## Price Steal Wipes Out Picket-Line Gains

# HOLD IHELINE ON PRICES!

## **Auto Workers Blast UE Pay Settlement**

By JACK WILSON

DETROIT, FEB 12 (BY WIRE)—A CITY-WIDE STRIKE COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL GENERAL MOTORS LOCALS IN AREA TO. DAY ACCUSED THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS UNION-CIO OF A DOUBLE-CROSS IN ACCEPTING 181/2 CENTS AN HOUR WAGE INCREASE FROM GM.

THIS ACTION CAME AT THE SAME TIME GM OFFERED TO SETTLE THE 85-DAY STRIKE OF 175,000 WORKERS BY GRANT-ING AN 181/2 CENTS AN HOUR WAGE INCREASE, PROVIDED THE UAW-CIO GAVE UP MAINTENANCE OF MEMBERSHIP CLAUSE IN OLD CONTRACT. GM LIKEWISE DEMANDED EXCLUSION FROM OLD CONTRACT OF ANY IMPROVEMENTS ONCE GRANTED BY WAR LABOR BOARD IN PREVIOUS DIRECTIVES. THIS OF-FER REJECTED IMMEDIATELY BY UAW-CIO, AFTER STALINIST. DOMINATED UERMWA BROKE SOLID FRONT AGAINST GM AND SIGNED A SEPARATE AGREEMENT COVERING SOME 25,000 UE

THE UE-CIO MOVE STUNNED ENTIRE LABOR MOVEMENT, WAS ATTACKED QUICKLY BY R. J. THOMAS, PRESIDENT OF UAW-CIO. HOWEVER, THE REAL BLAST AGAINST THIS MOVE CAME BY THE DELEGATES REPRESENTING ALL GM LOCALS

GM TOOK QUICK ADVANTAGE OF THE LATEST BLUNDER IN TOP CIO CIRCLES TO PRESS FOR ITS OFFER WHICH IS LOWER IN TWO RESPECTS THAN THAT RECOMMENDED BY TRUMAN'S FACT-FINDING BOARD. LATTER HAD SUGGESTED A 191/2 CENTS AN HOUR WAGE INCREASE AND REINSTATEMENT OF THE OLD CONTRACT WHICH GM HAS REPUDIATED.

GM OFFERED ONE SOP IN ITS LATEST MANEUVER TO WEAKEN THE UAW. IT SAID IT WOULD ACCEPT THE CHECK-OFF IF THE UAW ELIMINATED MAINTENANCE OF MEMBER-

ONE-HALF HOUR AFTER THIS OUTRAGEOUS PROPOSAL WAS MADE, THE UAW-CIO COMMITTEE, HEADED BY WALTER REU-THER. STORMED OUT OF THE MEETING AND ANNOUNCED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE AGAIN BROKEN OFF.



## Stalinists Doublecross GM Auto Strikers

By DAVID COOLIDGE

The Stalinists (Communist Party) have done it again. They have evidently discovered that the UAW workers on strike against General Motors were "German agents" and "Japanese spies" during the war. Evidently these workers striking against GM are "union wreckers." Or perhaps the strike of these workers is a well-organized plot to murder Stalin? At the very least, all of these striking GM workers must be "Trotskyists."

These observations are prompted by the fact that the Stalinists have settled the strike of the United Electrical. Radio and Machine Workers against General Motors behind the backs of the UAW without letting the UAW know what was going on and for less than the UAW strikers are demanding. The Stalinist leadership of the UE settled with GM for

18% cents an hour incre UAW workers are demanding 191/2 cents increase.

It was all done in secret. James Matles, the Stalinist director of organization for the UERMW, crept into Detroit secretly and held secret meetings with General Motors in the same building in which the UAW was conducting negotiations with GM. The result of these secret meetings between Matles and GM was an agreement to take 61/2 cents an hour less than the UERMW had originally demanded, and one cent less than the UAW was demanding from the same

Thus the "Communist" Party leadership of the UERMW not only betrays its own membership, but at the same time stabs the UAW workers

strikebreakers. This from the party which only a few months back 'turned left," went back to "Marxist-Leninism," according to its "new" program. This is the outfit which beat its breast all over the country last year and wailed and moaned that Browder had led the organization into the wilderness of "revisionism." Foster was resurrected from the ashcan to which he had been consigned by Stalin and Browder and put at the head of the resurrected "Marxist - Leninist" organization which henceforth was to lead the

Now they have demonstrated what their militant struggle is to be: strike-breaking, scabbing and wage-

workers in "militant struggle."

