government for favors. He offers crusts today, fine words about some Atlantic Charter pie by-and-by.

The unions need to start their own party now. Why surrender the power of government to the "Sixty Families"—to the Morgan men and the Rockefeller men—to run for their private profit? A workers' government could do the obvious—operate the nation's productive machine fully to turn the words of the Atlantic Charter into reality.

ONLY 218 TO GO!

See the Story About
Labor Action's Sub Drive
On Page 2 Today

LABOR ACTION

WE ARE FOR—
A Guaranteed
Annual Wage
For All Workers

JANUARY 1, 1945

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

Join the Workers Party in the Struggle --

FOR SOCIALIST FREEDOM!

Anti-"Pledge" Group Has Logic On Its Side

By W. WHITE

The "leaders" say that it is our first duty to end this fearful war as soon as possible. That is what we owe to the soldiers "who are fighting and shedding their blood, giving their lives to the cause at this moment."

The words quoted are from a speech made by Churchill this last September. In one way or another, all our "leaders" say the same thing: the politicians, the military men, the industrialists, the trade union tops, the preachers, and even the outstanding strip-tease ladies.

They are speaking to the workers. "No matter what else happens, production must not stop for an instant. If it does, your son or your brother or your sweetheart may die," they say.

none of it. They say: Come hell or high water, we must not let down our own boys and our Allies. Where we Stalinists have organizations in Avery's chain, we will act as scabs.

Now, that is really logical. Hasn't the War Labor Board told us that no wartime strike can be justified, no matter how great the provocation? Why, if there were no provocation, these wise men say, there would be no cause for striking, and a no-strike pledge would be meaningless.

Hasn't R. J. Thomas, president of the Auto Workers, told us that provocation is no excuse? Hasn't he said that, if the industrialists are unpatriotic and cause trouble, we workers must be doubly patriotic and suffer their blows for the sake of the boys overseas?

CAPITALIST "LOGIC"

The Bridges-Browder crew certainly have logic on their side, as compared with Thomas, Murray, and their like. Yet, when logic is carried that far, almost every worker shrinks back in horror from the results. When logic is carried that far, almost every worker can see that it is capitalist logic and that labor must have a different logic of its own.

The workers say that they don't want the soldiers—their sons, their brothers their sweethearts—to come back, if they come back at all, to an Avery's America.

Let's carry this logic a bit further. Do we want the veterans to return to an America in which two out of every five workers earn less than 65 cents an hour? Hearings before a Senate committee have shown that to be the America of today (LABOR ACTION, December 18).

The capitalists and their mouthpieces, in a non-stop flood of propaganda, tell the workers to wait until after the war to remedy this situation. Then they laugh, sometimes boldly and openly, and tell one another that after the war there will be plenty of labor, that wages will be kept down or even lowered. They hope and expect that the millions of veterans will assist them in their wage-cutting drive.

When it comes to their own profits, the capitalists refuse to wait. They would not convert to war production, until the government furnished the capital for new plants and guaranteed high profits. They were unwilling to release their monopolistic patents to other manufacturers. Were the materials needed to save lives on the battlefield? Too bad! Some of the biggest corporations even sold defective wire, airplane engines, and other equipment. Were lives lost? Too bad! Profits come first.

"Yes, yes," the labor leaders say, "we know all about these capitalist crimes. We can't stop them right now. Instead the workers must put out extra efforts to make up for the disloyalty of the capitalists. This, after all, is labor's war."

The proof? If we can't find it at home, we must look abroad.

Churchill has said, you will remember, that we owe it to the soldiers as

BEWARE! CHURCHILL, EDEN BEAR CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO GREEKS

By JIM TANAKOS

Three weeks of armed struggle by the little people of Greece for their liberation from British imperialism has shaken the English government to such an extent that Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of the mighty British Empire, and his Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, have rushed to Greece to make the best possible bargain for their Empire.

What a commentary on the collapse of Britain's former power! Churchill has been trying for weeks to convince the world that the Greek underground forces are nothing more than a bunch of "brigands" and "common thieves," representing nobody. Yet Churchill and Eden dashed off to Greece on Christmas day to hold a conference with these selfsame "brigands" and "thieves."

Thus the leaders of the once mightiest empire in the world left their country mansions on the day celebrating the birth of Christ, dropped all their important war duties as the heads of a nation at war to spend Christmas with a "gang of gangsters."

No, it was not the Christmas spirit that moved these gentlemen. Neither was it the blood of the British-slain Greek people flowing in the streets of Athens that disturbed their consciences.

