LABOR ACTION

JANUARY 21, 1946

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

Electrical, Packinghouse Workers on the Line-

LABOR CAN WIN THIS FIGHT!

Labor Can Win Its Demands!

A 30 PER CENT INCREASE:

- 1. Labor has lost billions of dollars in wages since the end of the war. Its present demands would merely restore war time take home pay in the face of a continued rise in the cost of living.
- 2. The Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, as well as the CIO, has calculated that corporations could raise wage rates by 24 per cent and still maintain war-swollen profit levels. Therefore, labor should not give up the fight for-

NO PRICE INCREASES:

- 1. The big monopolist corporations have billions in reserve. They must not be permitted to cancel out wage increases by price rises which penalize all consumers.
- 2. Wage increases must come out of the enormous profits extracted from the sweat and toil of labor. Therefore labor should press its de-

OPEN THE BOOKS:

- 1. Let labor and the public know the truth about the giant monopolies, their bidden profits and the reserves. It will be seen how easy it is for industry to pay a living wage and provide security for the people.
- 2. Break the monopoly of the industrial totalitarians who control the lives of millions of workers. If industry cannot pay a living wage and provide security for the workers, then nationalize industry under

Its Leaders Must Not Retreat!

Spirit of Western Union Pickets High in Second Week of Strike

NEW YORK-7,000 members of American Communications Association, CIO, employees of Western Union, are now in the second week of their strike. Telegraphic communication remains at a standstill. The attempts of the company to break the strike have failed thus far.

The telegraph workers have long stored up grievances against the Western Union Company and are determined to fight to a finish. The struggle of the telegraph workers for a wage increase goes back several years to a Regional Labor Board recommendation that they be granted a 22 cents an hour wage increase. When this was flatly turned down by

the company, the dispute was taken to the War Labor Board, where it met the same fate as did most workers' demands that were brought before that body.

After months of impatient waiting on the part of the low paid workers, the WLB came through with a decision that was easily acceptable the company but was meaningless to the workers. It reduced the Regional Board recommendation by ten cents, offering a twelve cent raise to the workers. The ACA-CIO workers are unwilling to swallow this cut and today are demanding the 22 cents an hour increase which was originally recommended by the Regional Board

mantly refused to grant.

Full of spirit and confident that they will win their demands, the members of the ACA-CIO are maintaining picket lines in front of all telegraph offices in the city. A mass lowest four grades. picket line of 700 to 1,000 people parades before the main Western Union building at 60 Hudson Street 24 hours every day. Members of other CIO unions, carrying signs designating the union they represent, are on the picket line. "Talking Union" and other records are played through the loud amplifier on the sound truck in front of the building. When this reporter was down at the picket line

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ANNOUNCING THE L. A. SUB DRIVE

By REVA CRAINE, Press Manager

The following letter, written by a steel worker in Reading, Pa., is typical of the many letters we have been receiving in recent weeks: "Comrades:

· "For enclosed \$1.00 send four six-month subscriptions as per your offer in the December 31st issue.

'I missed your subscription list in last week's paper, I like to see this paper grow; it's wonderful. The average worker needs only to read one issue and he wakes up.

"Being a steel worker, I expect to start a 'vacation' next Tuesday, the 15th. I hope to sell some LABOR ACTION subs at the strike meetings.

"Yours, for a better world, I remain

CMR, Reading, Pa."

Extra bundles of LABOR ACTION are available for free distribution to workers on strike. Write to Busi-

The subs received for the week ending Friday, Janu-

10th are as follows:	
New York	9
National Office	4
Philadelphia	2
Akron	7
Detroit	- 5
Newark	19
Chicago	2
Oregon	14
Minnesota	1
Cleveland	2
-	
TOTAL	64

LABOR ACTION has some very good news for all readers like CMR who "like to see this paper grow." Plans are now being completed for the expansion of both the size and circulation of LABOR ACTION.

Already the branches of the Workers Party have received an "Advance Bulletin" informing them in part of these plans. In the next issue of LABOR ACTION, we shall be able to print in greater detail just how LABOR ACTION is going to grow-in size and in circulation.

Right now, we would like to inform all our readers that beginning on February 1st, a super-subscription drive will be initiated to obtain a minimum of 5,000 new subs for LABOR ACTION. The drive will run for threemonths, at the end of which time we expect the new, expanded LABOR ACTION to appear.

Quotas have been assigned to all branches of the Workers Party and we are now awaiting word from them as to whether they are accepting these quotas, or whether they wish to raise them. These, too, will be published in next week's Press Action.

Getting LABOR ACTION into the homes of as many workers as possible is the duty of every labor militant. We know that many of our readers, not members of the Workers Party, are eager to participate in this subscription drive. You can enter the ranks of the LABOR AC-TION Boosters simply by writing for the book of subscription blanks and instructions on how, to go about obtaining subs for the paper.

Although with the appearance of the enlarged LABOR ACTION, the price will naturally have to be raised, we are offering subs to the paper at the current introductory rate of 25c for six months. Every worker who sees the paper will certainly want to take advantage of this

Let's get set now for February 1st-the date of the official opening of the LABOR ACTION SUBSCRIPTION Workers Party Branches—send us your confirmation

on the quotas assigned you! All readers of LABOR ACTION-enter the sub drive. Send for the special subscription booklets.

All out for that 5,000 goal! I want to subscripe to LABOR ACTION. Enclosed is _____for a.___month sub-

I want to be a LABOR ACTION Booster. Please send me the subscription booklet.

ADDRESS STATE

Why Don't They Send All the GI's Home?

By JACK WILSON

The GI pressure campaign for immediate return home gathered spectacular world-wide strength during the past week and challenged, in effect if not in intention, the imperialist policies of the Truman Administration.

The fact that protesting GI's added a blistering criticism of the whole army structure and policies to their demands for coming home signified how

deeply rooted the present army crisis is. The election of permanent soldiers' committees to direct the campaign and the appeal of some of these committees to the CIO unions to take up their struggle emphasized the gravity of the situa-

AGAINST CASTE SYSTEM

In Paris, 500 GI demonstrators took the unprecedented step of publicly demanding the abolition of all special privileges for officers and a drastic reform of the tyrannical courtsmartial system. These demands, embodied in an "Enlisted Men's Magna Carta," struck at the very core of the army caste system, which is based on extra privileges and power

for the officer clique. The boiling point on the caste system came after the War Department announced that officers and the first three grades of non-commissioned officers would be given the privilege of bringing their wives, children and fiancées abroad at government expense. The revival of this old peacetime army rule at this particular time added fuel to the fires of discontent raging among the ranks. For it offered exactly nothing to that strata of the army that does all the hard and dirty work, namely, the

Everywhere the whole army system, as testified by hundreds of letters in Stars and Stripes, Yank and letters to editors in hometown newspapers, has been operating with deadly effect on the morale of GI's. The latter had ideas alien to brasshat thinking, such as democratic rights, promotions based on merit,

This latest turn in events in the GI protest against occupation duties makes it impossible for Washington politicians and the War Department to dismiss the soldiers as "just a bunch of homesick boys."

U. S. FOREIGN POLICY

The soldiers' demonstrations have raised the whole question of American foreign policy. And they have also focused attention on some of the inherent evils in the instrument of that

policy, the brass-hat-dominated army. The disintegration of the GI's morale was too great to be revived simply by platitudes about "fulfilling in-

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Withdraw The Troops!

(BULLETIN: Over 200 workers and veterans attended the mass meeting called by the Workers Party of New York protesting the Administration's policy on redeployment and occupation. This highly enthusiastic meeting will be fully reported next week. Below is the resolution adopted by the audience.)

We, over 200 people assembled stration of the soldiers in Manila, pean, Pacific or Asiatic territories. at a mass meeting at the Hotel Diplomat, called under the auspices of the Workers Party, protest the War Department's delay in the demobilization of the armed forces. We vigorously support the demands expressed in the demonstration of the soldiers in Manilla, China, Germany and France and their protests against being kept abroad for purposes of enforcing the reactionary American foreign policy. We further support their demands for greater democratic rights for the enlisted man.

We demand that ALL troops be withdrawn from abroad. We oppose American imperialism and occupation by American troops of the Philippines, Korea, China, Japan, Germany and other Euro pean, Pacific, or Asiatic territori-s.

We furthermore demand an end to the draft and oppose any form of peacetime military conscription. Just as we opposed the crushing

of the national sovereignty and the democratic rights of European and Asiatic peoples by Germany and Japan, so we condemn the military occupation of foreign countries by American, British and Russian imperialisms. We are opposed to all attempts to deprive any country or people of their democratic right to national independence and sovereignty in flagrant violation of the principles and promises set forth in the Atlantic Charter.

We are for the right of all peoples to peace and self-determination and against ALL imperialist exploitation - Russian, British or American.

We demand that the American boys be brought home now!

As LABOR ACTION goes to press, approximately one million workers are on strike in the United States. The majority of them are members of the CIO, the industrial union movement. The latest to join the strikers' ranks are 200,000 elec-

trical, radio and machine workers and 250,000 packinghouse workers.

At least a million more workers would be out on strike if their leaders would heed and accept the challenge being hurled at the labor movement today by the capitalist ruling class and its government at Washington.

The whole labor movement is being challenged by the big employers either to stand up and fight unitedly across the lines separating the various national sections of the trade union movement, or run the risk of being disrupted and seriously weakened.

But this is not all. The labor movement is being confronted by the Truman government with a proposal that the working class take a cut in real wages and also that labor accept what is virtually a new "Little Steel" formula. This is what Truman's "fact-finding" boards are up to: pegging wages for the workers in the mass production industries.