The Stalinist leaders of the elec-

employers without any struggle whatsoever if the employers would consent to any small wage increase. They announced in the beginning that they would settle for whatever wage increase the steel workers would win. That is, these bureaucrats were willing to let the steel workers do the fighting for the

This has been their policy all along. It was their policy during the war. They had such a reactionary position that the question of opposing the nostrike pledge could not even be raised in that international with any degree of realism.

Of course, this most recent sell-out of the Stalinists will not be put to the membership of the UERMW for trical workers never wanted a strike. a vote. This leadership does not func-

president of the UERMW, who is only a dummy president, says that the GM settlement should pave the way for the settlement of the strike of his union against General Electric and Westinghouse. We agree. Betrayal of labor by labor leaders as a rule paves the way for the settlement of strikes. The Stalinists are experts at that kind of a settlement.

Why can't the UERMW workers reject this agreement made secretly between Matles and GM? Some worker or workers in every UE local should introduce a resolution condemning this action, rejecting the "settlement" and expressing their solidarity with the UAW General Motors strikers. This is the least that they can do to demonstrate that they do not support the scabbing tactics and principles of their Stalinist lead-

**Jersey Court** 

**Baiting Spree** 

NEWARK, N. J., Feb. 9, 1946-

New Jersey corporations and

their political stooges, the cor-

poration - controlled courts,

have accepted the throw from

Congressional action on the

Case bill and have issued a rash of

injunctions this past month to re-

strain striking workers at several

United Electrical Workers plants in

the Newark area from mass picket-

On Thursday, February 7, two pick-

ets from Local 426, UERMW, at the

strike-bound plant of the Westing-

house Meter Division, Orange and

Plane Streets, Newark, were arrested

and held in \$50 bail on charges of

"loitering and interfering." This came

about as the result of an attempt to

keep "supervisory workers" (scabs)

from entering the plant. It followed

an injunction against mass picket-

ing ordered by Vice-Chancellor Bige-

fense of a picket line against com-

pany attempts to break the strike to

"SS guards in Nazi Germany who

seized control of the streets to force

their political opinion upon the peo-

Maurice Veneri, president of Local

"It seems inconceivable that a

426, declared in a press statement:

judge in an American court can dare

to liken the peaceful activities of

men and women striking for a living

wage to the bloody deeds of fascist

There is nothing inconceivable

here. Capitalist courts spew capitalist

filth. The same is true of the police.

Thus police chief Philip Sebold, or-

dering thirty-five more policemen to

the scene, has announced that "severe

measures will be taken. . . . Police

will use nightsticks if things of that

storm troopers."

sort continue."

low earlier in the week.

On Labor

By ROBERT WEST

Steel is holding out for a price increase. General Motors won't settle until it is guaranteed a price increase. Tugboat owners in New York won't talk wages without a prior commitment raising prices. Meat packers have already signed with the union, but they are getting a price increase or government subsidy that will more than offset the wage raise. The list could be extended endlessly.

That is the industry-government pattern today: wage increases that don't come near satisfying the workers' needs, price increases that wipe out such wage increases as are grant-

> ed. The pattern holds for industries that were forced to sign some sort of wage agreement through the picket line action of aroused workers. It holds for industries, like steel and GM, that have yet to sign. Steel and GM are merely carrying the ball for big business.

Last week we summed up the situation in the following words: WHAT LABOR IS WIN-NING ON THE PICKET LINE IS BEING STOLEN FROM LABOR IN WASHINGTON. We repeat it this week, for that is exactly what is happening.

The industrialists were out to smash the price ceilings from the start. They knew that they would have to grant some kind of wage increases because the facts of inadequate wages and stupendous profits were too blatant. They meant, however, to keep these wage increases to the merest token level. And to more than get them back through price boosts.

If the wage increases are now of any size above a gesture it is because of the tremendous wave of strikes that began with the notable action and demands of the GM workers. If the government-industry conspiracy Not content with this attempt to to scuttle price ceilings entirely has break the strike, Bigelow slander- been in any way retarded, it is bepicketing and de- cause labor-again, most notably, the GM workers-fought for the price interests of the great mass of people.

The Truman administration is now tinkering with a "new" formula to settle the price-wage dispute. There is nothing new in it, because it is a repetition of the old and outrageous Little Steel formula. The "new" plan calls for government control of wage increases. Combine that with the obvious Little Steel pattern already set in wage awards-in every case they amount to about 181/2 cents; combine that with Truman's "factfinding" scheme, and you can't help but see that it all adds up to a rotten WAGE-FIXING formula.