It was the universal condemnation by the entire world against this barbarous crime of British imperialism, the rising tide of resentment by the English and colonial peoples against the Churchill government, the increasing antagonisms between the Big Three which forced this trip. Churchill realized that unless the fighting stopped in Greece, his allies would utilize the situation for furthering their own imperialist ends.

The conditions under which Churchill met the underground leaders in Greece reveal how much of



the Greek population is supporting the puppet government. Churchill had to meet in a hotel, for the government buildings are not in the hands of the government or the British troops. The Greek government, appointed by the British, has its headquarters in a hotel in that part of the city foreign troops obtained for him. The Prime Minister and his Cabinet have to make their own beds, and English girls who came to Greece to open canteens for the British soldiers do the cooking in the hotel. Even the hotel help walked out when the Greek government came in. Churchill must hold his conferences under an oil lamp, because

the gas and electric workers are in the general strike.

What a pitiful sight, and yet what a glowing tribute to the Greek people! They have forced this scoundrel, head of an empire, to come to their little country to hold a conference under these "inhospitable" conditions.

WHAT BRITAIN WANTS

Great Britain is trying to impose a puppet government upon the people of Greece because the trade routes and communication lines to large sections of her empire lie in the Mediterranean and she wants to guarantee her control of that area. This is important to British imperialism—so important that they are prepared to shoot down as many Greeks as necessary to achieve this control.

On December 5th, Premier Papan-dreu told the American correspondents that he was resigning in hopes that this would bring about peace under a government to be formed by Themistocles Sophoulis. Churchill refused to permit Papan-dreu to resign. Why? Is Sophoulis a radical? Of course not! Sophoulis is leader of the Liberal Party, also known as the British Party in Greece.

The Liberal Party has always held the position that Greece, being a small country, needed the financial and military aid of one big power. Britain was always the choice of the Liberal Party, on the ground that every power would charge big interest rates and exploit the country but that Britain, at least, would not seek territorial expansion at the expense of Greece; that Britain's needs in the Mediterranean would force Britain to help her in time of war.

Churchill refused to permit Papan-dreu to resign in order to end, once and for all, any ideas the Greeks

(Continued on page 4)

Ring Out the Old!

As 1944 draws to a close, the old, out-moded society of capitalism plumbs the depths of destruction, inhumanity, insecurity and contempt for freedom and democracy.

No society since barbarism—which capitalism more and more resembles—has killed so many and doomed so many more to poverty.

In three short years since the United States entered the war, we have experienced over half a million casualties, killed, wounded or missing on half a dozen battlefronts.

According to Hanson W. Baldwin, New York Times military expert, we can look forward in all areas of warfare to 100,000 to 120,000 casualties a month in the coming year of 1945.

Bravo, Maestro!

When Arturo Toscanini refused to play the fascist hymn at a concert in Bologna in 1931 he was set upon by a gang of fascist hoodlums and his arm was slightly injured in the melee. Last week one Mario Ghinelli was arrested in Naples and charged, among other things, with having organized the attack on Toscanini. With what seems to us excellent journalistic sense, the Associated Press asked Toscanini to comment on the arrest; and the conductor made the following brief, pointed and, to our ears, ringing statement:

"I had already forgotten the name of the man who offended me so slightly. But I cannot forget the name of the degenerate King of Italy who has betrayed my country, who was the accomplice and the supporter of the fascists in all their crimes against civil liberties, and who is one of the major ones responsible for this bloody war and the ruin and misery of the Italian people. I am astonished and disgusted that he and the Italian monarchy have found support and protection by the Allies."—The Nation, December 23.



Since the war began five years ago, the entire continent of Europe was conquered by the Axis powers, and its reconquest by the Allies is well on the way to being finished. Millions have been killed, many more millions rendered homeless all over this planet, sacrifices to the war for imperialist profits.

This is the face of capitalism. This is the profit system at work. This is the system which plunges the world into recurrent depressions, each worse than the last, since capitalism began.

Ring In the New!

Yet no society since barbarism has the possibility of creating greater security, happiness, culture or democracy.

It is possible today, without even expanding our facilities, for every family to have an income of \$5,000 a year.

It is possible to eliminate this mechanized mass murder for profit's sake.

It is possible to have a society of peace, prosperity and plenty for all—socialism.

How is this possible?

We have the material resources—the factories, the mines, the farm-

(Continued on page 2)

Local 501 Executive Is Against "Pledge"

BUFFALO—Taking its cue from the sentiment of the UAW convention, the Executive Board of Bell Aircraft Local 501, UAW-CIO, went on record seven to one in favor of rescinding the no-strike pledge. One member voted to reaffirm, one member refused to take a position and merely voted "present," and the remaining two board members were absent from the meeting held December 4.