UE, Packers Strike in **New Jersey**

By SAUL BERG

NEWARK-The workers of the New Jersey plants of General Electric, Westinghouse and the electrical division of General Motors have enthusiastically poured out on the picket lines, determined to win their wage demands.

In an interview with LABOR AC-TION, Joseph Carnevale, president of Local 429, United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers, CIO, expressed full confidence in the ability of the workers to carry the fight to a successful conclusion. Local 429 consists of 1500 workers in the Newark plant of General Electric. The membership of this local consists of 85 per cent women workers, mostly young girls, both Negro and white. This morning ((Wednesday) hundreds were out on the picket line, undaunted by the cold wave. Mass picket lines are being conducted every morning and again

Brother Carnevale expressed disgust with Congress' reaction to the strike wave, saying that Congress was all for the companies and uninterested in the welfare of the workers. He pointed out that the union was already putting pressure on the government to make strikers eligible for unemployment compensation. Yesterday, upon urging by the CIO Council, the Newark City Commission voted 4 to 1 to recommend to the State Legislature that unemployment compensation be granted. and that money be given to the munici-

(Continued on page 3)

This is the meaning of the "awards" being made by these fact-finding boards. They are really playing the role of wage stabilization committees. The fact-finding board reiterates again and again in its report, President Truman's formula that labor must take a wage cut from its wartime take-home rates.

The UAW in the beginning asked for a 30 per cent increase. The factfinders recommended 17.2 per cent. The Oil Workers demanded 31 per cent. The fact-finders said 18 per cent. The Electrical Workers asked 25 cents an hour increase and the recommendation was 19.5 cents an hour. The Packinghouse Workers demanded a 25 cent increase and later, after the pattern was set, offered to settle for 17.5 cents. The Steel Workers demanded approximately a 25 cents hourly increase but Murray agrees to accept 19.5 cents increase. ' is clear that the Truman government has decided to grant about the same meager increase to all the striking unions and get the workers back on the job.

The government proposal is one to save the face of the big corporations and the big labor leaders at the same time. The corporations are holding out, but they will agree with the proposals of their government. The workers will find their wages stabilized, just as during the war, while prices will remain where they are and the corporations resume their profit-making, adding billions to the reserves piled up during the war.

MURRAY AND FAIRLESS

The truly reprehensible aspect of the situation is the role of Murray and the top labor bureaucrats. They are capitaulating all along the line. The UAW is ready to forget GM's books and the 30 per cent demand and has agreed to take the 17.4 per

(Continued on page 2)

Packinghouse Workers Walk Out!

By PAUL NEWMAN

By the time this article appears, the nation-wide strike of some 300,-000 packinghouse workers may be well under way. The strike, scheduled for January 16, is being called by the United Packinghouse Workers, CIO, with the announced support of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters & Butchers, AFL, for the enforcement of a 25 cents per hour wage increase.

In response to the demand of the Packinghouse Workers for this increase, the Big Four of the packing industry - Armour, Wilson, Cudahy and Swift-have countered with the insulting proposal of a 71/2 cents an hour increase.

At latest reports, the union-industry-government talks are deadlocked, with the union willing to accept an immediate 171/2 cents an hour increase and negotiate for the remaining 7½ cents later, "when the na-

tional wage picture becomes clear." Now, even a 25 cents an hour wage increase is inadequate to provide a decent living standard for the work-

These workers, in one of the lowest paid, filthiest, unsafest industries in America, received no increases during the war. Today, according to Lewis Clark, president of the UPWA, two-thirds of the workers receive less than 87 cents an hour and half receive less than 80 cents. (Yet this same Clark is willing to accept 171/2 cents now and the remaining 71/2 cents "when the national wage picture becomes clear"!) On these wages, working 48 hours a week, the packing house workers could just eke out an existence. And with the cut to a 40-hour-week, even a 25 cents an hour increase would fail to make up for their wartime take-home pay. But while the workers are forced

to a mere subsistence level on their miserable wages, the packinghouse magnates have, of course, feathered their nest with the highest profits in their history.

PACKERS' PROFITS

The profits of Armour & Co., for example, according to federal court tactic, the next step of the govern-

ers in the meat packing industry. figures, were \$36,000,000 in 1943. compared with average yearly profits of \$9,500,000 for the period 1936-39—a mere increase of about 400 per cent! From the same figures it is learned that the profits of Swift & Co. were \$70,870,000 in 1944-an increase of \$20,000,000 over 1943! Yet these companies say that they can't give wage increases without raising prices!

The government, of course, has stepped in to "conciliate" the dispute between the union and the company. For the past week the new U.S. Conciliation Service has been as busy as a bee in Chicago in a desperate attempt to head off the strike. Last week it tried to "conciliate" the companies with an offer of a fifty-cent price increase a hundredweight for meat going to the armed forces and foreign relief if they would up their offer to the union a little. The packers turned down this price increase as an insufficient guarantee of profits because of dwindling government purchases!

Stymied on this strike - breaking

ment, according to Edgar L. Warren. chief of the Conciliation Service, is "likely" to be the setting up of a "fact-finding" committee. If a factfinding board fails to settle the dispute, that is, if it fails to persuade the union leaders to lower their demand, the Administration has threatened to "seize" the packing industry under the Smith-Connally Act.

In other words, the government has "threatened" to guarantee the profits of the packers, come what may, while it tries to coax these bad little boys into placating the workers by some sort of "compromise" wage increase.

The packinghouse workers will have a tough battle to win their 25cent demand. For against them are arrayed the combined forces of the packing corporations and the government in the latter's pretended role of "impartiality." The workers must not be fooled by the intervention of the government in their strike. They can win on the picket line through militancy and solidarity.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Steel Trust Offensive on the Mesabi

agement peace. There you have the

bosses' real attitude toward the

workers. There you see the terrible

folly of continuing to vote, if even

through the labor leaders' PAC, for

Democrats and Republicans who

have not so much as wiggled a finger

in support of the just fight of the

There you see the naked truth

about the business - dominated gov-

ernment, whose PAC - elected Presi-

dent can show labor his affection with

nothing more gentle than strike-

breaking government "seizures" of

struck plants, stacked "fact"-finding

boards whose sole purpose is to delay

and hinder and hamstring strikes,

Hitlerite union - busting legislation,

persecution, deception, intimidation

and outright force! And there you

see the crying need for an indepen-

dent Labor Party to utilize the thirty-

one million votes of labor to elect a

workers' government, a government

that would defend them against the

monstrous corporations instead of

lashing and clubbing them in their

Another fact stands out plainly. The

Minnesota mine workers will observe

that in all the unpaid "vacations,"

paycuts due to loss of overtime.

downgrading, layoffs, etc., not one

mine company official suffers. They

draw their pay as usual if only five

workers are left to maintain the

plant. When the workers at the In-

terstate step up to draw their micro-

scopic paychecks resulting from a

combination of overtime losses and

the four-day vacations, the superin-

tendent and the walkers and the

for national independence, and

movement in these countries

LOUISVILLE - FALL CITIES

CIO INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL PASSES

RESOLUTION

Protesting Suppression of Movements for

National Independence in Indonesia and Indo-China

Whereas, the people of Indonesia and Indo-China are today fighting

Whereas, the cause of these peoples is identical to that of the thirteen

Whereas, the presence of the British "redcoats" in the thirteen colo-

Whereas, it has always been the policy of the union movement to

Therefore be it resolved, that the CIO Industrial Council of Louis-

And be it further resolved that the Council condemn the action of

ville and the Fall Cities Area go on record in favor of the nationalists

the United States in lending support to the imperialist policies of the

nies in that year, for the purpose of subjugating the colonists is com-

parable to the presence and purpose of the Dutch, English, French and

every struggle.

striking workers who elected them.

HIBBING, Minn.—A taste of company arrogance and viciousness will be drawing their usual fat salahas been given to mine workers at a number of Iron Range mines. Once again the rugged miners of Northern Minnesota are learning that the bosses are one class and they another, and that the two simply cannot lie in the same bed. The mist of worker- management cooperation has suddenly been blown away by the brutal breath of mine officials as they hound and harry the workers with layoffs and other provocations in an attempt to break their morale before the steel workers' strike begins.

Typical of their ruthless tactics is their sniping at the Interstate and Butler Bros. workers. The Interstate workers were given two payless fourday vacations during the holidays, one at Christmas and the other at New Year's. Being already on a forty-hour week, the Interstate miners were overjoyed to receive this token of esteem and friendship from the steel trust overlords. Their joy at a blackened holiday season ran second only to the small size of their paychecks for those two half-month

Butler Bros., who have coined millions in profits out of the labors (especially the wartime labors) of their employees, rewarded the boys with a free vacation from before Christmas until January 7. Those workers who had earned vacations were graciously permitted to take them and those who had not put in the required number of years turning ore into gold for the company sat it out

At other mines, like Hanna's Buckeye, all but a few employees were long ago booted out for an indefinite period (they got the boot right after voting 48-to-1 to strike). A late report that we are trying to confirm (it emanates from several reliable sources) is that the workers at a large Central Range mine were turned away from work recently and told to report for work the morning of January 14!

LESSONS OF THE WAR

This should give several valuable higher officials and "supervisors" lessons to the steel workers. Throughout the war, at a time when all labor should have been defending its hardwon gains and resisting the weakening no-strike pledge, the labor leaders-Hillman, Murray, Green, Thomas et al.-could think of nothing better than labor-management committees (in which management alone was the beneficiary), treacherous union-busting "labor peace," marshalling the labor vote and herding it into the chute of the two-party slaughterhouse for the ultimate profit of big business, and committing other crimes against the workers.