The net result: wages will go up so much and no more; prices will eat away every cent of the wage increase and possibly a few more; takehome pay will be lower; real wages, . (Continued on page 2)

# Workers Party Maps 5 Labor Action Sundays

By REVA CRAINE

Now that the subscription drive is beginning to gather momentum, the Organization Department of the Workers Party is announcing a plan whereby all members of the party and all readers and friends of LABOR ACTION can participate together to put the 5.000 sub drive way over the top.

Beginning with Sunday, March 3, and every alternate Sunday thereafter until the official close of the drive, five LABOR ACTION SUNDAYS have been mapped out. Throughout the entire country members and friends of the Workers Party will mobilize for the purpose of getting subscriptions for the paper which has so ardently defended the interests of labor during the past five years. All participants will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the local headquarters of the Workers Party (see listing of addresses on page 2 of this issue) and will proceed to appointed areas. .

Every member of the Workers Party has enthusiastically greeted this plan, and from past performances we are confident that every one of these LABOR ACTION SUNDAYS will substantially expand the circulation of our paper. But this activity is not by any means limited to the members of the Workers Party. On the contrary, all readers and friends of the paper are urged to join in the LABOR ACTION SUNDAYS and to work with the comrades of the Workers Party to bring LABOR ACTION into the home of every worker.

The dates for LABOR ACTION SUNDAYS are the following: March 3, March 17, March 31, April 7 and April 21. The meeting time is 10 a.m. The meeting place is the local headquarters of the Workers Party.

Some of the branches of the Workers Party have already organized and carried through several Sunday mobilizations on their own. The results have been very gratifying. We have also been receiving requests from LABOR ACTION readers for subscription booklets and enrollment as LABOR ACTION BOOSTERS. If you haven't obtained YOUR LABOR ACTION subscription booklet, write in for one.

Heart-warming letters continue to reach us from Workers Party branches and individual readers of LABOR ACTION. From Hibbing, Minn., there is again good word:

"Hibbing will meet its quota of 100 subs-and maybe double it! Just to warm up the other day, we pitched subs at thirty mine and railread workers and they pitched thirty quarters right back at us! That's the kind of baseball the boys play up here in our league. .. When we really start bearing down every Range town and mine will feel our presence and LABOR ACTION will meet a lot of workers that want action for labor. Press Manager, shoot us another ten sub books! Mesabi Iron Rangers, look for us-we'll be rapping on your door and seeing you in the 'dry' any day now!" Reading, Pa., follows as a close second with:

"Enclosed is money order for eight subs to LABOR ACTION. ... Six of these subs were obtained by a house-to-house canvass. What is important is the proportion these six subs represent to the number of houses contacted.... We covered eighteen houses. This represented about three-quarters of a block. The area we

ACTION readers. I really thing that we should be able to obtain several hundred subs."

The Detroit Branch is preparing to meet Reading's challenge. With a quota of 1,000 subscriptions, the branch has mobilized all its forces to come out close to the top. We remember what Detroit did in the last drive, so we are taking their report very seriously.

The Detroit representative writes that the members of the Workers Party have already started a house-to-house campaign for subscriptions in two areas. In addition, every working member is reaching as many shopmates as possible with LABOR AC-TION and asking for subs. Many of the subs will come from the picket lines of Detroit's striking auto workers!

The largest contribution to this week's total was made by the San Francisco Branch, which organized its first "Red Sunday" and brought its standing up to 23 per cent of its quota.

A Denver reader writes us: "Please send me a subscription booklet so that I can start the ball rolling in Denver for LABOR

We will carry more details on the LABOR ACTION SUNDAYS. In the meantime—MAKE A DATE WITH THE WORKERS PARTY

			100	
	Subs Week		Total to Date	Per- centage
Branch	Quota	Feb. 11	and the second second	The second of the second second
Akron		6	11	51/2
Baltimore	100	****	1	10
Boston			1	10
Buffalo		4	4	2
Chicago		3	8.	21/2
Cleveland			4	2
Connecticut	10		-	
Denver				
	1000	13	22	2
Hibbing	100	30	33	.33
Los Angeles	250	5	22	. 9
Louisville	50			-
Madison	25			
Newark	150	10	40 .	27
New York	2000	38	80	4
Oregon	10			
Philadelphia	500		10	2
Reading	75	8	12	16
San Francisco	200	44	46	23
San Pedro	250	5	13	5
Seattle			9	4
Streator	25			
St. Louis	25	. 1	6	24
Syracuse	10			
Youngstown	25	•		
Miscellaneous		5	9	
TOTALS	5800	172	331	

## MAKE A DATE WITH THE WORKERS PARTY TO PUT LAplan on covering consists of about 70 blocks. We are arranging fur-BOR ACTION INTO THE HOME OF EVERY WORKER! ther mobilizations. In addition, we are enlisting the help of LABOR

## **NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT**

## Local 107, UE, Shows Mettle on Picket Line

on the picket line the workers of the large Westinghouse steam turbine plant, on the outskirts of Philadelphia in Lester, Pa., still stand determined to win their battle for a decent life. The strikers are members of Local 107. United Electrical and Radio Workers Union, CIO.