According to the "501 Organizer," newspaper of the union, the vote "serves not only as a public statement of policy of each board member but as a strong indication of prevailing rank and file sentiment. The 'Organizer' is confident that the 501 membership will follow the lead of the Executive Board and will, at referendum time, vote to rescind the no-strike pledge seven to one or better."

Referendum ballots on the no-strike pledge will be mailed out January 4 to mailing list of national UAW newspaper.

What possible answer do you have to that, you rubber workers who refuse to speed up any more, you steel workers who pull a "quickie" when management for the hundredth time laughs at your grievances, you auto workers who are now daring to take a democratic vote on the sacred no-strike pledge?

Yes, and you, too, you slaves of Sewell Avery, the overlord of Montgomery Ward? What good will it do you to win that magnificent 46 cents an hour, ordered by the War Labor Board but refused by Avery, if your strike costs the life of even one Allied soldier?

The Word case is different, you may say. Avery is defying the government. He is responsible for any lives that may be lost.

That is not a logical answer. The really logical people, Earl Browder, Harry Bridges and his lieutenants, and the other Communists will have

UAW Ranks, Some Leaders Back Ward Strike

By JACK MILLER

As the Montgomery Ward strike continued through its second week in Detroit, several actions were taken. First was the announcement that the Wayne County CIO Council, dominated by the Stalinist Communist Party, had refused support to the strike. Second was the calling of a meeting for local union executive board members and chief shop stewards to discuss action against Ward.

The announcement of the Wayne County Council's non-support of the strike came early this week. The Council is following the line of the Communist Party and the Daily Worker 100 per cent. Like Harry Bridges during the first Ward strike, they refuse to support this one, too, because of the no-strike pledge.

The action of the Council was greeted by howls of protest from the strike supporters here. There was talk of withdrawing immediately from the Council. The ranks and file feels that it is being sold down the river by the Communists. Here is a case where even the War Labor Board has recommended a few concessions and "Sewer" Avery has refused even these. But the Communists apparently don't care if the

workers get nothing or if their union is destroyed, as long as the no-strike pledge is maintained.

In a totally different position are the official leaders of the CIO in this region. They are interested in maintaining the no-strike pledge, but the pledge must be made "elastic" to cover situations like the one at Ward's. Gus Scholle, CIO regional director for Michigan, and Roy Scoggins, regional director for Detroit of the United Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Employees, are giving official support to the strike, in spite of the no-strike pledge. Even that great upholder of the pledge, Dick Leonard of the UAW, is supporting the strike.

Devastating, however, has been the silence of CIO President Philip Murray and UAW President R. J. Thomas. This silence has been explained away as tacit approval of the strike by both, and it has been rumored that both support the strike and would say so openly were it not for their positions as union presidents and the position of the CIO on strikes.

The Stalinists are carrying out the official policy of the CIO bureaucrats on strikes right down the line, and the viciousness of this policy is evident in Detroit, where their action



SILENT ON WARD STRIKE

in opposition to the strike has been a stab in the back. The so-called "right wing" leaders are in a contradictory position. They feel that the pledge must be upheld, but that in the Ward case it should be "stretched" because the life of the union is at stake.

About 2,500 rank and file leaders of the UAW attended the meeting called by the CIO president's committee to plan action on the Ward strike. Two speeches by Gus Scholle and Roy Scoggins prefaced the real meeting. The essence of their remarks was to the effect that the no-strike pledge is good, it must be maintained; the War Labor Board is good, it must be upheld; Avery is no good, he must go. This, in one form or another, was repeated fifty times if it was said once.

In front of the stage was a sign reading: "Uphold the War Labor Board," and the telegram sent out calling the meeting stated in effect that the existence of the War Labor Board was the issue at stake in the Ward strike. This was the tone laid down by the official CIO leadership. Forgotten was the Little Steel formula and the thousands of anti-labor decisions of the WLB which have been crammed down labor's throat for the past two years.

But when the floor was thrown open to speakers, the real meeting began. One of the delegates from GM Diesel Local 163, UAW, started off the barrage by demanding that all locals withhold per capita tax from the Wayne County CIO Council,

thereby destroying that body. He further suggested that the per capita tax be contributed to the Ward strikers. This speech was greeted with much applause, as the action of the County Council has gained for itself many enemies in the past few days.

After this speaker came several people who spoke about the no-strike pledge. They pointed out the contradiction of having a no-strike pledge and of supporting the Ward strike, and called for rescinding of the no-strike pledge and thereby giving full support to the Ward strikers.