Continuing the attacks developed during the war against the no-strikeshackled unionists, the company bosses in auto, steel, utilities and industry generally seek to provoke the workers and destroy their fighting spirit with payless vacations, lockouts, threat of government reprisals, lies. slanders, intimidation, police brutality and with every other weapon in their arsenal. There you have the end of the false dream of labor-man-

UNION-BUSTERS

The Butler Bros. superintendents, like those in all the mines, dawdled through Christmas and New Year's with rent-free shelters and perhaps a bonus here and there for sweating super-profits out of the workers. But, like their bosses in Cleveland, New York and Chicago, these local czars snarl at the workers for demanding living wages, cuss their unions and secretly work to wreck them, call the CIO militants a "bunch of Bolsheviks" and welcome the coming depression because the great unemployment will make the workers "like it" and put them "in their

Why is it that only the workers, never the company officials or their nolitical friends in Washington, suffer wage cuts and poverty and insecurity? Why is it that the courts and the Hibbing Chamber of Commerce and the lying, anti-union daily papers, radio commentators and other big business instruments find all wrong with the workers and all right with the corporations? Why is it that the workers, those who produce the vast wealth of the country, who man the mines and mills and industrial heart of the country, drive all the old cars, buy the second-hand refrigerators, live in the shabbiest houses and rent the dingiest apartments? Why is it that those who toil, the army of workers, have their homes and farms foreclosed, live in fear and poverty or near-poverty from the cradle to' the grave in this land of riches, who shrink from family illness and worry years of their lives away trying to make ends meet?

In the coming strike struggle, and afterward, the role of such company instruments as the Chamber of Commerce, the daily papers and the radio networks must be studied and exposed. The Hibbing Chamber of Commerce, in keeping with the Chamber's traditional national policy, is getting in its licks against the

steel workers. They have publicly appealed to Governor Thye to do everything in his power to prevent the strike. They know that the miners are striking for a little more bread and butter on the table, for the take-home pay they have lost as a reward for turning out the sinews of war for the profit-packed steel trust.

The Hibbing Chamber of Commerce, 'an organization of business men (many of them beholden to the steel trust), can only think of their profits and their class obligations to hold down the workers. In addition to petitioning an anti-labor governor to hog-tie the workers, they themselves offered to do all in their power to stop (i.e., to defeat) the strike. The temporary profits or prosperity of a few business men pale into nothingness beside the struggle of thousands of Range workers for a small share of the wealth they pro-

As for the local papers and radio stations, the workers can read and judge for themselves. Compare them with LABOR ACTION and learn who your friends are. When the chips are down, only the workers are the workers' friends. Wallace, Truman, Schwellenbach, Thye, Stassen, Dewey, LaGuardia, Pittenger, and the host of PAC '44 electees-where are they? Either busy keeping their mouths shut or openly siding with the corporations against the work-

CIO FIGHTERS

The steelworkers of the Mesabi will know how to devise their strategy and their tactics. The Great Northern and the Missabe railroad workers will know how to aid their class brothers with money and muscle, and they can be relied on not to push a single box car nor a single spike-maul through a miners' picket line. Splendid militants, solid unionists, like the fighters of the big Hull Rust local, of the 2078 Oliver, and the 2980 Pickands Mather, of the 3005 Interstate and the 2446 Danube and the 1439 at Keewatin and the 2553 Chisholm, will know how to humble the haughty, arrogant, union-busting steel trust-

The Mesabi CIO Industrial Union Council, led and inspired by able men like George Teller, Sam Swanson, Koski, Renfors and Pete Bongo, showed its mettle in stiffening the Duluth Coolerator strikers in their long battle with the company by sizeable support in cash and comfort. The great Hull Rust local alone, with some 1200 members, voted \$1,000 to the Coolerator unionists out of the local treasury. The men who back their brother unionists in this manner are men who know that all unions face the same enemy and that the fight of one worker is the fight of all

Since, like workers the country for an independent labor party, LA-BOR ACTION'S constant hammering for a labor party based on the unions will be more appreciated than ever. All power to the steel workers! All power to the unions! ALL POWER TO THE INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY BASED ON THE UNIONS!

Eleven Thousand Buffalo Steelworkers On Strike

BUFFALO, Jan. 12-Successfully executing a surprise shutdown fifty-one hours before the national strike deadline, eleven thousand Bethlehem steel workers are, despite the one week postponement ordered by USA head Phil Murray, tightening picket lines, determined to prevent any company strike-breaking measures. In line with the Murray order, however, all other scheduled walkouts, involving 19,000 steel workers in this area, have been delayed pending further nego-

tiations in Washington. The Bethlehem story goes back some two months when USA regional director, Joseph P. Molony, made public the fact that the company, in preparation for a strike-breaking siege, was arranging living quarters and importing great quantities of food for a gang of non-union men they hoped to keep in during the walk-

In verification of this charge the company later issued instructions to all foremen and carefully picked maintenance men to report for work the Sunday before the formal strike date and to come prepared to live in the plant until the strike ended. Consequently, when the union bargaining committee met with company officials to arrange for plant maintenance during the strike period they were unable to reach the same agreements that had been made with all other companies in the region. The company stated that it would select its own crews or would, at best, agree to a certain ratio of union to non-

STRIKE CALLED SUDDENLY

The union then entered into discussions with representatives of the Foremen's Association, hoping to win support that would make the company's position untenable. That the union's prospects for foreman cooperation were not too bright is shown by what followed:

Friday night, January 11, while the great majority of foremen were meeting outside the plant to decide on a course of action, the plant-wide strike was called. Because of the extreme secrecy in which this move had been devised, some confusion resulted at plant gates. Third shift workers and even a number of first shift workers the next morning, approached the entrance gates unaware that a strike had been called.

The next six hours were full of incidents typical of Bethlehem strikestruggles. Hurriedly organized picket lines massed at the main, gates and refused entrance to everyone including plant executives. The main office building was patrolled. Cars trying to buckle and break the lines were locked, the '41 model of one foreman who jumped the gate at an isolated spot being completely wrecked and tipped. One picketer at the strip mill was hit squarely by the car of another gate-crashing foreman and was rushed to the hospital for treatment of a fractured skull. Those drivers that did not retreat when ordered found their windows smashed. Only in certain unguarded spots along the sprawling property were foremen and a few company sympathizers able to sneak through.

As the cold, rainy night wore into morning the picture quieted. The union agreed to allow plant police, firemen and dispensary workers to pass but by spreading and tightening its lines had cut off every plant entrance save one, the water approach which was risked by only a few scattered scabs.

plant down tight and less than three hundred and fifty men inside available to the company, it was clear that the union had taken the play from the company. There was no possibility of rolling steel at Bethlehem and in fact the plant general manager tearfully declared that due to the suddenness of the strike, "harm may result to furnaces and ovens." Round one to the union!

Because of the sudden change in the national picture, it is not possible to predict the length or course of this strike. That the workers are willing to fight for the two dollar a day increase is indicated by the militant

By Saturday morning, with the picket line action to date and by the placards they carry. These read: "Johnny Came Marching Home to \$30 a Week," "Pay Up Grace-\$2 a Day," and "Don't Inflate the Prices-Deflate the Profits." And this is genuine rank and file sentiment.

In any event Bethlehem is out and will stay out for the coming week. The leadership and the rank and file are determined not to lose the initial advantage won by their authorized

During this week LABOR ACTION will be on the lines again, reporting the Bethlehem situation as it develops and getting from the workers the straight strike story.

Vets Parade at GM

DETROIT-About one thousand veterans paraded through the slush and snow, Saturday, to demonstrate to the GM bosses that the veterans of World War II are solidly behind the GM workers in their struggle to wrest a decent living wage from the billionaire corporation.

The parade circled the GM building several times. By shouting slogans, carrying placards, and reiterating the union's demands from sound trucks, the vets left made it clear to GM officials, who peered nervously from behind their window curtains. that the efforts to divide the workers and the veterans would meet with complete failure. The veterans of World War II were clearly on the side of the workers in their war on the GM profiteers.

"I didn't fight over there to protect GM billions"-"GI versus GM" -"We fought for decent wages and fair employment" were some of "the

slogans that the GI's carried on plac-

The parade ended with a short meeting in front of the UAW headquarters with the vets singing "Solidarity Forever."

Many of the vets, however, left feeling disappointed over the poor organization of the UAW's forces for the demonstration. The officials could have rallied at least five thousand veterans for this affair. But the remarkable solidarity of the workers, which has made mass picketing unnecessary at this particular time, has also made the officialdom of the union complacent. The attendance at the demonstration was significant considering that very little effort was put into announcing and organizing the affair.

There was no doubt in anyone's mind that the veterans of World War II are solidly with labor in their common battle against the bosses.

Western Union Strike - -

(Continued from page 1) on Monday, January 16, the spirit of the pickets was high despite the

20-degree weather. One of the picket captains, John

Patonani, stated: "It's just like our union President Selly said at our rally last nightwe're going to stay out here until hell freezes over! The company can't last more than another week. They are losing a million dollars a day. Our strike is solid and we'll bring Mr. Egan (company president) to his senses.'

There were shouts of "Solid, Jackson!" on the line and some of the younger strikers formed a conga line, keeping rhythm with the records played on the sound truck and keeping themselves warm.

Eleanore Mioella and Doris Causeman, two younger members of Local 40, expressed deep confidence in the solidity of the strike. Another picket captain, a member

of Local 36, told this reporter: "We couldn't get a raise during

the war. What with the high cost of living and the government taking away practically everything, we were always behind the eight-ball. Some people working for Western Union make as low as thirty-five cents an hour and the highest skills get only \$1.10. And it takes years to become a skilled telegrapher. The bankers with their holdings make plenty of big money but they won't release any of it to us. That's why we're here.