Dick Leonard thereupon took the floor and denounced those who wanted to rescind the no-strike pledge. The issue was the Ward strike; Avery had spit on the government and "I do not subscribe to that," he said. He called for all support to the strike but reminded the audience of the no-strike pledge.

SOME REAL ISSUES

The most significant speech of the evening, was that of Dan Gallagher, labor member of the Regional War Labor Board. Gallagher first said he believed in the no-strike pledge. But, said he, the issue is greater than

(Continued on page 2)

MASS ACTION

By David Coolidge Nat'l Labor Sec'y, Workers Party

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Ranks Support Ward Strike - -

(Continued from page 1)

This. "It amounts to a fight to the finish... as to whether the CIO is of any importance in Detroit. It is a test of whether a CIO strike shall be given consideration; whether an authorized strike is important. How in hell will you be able to win a strike AFTER the war if Ward workers cannot get support today in an authorized strike?"

The hall resounded with cheers as the delegates pounded their feet and called "support." But after Garrison finished and debate was closed the motion that was voted upon was not one calling for a labor holiday, but

"Of course it is true that we have an interest in the Mediterranean. That has never been denied by anyone. But in respect of this action we took in Greece, we took it only in order to bring food and supplies to Greece because we knew the position in which Greece would find herself."

—Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, in December 20 speech to Parliament.

"Such meetings as those held at Bretton Woods and Dumbarton Oaks are evidence of the desire on the part of the nations participating to maintain and extend the unity which has developed in the course of the war," Murray said.—From the Daily Worker, Sunday, December 24.

one calling for all support to the Ward strikers.

The call for a labor holiday was completely glossed over in spite of calls from the floor for a vote on

this issue. Responsibility for himself, shared by Garrison himself, who did not put his proposal in motion form. It seemed very much as if he was not interested in the action but merely in making a "militant" name for himself.

This was the attitude of the leaders of the meeting, who were sitting on the platform. Any kind of talk was okay, but when action was proposed it was out of order because "this body has no authority to do that." If the leadership wanted action, why wasn't authority given? Why hadn't the meeting been called through official CIO channels, thereby automatically giving it authority?

But no, that was the real point of the leadership: to try to gain support by meetings and without involving the huge mass of UAW members in Detroit. By calling a labor holiday, the stores would have been closed so tight nobody would have gotten in, but the leadership cannot forget the no-strike pledge.

The Ward workers will win their strike only if the rank and file UAW members in Detroit join them on their picket lines and keep the scabs out by sheer mass. This could be done easily enough, but the CIO leadership will not resort to this unless the strike is threatened by failure. Instead of ending the strike victoriously, they will let it drag on and on, and use mass action only as the last resort.

How Progressives Get Licked

We have just learned that Joe Hanley, president of Local 108 of the Farm Equipment Workers in Chicago, has been defeated for re-election by a Communist Party slate. Thus another militant trade union leader goes down to defeat before the reactionary forces in the labor movement. What is particularly bad about the Hanley defeat is that he was defeated not by just ordinary trade union conservatives, but by the most venomous, poisonous and reactionary people in the whole trade union movement. This is the difference between the defeat of Bass of Goodrich Local in Akron and the defeat of Hanley.

After all, as a rule, pure and simple trade union conservatives believe in the preservation of the union as an organization for the maintenance of workers' rights and improved working conditions. This goes for the bureaucracy at the top, but the Stalinists are not of this stripe. They go into a union to rule it in the interests of the Stalinist bureaucratic clique.

At present this means to fasten the union to the no-strike pledge, to put in the incentive, piecework pay, to kill all militancy in the union, to frame workers who demand militant action, to drag the union through the mire of capitalist politics: in a word, they go in to wreck the union and to deliver it over to the employer and the government.

AN OLD STORY BY NOW

We don't know all the details, but here again we have the same old story: a militant leader who failed to understand that not only militant trade union organization is necessary, but also the political education of the workers; Labor, whether in the Farm Equipment Union or in any other union, cannot stand against the political machine of the Stalinists or the capitalist political machines unless it is politically educated to understand the nature of the issues with which labor is confronted.

The Workers Party and LABOR ACTION have been pounding away at this question for some months now. Many militant workers are beginning to understand. Some of them join the Workers Party, where they can have the association of other militant workers who face the same problems. Here they can acquire the necessary political education and learn how to associate themselves for the most efficient action as workers and on the foundation of a genuine and militant working class program.

A Prostitute Plying His Trade

Roy Hudson, writing in the Daily Worker for December 24, charges that "hypocrisy" is "proven" against the leaders of the fight against the no-strike pledge. The fight is a "conspiracy," organized by "disrupters, headed by Reuther, the Trotskyites and other pro-Lewis forces." According to Hudson, Avery refuses to abide by a decision of the WLB and the "disrupters" refuse to abide by the no-strike pledge. That is the "hypocrisy" and that is the "conspiracy."