And it's the same story with GM and all the other companies."

A Western Union messenger on the line, Mike Kumminsky, said:

"I just got back. I was torpedoed in the Persian Gulf. I'm sticking to the union. I'm fighting all the way. It's gotta be all or nothing." One war veteran among the many

on the line said:

"I'm from a mid-Western teachers' local. I don't work for Western Union but I'm supporting this strike."

At 11 Frankfort Street, a soup kitchen is open 24 hours a day, serving sandwiches and coffee to as many as a thousand pickets a day. Mrs. Graham, who is in charge, stated that "there is a steady flow of workers all day and night." One of the women at the soup kitchen told this reporter:

"Three years ago the CIO got us our first raise—the first one Western Union has given us in fifteen years. Now the company and the WLB want to put this so-called 'increase' over on us. If we accept what they offer only the messenger boys will be raised from 40 cents to 55 cents because that's required under law, but 2,000 other employees won't get one cent. Western Union sent out a letter to all of us, threatening us with losing seniority and our pension rights. I've worked for them for 39 years and I've only received a sixcent increase during that whole time. Simply stated-they're b....s. And we're going to win this strike."

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Labor Can Really Win This Fight! --

Dutch, English and French governments.

colonies in the Revolutionary War of 1776, and

Japanese troops in Indonesia and Indo-China today, and

support the cause of freedom and national self-determination.

(Continued from page 1) cent award of Truman's fact-finders.

The oil, packinghouse and electrical union bureaucrats are all in full retreat. Murray decides that the steel workers can get along with six cents less an hour than was demanded of the steel companies. Of course, no one has asked the

union membership what is their opinion of the matter. After the conference in Washington on the demands of the steel workers between Murray, Fairless and the government, Fairless, of U. S. Steel, announced that he could not speak for his or the other steel companies. He would have to consult with those he represented before he could accept any offer made by his government. But not Murray. He himself could accept the suggestion of Truman that the strike be postponed for a week. Murray said: "I have personally agreed to postpone action on the strike for one week at the request of the President and will meet at the White House cabinet room at 2 p.m. next Wednesday with Mr. Fairless.'

"I approve the statement," said Fairless.

Murray postpones the steel strike for a week so that Fairless can induce the steel manufacturers to accept an increase of 19.5 cents instead of the workers' demand for 25 cents. The UAW is ready to accept 17.4 per cent without seeing the books of GM. All the big labor leaders are willing to be "reasonable" men, "responsible"

During the war they went along "with the President's foreign policy" and gave a no-strike pledge. Now that the war is over they are willing and anxious to go along with the President's domestic policy and accept a cut in real wages for the working

LABOR LEADERS BACK DOWN

Despite the fact that hundreds of thousands of CIO workers are on the

marking time, only waiting for the "fact-finding" boards to set their wages. They are not really waging a militant struggle against the big capitalist corporations as in the old days.

This only underscores what we said in LABOR ACTION last week. The great need of the strike situation today is for a National Strike Council, elected by the locals, to plan, coordinate and formulate uniform demands for the strikes. The strikes are planned and coordinated

picket lines, the leaders are only but the planning and coordinating are being done by Murray and the top leaders without the consent of and consultation with the rank and file workers.

> The present series of strikes got off to a good start with the GM walkout and the militant demand to see the books of GM. Without doubt this demand put the fear of the might of the working class into the capitalist ruling class and its government at Washington. But labor has not followed through.

Goodyear Local Votes Strike

By GEORGE N. WHITNEY

AKRON, O., Jan. 11, 1946-Goodyear Local 2, of the United Rubber Workers, yesterday voted almost 12 to 1 in favor of strike action, should the present negotiations between the Union and the Company fail to produce acceptance of the Union's sevenpoint wage-hour proposal.

The total vote was 4706 with 4300 voting "Yes" for strike action, and 376 voting "No." This represents approximately 40% of the total membership and is indicative of the interest the vote aroused. Today following this impressive vote, the company agreed to bargain with the union on a corporation-wide basis for the first time in the history of unioncompany relations.

UMPIRE IS CALLED

The only discouraging news came with the announcement that the union and the company had agreed to rehire, as "impartial" umpire, William E. Simpkins who quit his impartial position after the union had refused to abide by a decision last November allowing the company to schedule eight-hour shifts "where necessary." The rubber in-

dustry in Akron had gone back to the pre-war six-hour day and thirty-six hour week, but Simpkins "impartially" decided that Goodyear should be allowed to schedule eight hour

The basis of this "disinterested and dispassionate" decision was reported to be the lack of manpower and the necessity to get the work out: Yet Mr. Simpkins himself would play the devil getting a job at any of the rubber plants in Akron as of this date. In the press, the rubber companies complain, "Not enough manpower," but no one has tipped off the employment offices because they are saying "No jobs" with few excep-

So now Local 2 has Simpkins back and must cough up \$2000 a year as its half of his \$4,000 retainer while he, with studied "impartiality," decides in favor of eight-hour days, against pay increases, on any number of little "impartial" tidbits. Labor needs no umpires in this game. They have what is theirs at present by virtue of their own strength and ability to fight. The gains of the future will come from that same source.

Despite the lethargy with which it is being conducted by the CIO top leadership, the present strike wave is of tremendous importance. As we said last week, the capitalist ruling class has organized its general staff for the conflict. They act as one. Their publicity reads as though it came from one man and out of one office. Labor has no such general staff. If we had such a general staff, functioning in the present situation to protect the interests of the working class, we would not be witnessing the capitulation and retreat which is taking place.

HOW TO WIN

The CIO can still win its demands for the 30 per cent increase in wages. Those demands are just and they can be paid. The Truman government knows this, the employers know it and the CIO bureaucrats know it.

All the workers know that the 30 per cent can be paid and they know that they need it and more. The labor bureaucrats haven't the courage to stand up and fight for their own demands, formulated for them by their own competent economic experts. They accept the opinion of the government experts, that is, they accept the opinions of the experts hired by the government of the capi-

talist employers. We can win this fight. Not only can we win this fight, but we can use this struggle to lay the foundations for the winning of future and bigger fights. We can get, right now, not a "finger in the pie," but a far bigger slice of the pie. Later it is possible for us to take the whole pie. It is ours. We made it and we should eat it.

But for this we need a political party and political action. We need a militant mass Labor Party. We need a general staff, a political general staff.

We need a WORKERS GOVERN-MENT: OUR government.

Telephone: CHEsapeake 5798. LABOR ACTION, 3773 Gratiot St.,

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LABOR ACTION

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Editorials-

A New "Little Steel" Formula

wage recommendations made by govern- when it is still only a suspicious pattern. ment boards or representatives. In auto, steel and the electrical industry, to cite only three, the recommendations are obviously pegged around an eighteen per cent formula. Taken together they point to this sinister conclusion: an obvious attempt by government agencies to replace the old formula by a new formula—one that is slightly higher, but equally restrictive. And, more than that, to put over the Truman principle that labor must take a cut in take-home pay.

We shan't repeat our arguments against the "Little Steel" formula now. We have in the past devoted columns upon columns -virtually entire issues-of LABOR AC-TION to fighting the "Little Steel" formula. It represented a noose tied around labor's legitimate and essential demands for wage

THE OLD "LITTLE STEEL" FORMULA

Reference to LABOR ACTION'S denunciation of the formula is hardly necessary. We doubt if there is a worker in the country who failed to learn the meaning of the "Little Steel" formula in the course of the last few years. Almost the entire labor movement was united in agreement that the "Little Steel" formula had to be broken —and in several notable instances, such as the miners' strike, it was broken by the energetic and relentless determination of the workers. Generally, however, while profits swelled and zooming prices pressed like a bitter wage cut against labor's paycheck, wages were held in the terrible stranglehold of an arbitrary, boss-benefiting formula. Against profit increases in the hundreds of per cent, against price increases of 20, 30, 40 or more per cent, wage increases over 1941 were held to the wage-cutting limit of 15 per cent.

ery implication of the old one. It hasn't force recognition of its demands in picket yet been established as a formula officially. As yet we see it only in the pattern of awards and recommendations that are strikingly similar. All the more reason FORMULA!

There is a dangerous pattern in recent then to fight the new formula now-now,

William Green, president of the AFL, has already denounced its wage-fixing implications. However, it will take more than a few published complaints to stop the new formula dead in its tracks. It will take organized and resolute action, on picket lines and elsewhere. It will take the kind of militancy where workers in a union decide what is their due, and use their fighting ability to get it.

There is an aspect of this development that particularly calls upon us to be on guard. Presumably, these findings and recommendations are based on objective investigations into each individual industry. We note first, in passing, that there is something mighty suspicious about a so-called fact-finding board that arrives at a 17½ per cent figure in a situation where auto workers have adduced their incontrovertible need, plus unassailable facts, for a 30 per cent increase, and that this finding "happens" to coincide with government findings in other industries.

Beyond that, however, we see the danger of an award that workers in any given industry may consider acceptable for one reason or another, becoming universal for situations where it can't possibly be ac-

FOR INCREASES, NOT FORMULAS

Workers in every industry have suffered severe cuts in take-home pay. Substantial wage increases are absolutely necessary to make up for these cuts. In addition, it is not merely a question of negating a wage cut. We have a greater and more lasting need than that: to raise our standard of living to what we as workers consider a decent level, regardless of how this affects profits. A new "Little Steel" formula will be a stranglehold on labor's needs at the very moment when labor is The new pattern-for-a-formula has ev- showing its militant determination to line action.