This stinks too much to fool anybody. Even if we admit that the UAW membership approved the no-strike pledge, surely that same membership has the right later to disapprove. The leaders of the movement to rescind the pledge resort to the most democratic method: let every member of the UAW cast a secret ballot and express his opinion. Of course, this is precisely what the Stalinists are against: the opportunity for a trade union membership to have the opportunity to express its opinion.

The Stalinists are against fair and honest voting in elections. They don't like this method of giving every member a chance to vote and protecting his right to vote as he sees fit. They believe in and practise methods which prevent a membership from expressing its real opinion. These people believe in stealing elections or in organizing voting so that it will be as difficult as possible for the membership to vote. Then they can rush in their stooges and win the vote or the election by an "overwhelming majority of the honest workers."

The only disruption in the no-strike pledge referendum is the disruption of the plans and methods of the Stalinists. Any honest and democratic procedure is a disruption of their plans. Any honest and decent procedure for the membership of a union to express its opinion is a "conspiracy" to the Communist Party.

AVERY IS AIDED BY AMERICAN COMMUNISTS

Sewell Avery refuses to abide by the decision of the WLB because it is his, that is, the capitalists', WLB. He refuses because he wants to do everything possible to harass the unions. He believes that he can get away with it. He is fighting for his class interests as a capitalist. Despite their raucous tirades against Avery, the Stalinists fight at his side and arm in arm with him.

The workers refuse to abide by the no-strike pledge because they have discovered that the pledge is only an aid to Avery and the other capitalists. The leaders of the movement to rescind the no-strike pledge want the membership of the UAW to express its opinion, in the most democratic manner. The Moscow bureaucrats advocate that labor lie on its back and permit the Averages to walk on its face. This is what they call "winning the war."

What does Hudson mean by "pro-Lewis" forces? Is Walter Reuther pro-Lewis? when, where and how does he demonstrate this? Does Hudson take every worker in the land for a plain fool? Not only is Reuther not pro-Lewis, and Hudson knows this, but Reuther is not even a leader in the agitation against the no-strike pledge. On this point he is closer to the Stalinists than he is on the question of supporting the war. Whom are the Stalinists trying to push Reuther off on?

CAPITALISTS GAIN FROM NO-STRIKE PLEDGE

The Workers Party and LABOR ACTION are not pro-Lewis. We supported the UMWA last year during the strikes. We supported Lewis in the matter of the miners' fight for life. Thousands of workers in the CIO and the AFL supported him also. We will support Lewis again if and when he leads his union in any militant action for the redress of their grievances. If Philip Murray should dry his eyes and lead his steel workers in a struggle for that seventeen-cents-an-hour increase we would support him also. LABOR ACTION would support him in big bold type, just as we did Lewis and the UMWA in 1943.

Hudson closes his article with the call for retaining the no-strike pledge. He calls that a "victory" which can be won if "no quarter is given to the enemy." To keep the no-strike pledge would be a victory: a victory for the Stalinists; which is only another way of saying a victory for the Averages, the NAM, Ford, Chrysler, the du Ponts, the WLB and all the capitalist employers.

The "Pledge" and the War - -

(Continued from page 1)

our first duty to end this fearful war as soon as possible.

Who can believe this now? It is as clear as day that his first and only duty is to preserve the British Empire, so that the British capitalists will not lose their profits.

Does this mean shooting down Greek or Belgian or Italian workers? Too bad! Does this mean that lend-lease materials will be used against the European anti-fascists? Will it lead to a shortage of troops or of munitions on the main fronts? All too, too bad!

"Our" first duty is not, after all, to save lives but to establish a certain kind of world—a world where profits will be safe.

Churchill is not alone in seeing this as his first duty. Roosevelt and de Gaulle are looking out for the American and French capitalists. They quarrel with each other about the French colonies. Roosevelt quarrels with Churchill about the world's air-

lines and trade.

Stalin, for his part, makes certain first of all, that Poland and most of the Balkans will be in the Russian sphere of influence. He seeks to enrich his bureaucracy. Churchill and he make a cold-blooded bargain, perhaps only temporary, about Greece and Poland.

The great war for liberation turns out to be a war against liberation. Polish, Greek, French, Italian, Belgian workers, who for years have been fighting Nazi domination, must now be disarmed, and, if necessary, shot by the thousands and hundreds of thousands. There is no shortage of ammunition for this purpose. Nor is there any sparing of British or American or any other boys.

It might take years to crush the European workers, to re-establish the kings and capitalists as their masters. At the same time, fear spreads everywhere of a clash between the great powers themselves—and not 25 years from now. "Too bad! Too bad!"

Stalin, for his part, makes certain first of all, that Poland and most of the Balkans will be in the Russian sphere of influence. He seeks to enrich his bureaucracy. Churchill and he make a cold-blooded bargain, perhaps only temporary, about Greece and Poland.

The great war for liberation turns out to be a war against liberation. Polish, Greek, French, Italian, Belgian workers, who for years have been fighting Nazi domination, must now be disarmed, and, if necessary, shot by the thousands and hundreds of thousands. There is no shortage of ammunition for this purpose. Nor is there any sparing of British or American or any other boys.

It might take years to crush the European workers, to re-establish the kings and capitalists as their masters. At the same time, fear spreads everywhere of a clash between the great powers themselves—and not 25 years from now. "Too bad! Too bad!"

Stalin, for his part, makes certain first of all, that Poland and most of the Balkans will be in the Russian sphere of influence. He seeks to enrich his bureaucracy. Churchill and he make a cold-blooded bargain, perhaps only temporary, about Greece and Poland.

The great war for liberation turns out to be a war against liberation. Polish, Greek, French, Italian, Belgian workers, who for years have been fighting Nazi domination, must now be disarmed, and, if necessary, shot by the thousands and hundreds of thousands. There is no shortage of ammunition for this purpose. Nor is there any sparing of British or American or any other boys.

It might take years to crush the European workers, to re-establish the kings and capitalists as their masters. At the same time, fear spreads everywhere of a clash between the great powers themselves—and not 25 years from now. "Too bad! Too bad!"

Communist Slate Wins Farm Equip't Election

CHICAGO—Local 108, the McCormick Works local of the United Farm Equipment & Metal Workers of America, is the strongest local union in the International Harvester system. It was one of four large locals, free from Communist control, in the Communist-dominated International Farm Equipment Union.

Under the leadership of its militant president, Joe Hanley, his followers on the Executive Board and Grievance Committee, Local 108 won more grievances, gained more wage increases for its membership, and accumulated more money in its treasury than any other local in the FE international. Local 108 was also outstanding in waging a bitter fight against the Communists in the local and in the national office.

On December 7, elections for officers were held at Local 108. Despite their good record as fighters for the workers within the prescribed limits (Roosevelt - prescribed, we might add), Hanley and his entire slate lost every Executive Board office and three grievance committees to a group composed of Communist Party members and stooges. At the same time, anti-Communist groups were defeated in three other big locals, leaving the union completely at the mercy of the Stalinist henchmen in the national office. This, of course, means the subjugation of the FE workers' interests to Browder's CP line.

WHAT DEFEAT MEANS

Instead of fighting to abolish the brutal piecework system in the Harvester companies, the Communists will fight for more "incentive" pay and bonus systems. Instead of fighting to restore collective bargaining, the Communists will fight to maintain the wartime controls on labor as long as Russia and the U. S. are "allies." Instead of fighting for Negro rights, the Communists will use the discontent of the Negroes to weaken union solidarity.

These and many others are the consequences the McCormick workers will face as a result of the Communist victory in the elections.

Why, in view of their good record, were Hanley and his entire slate defeated by this unscrupulous gang of union wreckers? The answer is not hard to find; it is simple. The principal reason was the lack of a program dealing with the real issues facing the organized workers today.

Hanley and the groups around him did not understand the need for such a program with which to educate the rank and file. Perhaps they themselves did not really understand the real issues. They thought they could win on the basis of their past record and Hanley's popularity.

But Hanley was in office for three years, and for three years the Communists have been working to get him out; for three years they have been tearing down his popularity. The Negroes were told that he is anti-Negro; the piece workers were told that he was interested only in the day workers; rumors were spread that he was grafting union funds. These and many other insidious rumors had a great deal of effect on the workers—principally those who do not attend union meetings.

But more important than the above, many workers were disgusted because they could not get wage increases. They blamed this on the local union leadership. Many thought that a change in leadership might help them. They do not fully understand that in order to get wage increases, the union must present its case to the War Labor Board; that this involves time and expense; that the WLB delays labor's grievances indefinitely; and that even in the face of the most justified demands the WLB will not allow wage increases of more than fifteen per cent (if that) above the January, 1941, level.