OUR UNIONS MUST ACT TO DEFEAT IN ADVANCE A NEW "LITTLE STEEL"

Stalinist "Anti-Imperialism"

with the demand of the GI's in all parts of the world to return home. We have further analyzed the motivation of the Truman Administration for keeping them abroad and for slowing down the demobilization. The United States, as a result of its emergence from the war as the largest imperialist power on the globe, must have what it did not need in the past: armies of occupation to police its conquests and subdue the peoples it now rules over. Moreover, it wants a large standing army to prepare for any future war. In order to achieve these aims, it wants permanent peacetime conscription. The slow-down of demobilization is, in effect, as even Drew Pearson has disclosed, a blackmail note which reads: "Agree to peacetime conscription, or the boys won't get home."

In accordance with our international socialist viewpoint, we demand the removal of all imperialist armies from all occupied areas the world over. This demand includes the British, Russian, French and all other imperialist and sub-imperialist armies. We recognize and have stated all along that the purpose of the war between the Allied and Axis camps was not a battle of "democracy" against fascism, but a struggle between two rival imperialist camps.

Now, among the chorus of voices attempting to exploit the sentiments of the GI's to return, we find one that was silent during the war and that has only recently re-discovered American imperialism. During the war this voice was shouting: "We want a permanent no-strike pledge! Buy war bonds! Back the United States in the

LABOR ACTION has stated its solidarity war for democracy and the Four Free-

Now, this voice asks, "What political objective can there be in maintaining large armed forces in Allied countries such as France, China or the Philippines?" Calling at first for an occupation of the "Axis, not the Allied, countries," the voice is now becoming bolder and condemns U. S. occupation of Japan and Germany as being reactionary because it isn't following a policy of de-nazification or de-totalitarianization. This voice has also extended its objections to British imperialism, too. So far, so good.

But this voice is utterly silent about one large occupying country. It says nothing about the Russian armies. It does not call for an end to the Russian occupation of half of Korea, which has long fought against Japanese oppression. It supports the Russian occupation in Iran. It blinks at the Russians in Bulgaria and Rumania.

Readers of LABOR ACTION know to whom we refer. Draped anew in radical and socialist phraseology which it dropped during the war, the Daily Worker of the Communist Party, still shows the cloven hoof of subservience to the Russian bureaucracy. Organized labor and the GI's must beware this new-found "radicalism" of the Communist Party. It emanates from Moscow and serves only the interests of Moscow. It is the product of the increasing rivalries among the Big Three. It seeks to bring the discontented GI's and the militant workers under its influence to use them as a tool in support of Stalinist imperialism. Labor and the GI's alike, on guard against these agents of Stalinist totalitarianism!

UAW Leaders Try to Put Over Kaiser-Frazer Incentive Plan

By BEN HALL

"Incentive pay" and "company security" are the demands of the capitalist class in general and of the auto monopolists in particular. The leaders of the Auto Workers Union have yielded to these demands in the contract they have just signed with the Kaiser-Frazer Co., which has taken over operation of the former Willow Run bomber plant abandoned by the Ford Motor Co. This agreement is therefore NOT a victory for the workers but a victory for the employers and a new retreat by the top officials of the union.

The International Executive Board of the UAW has not yet assigned jurisdiction over the plant to any local union and has had complete freedom to conduct negotiations from the top without direct representation from the rank and file. The contract, it must be noted, has the unanimous approval of ALL the top leaders, including Thomas, Reuther, Addes, and Frankensteen. With his usual bombast, Thomas declares, "It is the best contract ever drawn in the automobile industry. We feel that Mr. Frazer and Mr. Kaiser will not be disap-

There is no doubt ... THEY will be satisfied but the question is: Shall the WORKERS in the auto industry rejoice over this alleged victory? Unless the UAW militants speak up against this contract with the same vigor with which they denounced the Leonard - Ford company security scheme, the brass hats of the union will have quietly slipped over a plan that will have its oppressive effects on the workers of the whole industry. WAGES

The company has agreed to pay the same wage rates as the Ford Motor Co. Any increase in pay won by the General Motors strikers will be matched by equivalent retroactive increases for the K-F workers. The company has recognized thereby the power and solidarity of the union but this "victory" is a very conditional one. The fight for the 30% increase in wage rates must still be fought and won by the auto workers while the Kaiser-Frazer workers mark time as the battle is being fought out.

The agreement provisions for production bonuses and for a company security plan, however, are not only vicious in themselves but also make the fight for wages rate increases But this new pill is heavily coated more difficult.

The plan devised by the UAW leaders and accepted by the company is roughly as follows:

For every car sold at wholesale prices, the company will set aside \$5.00 in a special fund. At the end of the year, this fund will be distributed among the workers as a bonus. Exactly how the division will take place has not been made public. BUT ANY AND ALL WORKERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN SO-CALLED UN-AUTHORIZED STRIKES WILL LOSE ALL THEIR CREDITS AC-CUMULATED IN THAT FUND UP TO THE TIME THEY STOPPED

WORK. The evils of this plan fall into three categories:

1) It is an incentive pay plan. 2) It is a "company security" plan.

3) The combination of the two above plans is even worse than either of the two.

INCENTIVE PAY

In the past, the advocates of incentive pay argued: "There is a war on. We must not strike. Wages are fixed. Only incentive pay can bring added wages." The union militants who built the UAW and who fought bitterly to eliminate all forms of incentive pay refused to be baited into that trap and at the 1943 convention of the UAW voted down all piece work proposals.

Now that the war is over and all these arguments prove bankrupt, the union officials, in violation of the convention decision, agree to an incentive pay plan. Walter Reuther, who in 1943 gained himself a reputation as the spokesman for the opponents of incentive pay, also agrees! Regardless of what fancy argumentation the union brass hats may invent in order to prove that they have not violated the convention decision, they will be unable to avoid one simple fact . . . the representatives of the employers KNOW and SAY that this is an incentive plan.

The Detroit News writes in one of its editorials. "The scheme is as ingenious as it is novel and is noteworthy particularly for its ABAN-DONMENT ON THE UAW'S PART OF THE LONG-STANDING UNION OPPOSITION TO INCENTIVE

George B. Hassett, financial editor of the same paper says, "Whatever the participants to the contract may choose to call it IN EFFECT THIS AMOUNTS TO INCENTIVE PAY."

The general objections to all forms of incentive pay . . . piece-work, production bonuses, etc. . . are well known to all experienced union men and we will not repeat them here.

with sugar and dusted with the sugary phrases of the union leaders who will try to make it as palatable as possible for the members who are to swallow it. It may seem to some that the K-F workers have won an advantage over the rest of the industry. They will get the Ford rates plus the bonus. But this is a strange, temperary, illusion. The contract in question will really exert a downward pressure on the wages rates of all

auto workers.

The UAW has been fighting for increases in total take home pay by raising the HOURLY WAGE RATE. It has fought against lengthening of hours, speed-up, piece work which may bring temporary, minor increases in take-home pay as the result of intensified exploitation of the workers and accompanied by tremendous rises in profits. Any plan which ties the amount of wages received by the workers to their individual or group productivity is a piecework plan and an abandonment of the fight for higher wage rates. The Kaiser-Frazer contract makes a dangerous concession to the restoration of the piecework system in the auto industry.

GREATER EXPLOITATION

Workers are not opposed to increased productivity-that goes without saying-but they want to work at a normal, human pace. Increased productivity must come out of technical improvements, better machinery, and scientific development. BUT THAT IS NOT WHERE KAISER EXPECTS TO GET HIS ADDED PRODUC-TION. He says, "It is an incentive plan that makes every worker feel that his earnings are dependent upon himself." The workers are expected to strain their muscles and energies for the added bonus.

By increases in their wage RATES, the workers obtain a larger share of what they already produce and cut down the share that is received by the parasitic capitalist class. Under the production bonus system, the workers voluntarily agree to superexploitation and speed-up which raise the capitalist's share to the skies at the cost of a small bonus-bribe.

If such a principle is accepted in this case, the employers will fight to have it recognized throughout the industry. Instead of wage increases coming out of increased wage rates, the capitalist class will insist that they come out of increased individual productivity through speed-up. If that becomes the recognized norm, the agreed-upon standard, the illusory advantage of the K-F workers will have disappeared and the working conditions of all auto workers undermined.

(to be concluded)

Two N.Y. Housing Programs

Bq CHRIS WARREN

The Democratic Party of New York State has decided that the Republican administration is not doing all it can to relieve the present serious housing shortage. Therefore, Paul E. Fitzpatrick, chairman of the Democratic State Committee, has opened a campaign for a "new \$300,000,000 fund for slum clearance and low-rent housing." Mr. Fitzpatrick wants \$50,-000,000 to be taken from the "postwar reconstruction fund" to be used in creating homes for returning veterans. He also wants the \$80,000,000, now available under the state constitution for the building of homes, to be used for that purpose. This makes a total of \$430,000,000 for new homes, schools and hospitals in the state of New York.

There was a time when \$430,000,000 was a lot of money but to a nation conditioned to such figures as \$2,500,-000,000 spent every ten days during the war for destruction, \$430,000,000 spent for construction after the war becomes an insignificant amount. This sum appears to shrink even more when you contemplate the tremendous tasks that must be accomplished to provide all the families of New York with decent homes.

There are approximately two million people in New York City who

(Continued from page 1)

palities to finance relief for needy

Veterans are especially active in this

strike. They are disgusted with the

low wages prevailing in the electrical

plants and remember only too well

the anti-labor propaganda overseas

about workers getting rich during

The most colorful demonstration

took place in Bloomfield where 5,000

workers from the General Electric

and Westinghouse plants, which are

a short distance from each other.

joined forces and marched behind a

brass band to the village green to

hold a mass meeting. Emphasizing

the overwhelming community sup-

BIG DEMONSTRATION

live in the congested "slums." These tenement buildings were condemned as "unsanitary and unfit to live in" in 1885! They are still standing in the year 1946 and their owners continue to squeeze the last drop of profit from them! Instead of destroying every last one of these unheated. unsanitary and filthy buildings, the real estate dealers want to "remodel" them to provide homes for the thousands of returning soldiers who want to settle down after five years of hardship and privation. If he must, a man can live in a tent or a hut without heat, hot water, electricity, etc., during a battle in the middle of a desert, but it will take a lot of talking to convince a veteran that he has to accept such conditions when he returns to the United States, "the richest country in the world."

WORKERS PARTY PROGRAM

During the past ten years the Housing Authority has spent less than \$100,000,000 to give the low-income group of New York City homes fit to live in. Only 3% of the slum dwellers have been able to leave their condemned tenement homes and enter the government housing projects. At that rate of speed, a couple of hundred of years will be necessary to tear down the slums and put new, clean houses in their place. But the work-

UE Strike in New Jersey--

the loud and friendly welcome the

strikers got from pedestrians as they

marched through the town. The strik-

ers were preceded by a line of police-

men on foot behind whom rode four

General strike headquarters have

been set up at the Bloomfield Labor

Lyceum and the first strike bulletins

have already been distributed. Four

restaurants near the plants have been

taken over by the locals for use as

At the Newark Plane St. plant of

Westinghouse the mass picket lines

were so solid that the union took

some pickets off in order to keep the

line from slowing down to a shuffle.

MORALE IS HIGH

strikers mounted on horseback.

The strike of the builders adds to the confusion. These men refuse to build a new house until they are granted the right to raise the rent ceilings. With the health and wellbeing of thousands of people at stake, these real estate companies spend their time in the halls of the legislative chambers demanding guarantees of enormous profits before they will act to relieve the existing critical situation.

The solution of the Workers Party to the housing shortage is not complex. We call for \$12,5000,000,000 housing and public works program over a period of five years. This money is to come in part from New York and in part from the federal government. It is to be used to provide homes, schools, hospitals and recreational facilities for the people of New York. Nothing less will do!

We must tear down the 65,000 tenement buildings of New York City! We must provide schools and hospitals for all the people in the state! \$2,500,000,000 a year is not impractical. We spent that sum every ten days during the war. We spent it for guns, tanks and planes. We can and must spend it now for the creation of decent homes and living conditions.

was congested and Plane St. itself

was roped off for use by the pickets.

The congestion was heavily increased

Wednesday when the packing house

in Newark are only a few blocks

One extremely heartening feature

of the strike was the presence of hun-

dreds of white collar workers on the

picket lines. The office workers are

members of UE at both Bloomfield

and Plane St. and are cooperating

100 per cent with the production

workers in the conduct of the strike.

Picket lines were also set up at

various smaller plants of GE, GM and

Westinghouse, located at Belleville,

Jersey City and Irvington, Every-

where the workers' morale was high.

strike started, for the packing houses

from the Westinghouse plant.

port for the strike in Bloomfield was Traffic for blocks around the plant

By James M. Fenwick

PART V

THE BRUTALIZATION OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

"Moore, go down into town and pick up my laundry, will you?"

"But, sir, they're shelling the road and the town something awful."

"GODDAMMIT, SOLDIER, I SAID GO DOWN AND GET THAT LAUNDRY!"

"Yes, sir."

In that brief dialogue between my company commander and one of the men is revealed the inescapable fact which dwarfed all others in every waking moment (and so many of the sleeping ones) of every combat soldier. That fact was the constant consciousness of death, the cheapness of life, and how easily it could be dissipated

No soldier could remain in combat long without realizing that whether he lived or whether he died was only a statistical question, that, by and large, whether he was a good soldier or a bad one. whether he was brave or a coward, or whether he was religious or indifferent, didn't really matter. It was a question only of time.

ALONE

The combat soldier felt himself alone in his misery and his danger. Consequently, hatred and envy festered in almost every one of them. The hatred and envy were directed at almost everybody, especially those who were more fortunately situated than he. For line company men this included battalion headquarters men ("Those rear echelon bastards!"), quartermaster corps personnel, especially Negroes ("Why the hell ain't they fighting?"), strikers, or civilians in general.

The Germans, as the ostensible cause of the war and of its continuation ("Why the hell don't they quit? They know they're licked?") inevitably bore the brunt of the hatred. For that reason brutal treatment of the Germans and looting was looked upon merely as what they justly deserved. Furthermore, the distinction between reducing a town to rubble by aircraft and artillery and doing a little quiet looting seemed the purest metaphysics to the average soldier.

The overflow of this feeling inevitably involved the French and Belgians, since they were felt to be partly responsible for originating the war. This is unquestionably a factor motivating the behavior of American soldiers in France and Belgium at the present time.

YOU HARDLY LIVE ONCE

Violent living produces violent pleasures. In the presence of death everything seems fleeting. Pleasures are seized and exhausted immediately. Drinking is so heavy because there is so much to forget. Sexual satisfactions are quick and without human, loving overtones. There is not time.

Personal relations are on the most meagre basis. Too close personal attachments are avoided because your closest friend may be dead the next hour. In the face of an unendurable misery out of which there leads no visible path, cursing becomes the normal code of conversation.

Add to this the interminable fear and friendship.

Add the classes in military courtesy, close order drill, care and cleaning of equipment, five mile hikes, and the moronic, nagging discipline imposed by the officers during the occasional three or four day rest periods between commitments to battle. Add the general lowering of the moral level

which fascism has introduced into the world.

It does not take a prophet to foretell the results.

THE SUM TOTAL

Many soldiers, after having experienced all this, have now been assigned as occupation forces.

This means living in a god-forsaken, if intact, German village dating from the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries. Or it means living in a city amid the incalculable ruins which are modern Germany. It means shoving around a hostile, if apathetic people. It means, if one is at all sensitive, to be the daily witness of the most heartrending poverty and human desolation.

Coupled with this, of course, is the barracks life, the daily bird-brained discipline from the officers, the monotonous and often insufficient food, the royal prerogatives of the officer caste, the frequent lack of proper clothing, the absence of entertainment, the laughable educational program, the loneliness, the lack of a harmonious sexual life, and the bleak and unknown future.

That all of this should result in base acts against foreign peoples was inevitable.

That it should take the form of demonstrations for redeployment home is equally understandable.

That it will assume more politically conscious forms in the future can be predicted with equal

CHICAGO FORUM:

"The Politics of the Strike Wave"

SPEAKER:

R. L. FERGUSON

Organizer, Chicago Local of Workers Party

WED. JAN. 30

8:30 P. M.

LABOR ACTION HALL 1703 WEST MADISON ST.

Auspices:

Workers Party, Chicago Local

A New Gabfest On the Jewish **Problem**

-By Jesse Kaaren

Palestine-the most talked-over territory in the world -is again the subject of an international gabfest. Past masters in the art of putting off public announcement of a decision already in effect, the British have once more availed themselves of that ancient subterfuge, a "Committee of Inquiry." After it finishes its hearings in the United States, the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on displaced Jews and Palestine, will go to London and thence to Palestine-a pleasant trip at government expense.

If the Committee will serve one "useful" purpose, it will be to expose the fact that American dollar imperialism has given way to military imperialism. The use of British troops instead of American does not alter this fact even though it may serve to confuse it. Anyone who cares to think about it, will soon understand that the humanitarianism of the American government is just as shallow as is the British, despite all pious wellsounding phrases.

BRITAIN SETS STAGE FOR THE COMMITTEE

While this allegedly impartial Committee is giving all interested parties, Arab and Jewish, a chance to blow off steam, the British through a series of acts have already indicated what their policy is with regard to the displaced Jews and Palestine, Committee or no Committee. The United States government has also declared itself on the problem of a home for the refugees even before the Committee had a chance to meet. President Truman, in announcing the "generous" immigration policy of the United States, namely, that the small pre-war immigration quota would be strictly observed, is telling the Committee that it dare not recommend the United . States as a haven. (With only 6,500 visas available annually for all types of Poles, it would take about ten years to bring the 60,000 Polish Jews in the American zone of occupation alone to the United States. There are 10,000 Hungarians who want to leave and only 800 visas

Because Great Britain is the direct imperialist agent in the Middle East and the United States is the big brother that stands behind her, it is easier to trace British policy than American. The following actions indicate how little respect the British government has for the findings of the Committee which it set up and prove that Great Britain is not waiting for the Committee's recommenda-

Simultaneously with an announcement of the proposal for the formation of a Committee, Foreign Secretary Bevin accused the Jews of "wanting to get too much to the head of the queue." The largest peace-time force of British troops on record is shipped to Palestine, its men are indectrinated with anti-Semitic propaganda and all Jewish soldiers are removed from the units. The monthly rate of 1,500 Jewish immigrants maintained under the White Paper and promised for the interim period, is quietly cut down to zero. Then the British, with a very noisy gesture, ask the Arab Higher Committee, that group of reactionary clericals and feudal landlords of Palestine, whether it will consent to the resumption of the 1,500 monthly rate—a consent that was never asked

This not-so-subtle gesture of cutting out immigration and then asking the Arab Higher Committee for consent has no other value than to fan the flames of Arab-Jewish enmity as high as possible. Jewish inmates in the Bergen-Belsen camp are beaten and arrested by British guards when they hold a meeting to protest Bevin's statement on Palestine, General Morgan, head of UNRRA, an important British functionary, makes a much-publicized charge that the Jews have organized a world-wide conspiracy to effect a mass exodus from Europe. If the statement were not so viciously anti-Semitic, so much a part of the British pattern of today, it could be dismissed as a joke. For to whom is it a secret that 90% of the Jews in Europe want to leave?