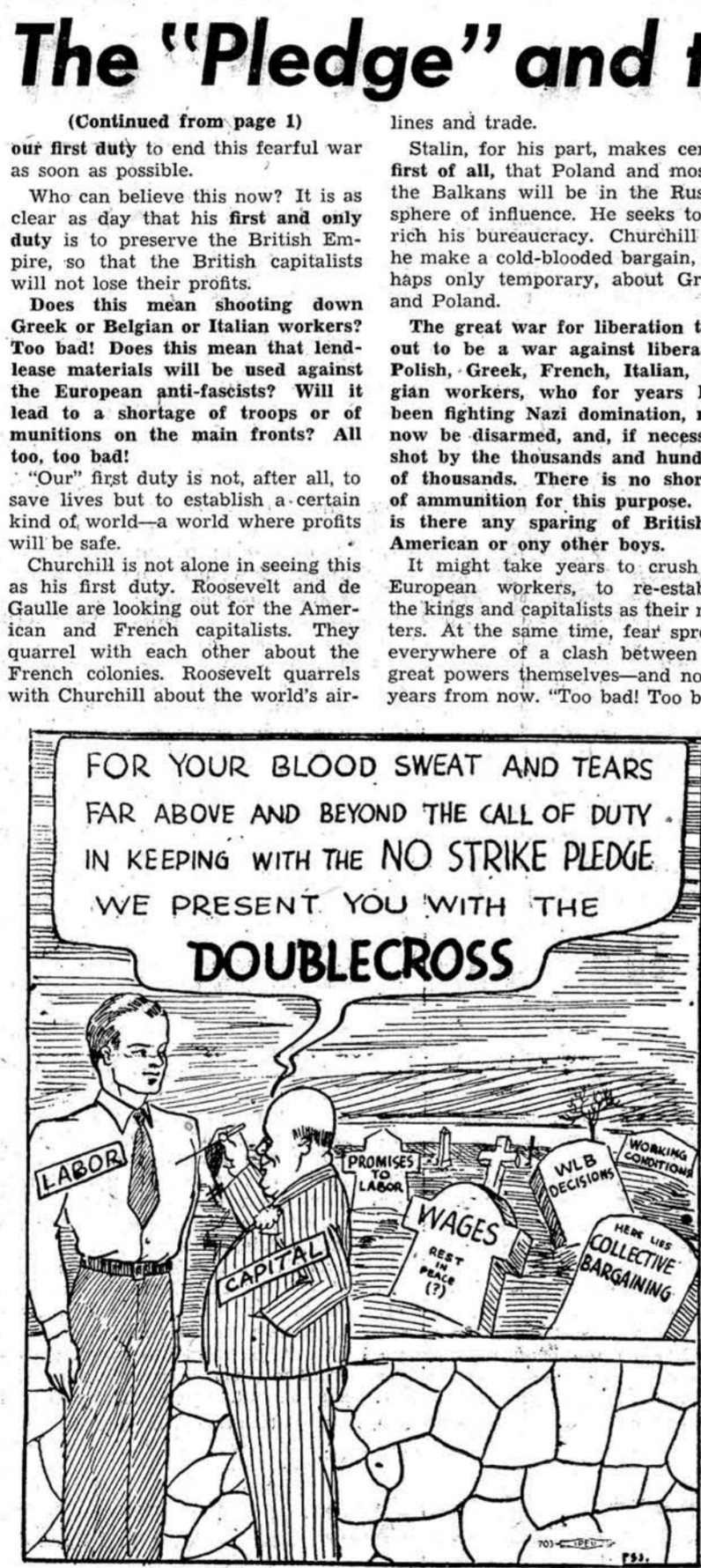
If a progressive leadership is to regain office and build a strong union, it must explain to the workers that there is no collective bargaining today; that the only way to return to collective bargaining is first to rescind the no-strike pledge and withdraw labor's representatives from the WLB.

A progressive leadership must also explain to the workers that their problems today are political; that it is no longer only the company against the union, but the capitalist government allied against the workers; and that Roosevelt is NOT the "friend of labor."

POLITICAL PROGRAM NEEDED

It must be explained that if labor is to have anything to say about full employment, the thirty-hour week, etc., it must first organize itself politically into an independent Labor Party based on the unions.

The McCormick workers will soon realize that the Communists do not represent their interests but, on the contrary, are wrecking their union. If Local 108 is to free itself from the destructive bureaucracy of the CP, the advanced workers must first organize themselves on the basis of a fighting program to rescind the no-strike pledge, to withdraw labor's representatives from the WLB, and to form an independent Labor Party. This is the only program which can really defeat the Communists in the unions today.