HOW THE BRITISH ACT

In Palestine, British troops fire on children in the streets of Tel Aviv, who are throwing stones at the soldiers. They send tanks and machine guns to force an entry into Jewish colonies and kill unarmed settlers.

In contrast to British colonial policy which is more or less consistent and follows a straight line through Churchill and Attlee, American colonial policy is in the process of changing. This explains why Truman can call for Jewish immigration of 100,000 to Palestine one week, and withdraw the request the following week. He is for a pro-Zionist resolution in Congress one year, and against it the next. He is beginning to see eye-to-eye with the British that Jewish immigration to Palestine means the further development of that country, and its eventual break with imperialism, but he goes on repeating piously that he thinks an immigration quota of 100,000 is possible.

Though British colonial servants in the Middle East work hard at the job of keeping the enmity of the Jews and Arabs at a fever pitch, they did not manufacture the Arab-Jewish problem as Zionists claim. As LABOR ACTION has pointed out, the program of the Zionists which has as its pivot the establishment of a Jewish commonwealth in Palestine is reactionary and repels the Arabs, making Arab-Jewish unity impossible. It is, therefore, easy for the unholy combination of Arab clericals, feudal landlords, and British statesmen to keep the Arab fellahin in a state of fear that the miserable pittance which they now have will be taken away from them by the Jews. The encouraging thing about the present situation is that though the Arab masses fear and distrust the Jews, they are also suspicious of their own leadership and of the British. The fact that despite extreme provocation there have been no Arab-Jewish clashes as there were during the 30's is an indication that the Arab masses are waiting for a new leadership to come forth. The peasants need desperately to outgrow the political leadership of the landlord parties, and the Arab workers need to free themselves from the present nationalist leaders.

The Jewish labor groups have the political maturity necessary to aid such a development, if they will free themselves of the Zionist ideology which misleads them. For their own salvation, as well as that of the country as a whole, they must unite with the Arabs for an antiimperialist struggle and for the establishment of a genuine democratic state based on universal suffrage and

If they do, they will be able to convince the Arab masses that free immigration will bring great benefits to the native population. A large Jewish immigration would hasten the day of independence.

Green Machine Whips CPers

Conservatives Win in Ship Convention

the Industrial Union of Marine & Shipbuilding Workers of America, to leave the convention hall flanked CIO, held in Atlantic City from January 7 to 12, re-elected John Green president of the union and with him John Grogan as vice-president. But Philip Van Gelder was not re-elected secretary-treasurer. He was replaced by Ross Blood, temporary secretarytreasurer, while Van Gelder was in the Army. The defeat of Van Gelder symbolizes the entire defeat of the Stalinists in the leadership in this convention, which was used as a battlefield by the Communist Party forces and the administration machine for their knock-down and dragout fight for control of the union.

The set-up at this convention was entirely different from that at the last. Then the CPers and Green were bedfellows, though not very affectionate ones. Green, the class-collaborator, forcing the no-strike pledge, the treacherous WLB and support of Roosevelt down the throats of the rank and file, needed the very able assistance of the Kremlin agents to and similar ruses. However, Delegate break strikes and suppress all mili-

tant and progressive action. At this year's convention the CPers came dressed in other raiment. By order of the Kremlin, whose honeymoon with Washington is over, the Stalinists are once more waging a struggle on Stalin's behalf. They now behave like the most militant of the clear what the wage demands of the militants and the most progressive of the progressives - casting bait to that nothing had been accomplished catch the really progressive elements in the union. However, the administration steamroller was well prepared, and not even sympathy for the returned GI could get camp-follower, Van Gelder re-elected.

LOCAL 16 DISPUTE

Until the third day of the convention most of the business took place in the corridors and caucus rooms. Then the Credentials Committee reported, including the hotly disputed question of which delegation from Local 16 was to be seated. A rollcall vote on the recommendation of the committee, which was the administration point of view, resulted 6501/2 in favor and 2881/2 opposed. The next day the Appeals Committee came out with its recommendation that neither delegation be seated, on the ground that both were illegally chosen. From the floor came protests at disfranchising the second largest local in the union and demands for seating both the administration and opposition delegation. Finally it was agreed to hear both sides.

The CPers charged that the administration delegation was hand-picked. whereas theirs was duly elected at the meeting of December 17. The spokesman for the other side contended that the December 17 meeting was more of a caucus than a meeting and that the opposition had used rule-or-ruin tactics to prevent proper elections.

This fight over the seating of a delegation from Local 16 highlighted the dishonesty on both sides. At this convention the CPers were shining white champions of democracy in the union, against hand-picked delegations, administration goons, packed conventions, etc. At the last convention, however, when their own delegation from Local 16 was hand-

The eleventh annual convention of Then they did not threaten Green with physical violence so that he had by guards. Their ardor for democracy in the union was not so apparent when the administration machine

supported them. On the other hand, correct as it is to label Stalinist tactics in the untion "rule or ruin," how about the administration's tactics? Have not the autocratic tactics of crushing union morale by lifting autonomy of locals and suppressing the militancy of the rank and file seriously weakened the

At a later session, when an amendment to the constitution came on the floor to take local autonomy out of the bureaucratic control of the officers and to provide for a bill of particulars, for open hearings and for a two-thirds vote of the GEB, did not the chair railroad through a motion

It was not until the fifth day of the convention that the question of wages finally reached the floor. Even then the factional heat might have scotched the discussion with points of order Lenihan of Local 13 brought the convention to its senses by a plea to get down to the business that rank and file delegates came to transact. The report then given by Pettis for Wage Reviewing Committee, which had met at Colorado Springs and Washington, did not even make union now are. It DID make clear except an adjournment to meet again in Washington on January 14.

ON STRIKE ACTION

Delegates sought to pin down the committee to a definite line of action. Rose of Local 2 called for a referendum on a strike within thirty days if by January 18 no settlement was had. Reeder of Local 1 offered a motion to establish a Wage Policy Committee, to put February 1 as the deadline for a wage settlement. Delegates called for the rescinding of the no-strike pledge in connection with their wage case. They were assured from the platform that the no-strike pledge ended with V-J Day. Whereupon Lenihan of Local 13 pointed out that when his local was ready for most militant action against the company's union - busting tactics,

"BLACK GOLD"

Net income

tinued upward trend of surplus.

take from consumers.

Surplus ..

picked, that was a different story. Finn; Versch, Kaplan and other offi- could not get its aims within the cials prevented their strike by pres- framework of existing political parsuring the members on account of the ties, he did not allow the resolution no-strike pledge and the stabilization

> On the stabilization set-up, Delegate Phillips of Local 16 cut to the root of the matter. He pointed out that as long as IUMSWA was bound by stabilization agreements there would be a modified no-strike pledge, that there are no impartial boards, since Wall Street lawyers and professors also "think company," that the only way to stabilize the industry is by a standard contract, and that there is no reason why IUMSWA should not take the same action as the auto workers. However, every progressive idea coming from the floor was defeated, and the whole wage question was left where it was before the convention.

Throughout this discussion on wages, the Stalinists were most vociferous in calling for strike action. They were following the new line all the way down the line. Van Gelder from the platform asked for "a decision in view of what is happening." "We must go along with the CIO fight," he said. How true! How true! But coming from the mouth of campfollower Van Gelder and the Stalinists, what a mocking ring it has! For at the last convention, when Van Gelder was still in uniform and the divorce between Washington and the Kremlin had not been consummated, Van Gelder spoke against "the good, old-fashioned militant strike." Along with Harry Bridges, he was quite ready to give up the right to strike -forever and a day.

At the Friday night session many important resolutions were run through the administration mill and came out pulp. There was the resolution against the WLB and in favor of direct negotiations with the companies. There was one against the stabilization set-up or any labormanagement - public agreements. A resolution to rescind the no-strike pledge was ruled out of order. The resolution to endorse an independent Labor Party never got to the floor despite the fact that delegates from various locals came committed to

In spite of the fact that in his opening speech Green threw a sop to the progressive sentiment for a Labor Party by threatening "labor would create its own political party" if it

207,500,000

280,300,000

1,312,500,000

The Oil Workers International Union, CIO, in a recent pamphlet

asking higher wage rates, illustrates the current view of many labor

organizations that workers can permanently gain, by getting more of

the extortionate toll which the government permits their employers to

It gives for 1944 and 1939 basic figures for fourteen important oil

In 1944, dividends paid by these companies were 22.4 per cent larger

The net income per share of eight oil companies (most of them in-

than in 1939; net income 81.6 per cent larger, and surplus 105.5 per cent

cluded in the fourteen above) for the first nine months of 1944 and

1944, show, for nearly all, a continued upward trend in net income

which, unless dividends are increased, probably means as well, a con-

\$ 254,100,000

2,697,600,000

550,100,000

companies: Standard, Gulf Oil, Atlantic, Phillips, Pure Oil, Standard

of California, Texas Co., Union Oil, Tidewater, Shell, Standard of In-

to see the light at Atlantic City. Green disregarded the fact that there are ever-increasing numbers of shipyard workers who have ALREADY learned that their aims cannot be accomplished within the framework of existing political parties.

ADMINISTRATION WINS

The last order of business, the election of officers, entrenched the administration machine for another year. The opposition slate for officers was Duffy of Local 39 for president, Seese of Local 4 for vice-president and Van Gelder for secretary-treasurer, against the administration slate of Green, Grogan and Blood. The administration slate for General Executive Board was Moses, Miatico, Hansen, Pettis, Bailey, Meyers, Carter, Oakes, Flynn and Dempsey. The opposition slate was for Miatico, Ramsey, Watson, Goodwin, Rose, Woods, Seese, Connelly, Hughes, McCann. Except for Miatico, who was supported by both sides, the vote was approximately three to one in favor of the administration.