(Reprinted from The Searchlight, UAW-CIO, Flint)

- You Can Buy Labor Action and The New International at**
- SAN FRANCISCO:**
McDonald's Book Store
867 Mission St.
Golden Gate News Agency
81 Third St.
Fitzgerald's Newsstand
4th St. near Market
- CHICAGO:**
Ceshinsky's Bookstore
2730 W. Division St.
- DETROIT:**
Carl's Bookstore
Woodward at Clairmount
- NEW YORK CITY:**
Newsstands
42nd St. bet. 5th & 6th Aves.
Newsstands
14th St. bet. 3rd & 6th Aves.

Resolve for 1945: Join Workers Party

(Continued from page 1)

We have the skills and techniques which have created the largest aggregate social wealth of any country in the world!

We have the human resources. These are all people who have no real stake in the profit system. These are the 13,000,000 organized workers and their families. These are the millions of poor farmers and white collar workers and middle classes. All of these have created the wealth and performed the services of society.

These are the vast majority of the entire population.

They are opposed by a handful. LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party have a program.

We believe wealth should be conscripted. Soak the rich! Let them pay for their war!

We believe labor should form a political party of its own with a program of its own. Break with bankrupt and reactionary capitalist politics and politicians! Form a party based on the unions, controlled by them—an independent Labor Party!

We believe in ending war and fascism by a democratic people's peace, without annexations, indemnities, tribute, or the dismemberment and oppression of sovereign nations and peoples.

We are for complete, immediate national independence to all colonial or semi-colonial peoples!

We are against all old or new annexations, or depriving nations of their sovereignty and independence, by American, British, Russian, German or Japanese imperialism!

We are for a Socialist United States of Europe and a World Socialist Federation.

JOIN THE WORKERS PARTY AND HELP RING OUT THE OLD WORLD OF CAPITALIST IMPERIALISM, IMPERIALISM, RECURRENT WARS, FASCIST BARBARISM, OPPRESSION AND EXPLOITATION!

JOIN THE WORKERS PARTY AND HELP RING IN THE NEW WORLD OF FREEDOM, PLENTY, PEACE AND SECURITY, AND WORLD BROTHERHOOD!

Mesabi Workers Join Drive; 97% of Goal Reached!

The box score tells the story. We are one week away from the end of the subscription campaign for LABOR ACTION and only 218 subs keep us from completing our goal. The score shows that ninety-seven per cent of the drive has been completed!

This is really a good showing, but not good enough. We want to go over the top, and we can do it if everyone puts in the last week of the drive with some real work in behalf of LABOR ACTION. How can it be done? By going out and doing it!

The big story of the week is the manner in which the Mesabi Iron Range workers

joined the drive. They didn't know about it until the last couple of weeks, but they went to work and sent in the equivalent of forty-eight six-month subs! E. J., of the Railroad Workers Joint Action Committee, is the spirit behind the drive there. He complains loudly because he hadn't seen LABOR ACTION before and apologizes because he and his friends were unable to participate earlier in the drive because, if they had, they would have made the big cities look up and take notice!

The forty-eight subs sent in from the Mesabi Iron Range extend over many towns in Minnesota. We haven't the slightest doubt that if our Hibbing friends had been with us from the start we would be way over the 4,000 sub goal. It's a wonder-

ful job they have done in one week and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. Good going, E. J. and friends!

This week saw 163 new subs gathered in the drive. We're just a step away. Right now, Streater, Ill., leads in the percentage column with 154 per cent. It is only twenty-three subs away from doubling its quota!

New York is just about 150 subs from completing its quota of 1,000. Youngstown-Warren and St. Louis, with a little effort, can go over the top. But we are somewhat worried about Cleveland, Philadelphia and the National Office. A look at the score will show them way behind in the drive and the reason we haven't reached the goal yet.

Look for the complete story of the drive

in the issue of LABOR ACTION dated January 8. Below is the up-to-date box score.

City	Quota	Week	Total	Pct.
Akron	150	4	172	115
Buffalo	150	...	189	126
Chicago	300	15	345	115
Cleveland	200	...	94	47
Detroit	750	4	824	110
Los Angeles	200	...	274	137
Louisville	25	...	25	100
National Office	500	10	229	46
New York	1,000	44	849	85
Philadelphia	175	2	94	54
Reading	50	6	57	114
St. Louis	50	...	37	74
San Francisco	200	16	221	110.5
Seattle	150	...	176	117.3
Streater	50	10	77	154
Youngstown-Warren	50	10	77	154
Southeast Missouri	...	4	19	...
Mesabi	...	48	48	...
Totals	4,000	163	3,782	97

SUB BLANK

YES, I want LABOR ACTION. Please send it to me regularly. Enclosed find twenty-five cents in stamps or coin for a six-month subscription or fifty cents for a year's subscription (Check which.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