What is the score at the end of this eleventh annual convention of the IUMSWA? It is undoubtedly a fact that the union is in the hands of a well-oiled machine. It is also a fact that John Green is no longer at the controls of the machine, but is at the mercy of Organizational Director Gallegher and Vice-President Grogan, whose supporters in the union are far from being enlightened and progressive elements. Green admitted his own helplessness in his final speech when he stated that he would have preferred to have the "old team"-meaning Van Gelder and himself-but had to go along with the "majority," as he put it.

What of the defeat of the Stalinists? They are definitely out of the top leadership. When Green promised in his concluding speech to take the fight against the disrupters to the membership, that was a promise to eliminate CPers from local leadership also. Consequently, there will be floating around a lot of Stalinists -well trained as rank-and-file leaders and organizers-fishing in troubled waters. In the corridors at Atlantic City were rumors of making deals with Lewis' District 50-rumors of splitting the IUMSWA wide open. The rank and file interested in strengthening the union along progressive lines and in establishing union democracy will have to be ready to combat the "rule or ruin" policies of the Stalinists.

In the final analysis, the future of the IUMSWA is in the lap of the truly independent and progressive elements. In this convention, they formed a bloc with the Stalinists and submitted to CP leadership, though they themselves rated the number of CPers as far from a majority in the bloc. The tail of the kite can only go where the kite goes. The IUMSWA needs a rank-and-file progressive bloc standing on its own feet. It must bring out and develop its own leadership. It must, above all and fundamentally, have its own progressive and militant union program and educate the membership along those lines. These tasks cannot be accomplished by waiting until a week before the next convention.

What "Society Of Sentinels" Stands For

-By Doris Winters

Detroit, the birthplace and home of many reactionary movement, has produced still another, the Society of Sentinels, whose organizers are important Detroit business men and whose aim is to establish similar groups throughout the country.

It is no accident that Detroit has long been known as a center of reactionary activity. It is the home of one of the most advanced sections of the labor movement. In the history of labor's struggle against the capitalists, the Detroit labor movement is noted for its active and militant participation.

It is not at all surprising either that at the very moment when American labor is conducting a struggle against the giant corporations, The Society of Sentinels introduces itself to the public. It has always been the experience in the past that whenever labor conducts a major struggle against big business, fascist organizations have appeared on the scene. The Black Legion, a powerful fascist movement, came into existence at a time when the workers of Detroit were being organized.

And so today when labor is again engaged in battle with the capitalists, reaction attempts to organize its power in an endeavor to destroy the labor movement.

SENTINELS' AIMS

The Society of Sentinels poses itself as a citizens movement aiming to establish a productive system working its full capacity within the present economic framework. To publicize its aims the society, in expensive advertisements, offered President Truman a suggested model for his forthcoming report to Congress. It is evident that large financial resources are at its disposal. In an interview with Mr. Fielder, managing director of the organization, he informed me that the society plans to run radio programs, and publish literature and articles in newspapers in the future.

Walter P. Reuther, vice president of the UAW, has characterized this organization as starkly reactionary. The program of the Sentinels favors doing away with all important labor legislation of the past decade. The Sentinels favor the immediate repeal of the National Labor Relations act, Fair Labor Standards act, all federal laws for the control of prices, production, and the allocation of materials, and the federal housing program.

The Sentinels say that these laws have created economic dictators who can determine whether the nation can have steel, automobiles, and other goods. And it is evident by their program that by dictators they mean the labor movement. But against big business, the real economic dictators who own the factories and raw materials, who decide whether millions of workers eat or starve-against these usurpers of freedom and destroyers of human dignity the Sentinels have nothing to say.

It is quite evident that big business has now reached the point where it is making an all-out effort to undermine and weaken the labor movement of the country in an effort to finally crush it.

WHO ARE THEY?

Today the GM workers are not only making economic demands, but their slogans of "open the books" and "no price increases" reveal that GM workers are fighting for more than mere wage increases. It is precisely at this time that the Sentinels present their extreme reactionary program to the public. Now that workers are out on strike and production of goods has ceased in various plants of the country, the Sentinels are trying to utilize the strike to rally small and big business in a struggle against the labor movement.

Thus it is no accident to discover that the board members of the Society of Sentinels represent the interests of big business. Officers of the organization are: L. C. Allman, Fruehauf Trailer Co., chairman of the board; Wayne Stettbacher, Employers Association of Detroit. secretary, and Noble Travis, Detroit Trust Co., treasurer. Board members are Stephen Butts, O. W. Burke Co.; William Leininger, president of the Leininger Industrial Corp.: Julian Wolfner, R. L. Polk & Co.: Robert G. Waldron, Hudson Motor Car Co.; Seward Lawson, Reconstruction Finance Corp., and Loren B. Miller, Bureau of Governmental Research.

Walter Reuther, vice president of the UAW, asked GM whether it subscribed to the starkly reactionary program of the Sentinels. Reuther cited reports that Stephen M. Du Brul, GM economist, is vice president of the society and helped draft the letter to President Truman. Mr. Du Brul is the same individual who circulated reprints of a ferociously anti-union article in GM negotiations.

As was to be expected GM denied that it was connected with the Sentinels. However, this denial does not absolve GM. For one has only to look at the labor scene today to realize that big business is engaged in an outright war against labor, the results of which it hopes will crush the labor movement.

It is true that organizations like The Society of Sentinels may be weak today, but unless the workers are on guard against these reactionary movements, they may grow and become a fatal threat to labor by creating the base for a mass fascist organization. American workers must watch these organizations closely and use their tremendous power to prevent them from growing into the mass American fascist movement toward which big business is looking for the solution of its labor problems.

Bring All the GI's Home Now!-

(Continued from page 1)

ternational obligations," whether uttered by Truman, Congress, the War Department, the New York Times

The GI's have a simple reply to this propaganda: "What about the obligations to us?"

Therefore the cry of 20,000 GI's in Manila, "We want to go home," echoed in every theater of operations. In Frankfurt, Germany, 5,000 angry GI's ignored provocative incidents like the one where guards with fixed bayonets fenced them away from headquarters. In Guam, 18,000 demonstrated. In India, 5,000; in Korea, several thousand; in China, several thousand. GI's came from nearby camps to picket the Pentagon Building in Washington.

In Yokohama, a colonel tried to subdue the demonstrations by charging they were "near mutiny" and led by "Communists and Bolsheviks," but this was so raw that General MacArthur shortly afterward issued a statement testifying to the combat and service record of these soldiers. In Washington, General Eisenhower quickly warned field commanders gainst punitive measures for the thousands of GI's.

The crude attempt of one field commander to stifle all criticism appearing in the Daily Pacifican boomeranged when the entire staff protested publicly against "brass-hat pressure." In India, a sergeant was busted and confined to a psychiatric ward for mimeographing some material for his buddies, but his release was ob-

Neither General Eisenhower's pol-

icy of "handling with kid gloves" nor men with two years' service would army demobilization slowdown was his order to all field commanders to men failed to pacify the resentful GI's. Permanent committees were set up among the soldiers-and this is significant—some of them wired CIO unions for help. Already the shipyard workers in their annual convention passed a resolution condemning those responsible for the demobilization slowdown. R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW, sent a copy of wire he received to all senators and congressmen, expressing his sympathy with the soldiers.

This was a startling development for the brass hats. Organized labor on record against their plan for peacetime conscription. Now it begins to take up the grievances of the

Furthermore—and this accounts for the intensified bitterness of the GI'sthe War Department has not yet repudiated its repudiation of the solemn promises of General Marshall, when he was chief of staff, that all

be eligible for discharge by March ship home immediately all surplus 21! In this factor an understanding of the aggravation of the GI's is to be found. Arthur Krock in the New York

Times pointed out how the Truman stand would run counter both to widespread public sentiment and a section of Congress. In reality, the resistance to the GI's demands is universal in Congress and in all Washington ruling circles.

The GI's have raised certain fundamental questions which must be answered, one way or another. PEACETIME CONSCRIPTION

The Paris GI's blasted the structure of the army. They made a special point against the courts-martial system. Only recently the House Military Affairs Committee issued a report criticizing courts-martial. What is to be done?

There is another vital angle in this crisis, From Vienna, 362 soldiers cabled a congressman, who read the message to his colleagues, that the

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a bid for public support of peacetime conscription. How can such a charge be evaded when so much evidence points that way?

Only last week, when 600 GI's landed as replacements in Germany, the first question they asked was: "When do we go home?" No one in Washington can satisfy the soldiers' demands precisely because they believe in keeping them abroad. F. H. La Guardia, speaking over the radio, urged soldiers to "stand by their posts." Nice advice to give in comfortable New York, in civilian clothes, and with a \$100,000-a-year radio contract!

The appeals of the brass hats, the New York Times and PM to soldiers to "keep American prestige abroad high," fail to make the slightest dent in the consciousness of the soldiers because that isn't the question for them at all.

The GI's want to know why they can't come home now, when they want to and when the folks back home want them to. They distrust the policies they see carried out overseas. The idea grows among them that "Those people want us to sacrifice for THEIR policies. They are playing us for suckers." It is this new consciousness that worries Washington.

Congressional meetings this week, as well as public hearings with brass hats for speakers, are called for one main reason: how to combat this growing consciousness of the GI's. LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party join with organized labor in supporting the GI demands to get

Bring all the GI's home now!

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