The government - conducted strike vote of many weeks back showed a majority of about three to one for a strike. Yet the attendance on the picket lines is now better than 85 per cent, day in and day out. Every Monday morning a thousand determined unionists walk the lines in front of the three gates in answer to the call of the union for a mass line each week.

The strike began with the most stirring demonstration this part of Delaware County ever witnessed. Thousands turned out for the first picket line in time to be greeted by the night shift workers who came marching out of the plant carrying strike signs: "Here Comes Blade Shop," "Here Comes Light Shop," "Here Comes Heavy Manufacturing."

The strike was under way, the tension of waiting was off and the men settled down to the long siege that the strike committee had planned for. The picket committee, with its fighting chairman, "Reds" Acker, had spearheaded the strike preparations and was all set to go with a streamlined organization. Picket headquarters became a beehive of activity—the nerve center of the entire apparatus.

STRIKERS SHOW METTLE

In a few days it was necessary to dispatch pickets to other areas: a

### Philly Audience Hears Fenwick On Strike Wave

PHILADELPHIA — Appearing before an audience composed in large part of striking Westinghouse workers, James M. Fenwick, organizer of the Philadelphia branch of the Workers Party, spoke on "The Meaning of the Strike Wave" at a meeting held here on February 8.

The theme of the speech was the new character of the current strike wave as most clearly manifested in the GM strike, in which the UAW raised the demand to "Open the company books."

This demand, it was pointed out, is an attack upon capitalist privileges. It says, in effect, that labor has the right to intervene in capitalist production and participate in establishing the level of costs, wages and profits.

This demand, which, properly understood, is a step toward workers' control of production, justifiably frightened the bosses. The task of revolutionary socialists, the speaker of the people's pockets. More price concluded, is to pursue the demand increases than we can list have alto its logical conclusion through implementing it by the creation of a Labor Party which would institute workers' control of production.

Jack Brad was chairman of the

with an AEL union, a central warehouse in the city and another on the Delaware River some fifteen miles away from the plant. At the Switch Gear plant, pickets of Local 107 received the full cooperation of the AFL, who refused to cross a picket line—even if it was only a token line of four or five men

In the center of the city it was another problem. Here a show of strength was required to shut down this major distributing agency. Lines of fifteen or twenty were ineffective against the cops and the unorganized office workers. In a few days, however, a mass line of 200 or 300 people was thrown around the place for two days in succession, and another Westinghouse money maker had bitten the dust. It was closed tighter than a drum, and the workers were paid off in a car outside the office.

This victory was sweet to the ranks aware that only mass pressure can and they clamored for more. The Minute Men (flying squads) were ready to shut down anything in sight and felt like doing just that. "Give us more" was their slogan, "Let's shut down KYW (the Westinghouse radio station in Philadelphia) and anything else that's owned by Westinghouse." Morale was high and it remains that way.

Now the union is faced by court action, an injunction to open the distributing agency in the city. The strikers, however, seem determined to keep it closed-injunction or no injunction. "They can't throw all of us in jail" is frequently heard at picket headquarters. The immediate action which the union is taking is to jam the court room where the hearing will be held with hundreds of unionists from the entire area and from all locals on strike. Everyone is

## Hold Price Line --

(Continued from page 1) a workers' ability to buy food, cloth-

ing, shelter, etc., will go down. There is something more that

needs to be added at this point. It ties in with the whole price conspiracy. Try to buy a suit, stockings, no matter what. Almost everything is hard to get. Apartments and houses are almost impossible to find. Queues line up for blocks to get nylons or

If these articles are now scarce, it is partly because the manufacturers are holding out against the certainty that they will wangle price increases from THEIR government. Why produce and sell now, when, in a few months, prices and profits will be so much higher. That's capitalist logic. The other part of the explanation is that capitalism admits its inability to produce for peace as it did for war.

What can we do about this? A lot! And we proved that on the picket lines that covered the nation.

Labor has demonstrated that it speaks best for the interests of the poor farmer, of the great mass of the people, in prices and related matters. Who put the issue squarely before the people? The GM workers in their perfectly legitimate demand for a wage increase without a price in-

Labor has demonstrated more than that, however. Its picket lines threw a scare into industry. And it need not have given way on its original demands for genuine wage increases, if its leadership had continued to lead picket line action instead of bustling around Truman.

All the signs indicate that steel will get an increase of \$5.00 or more per ton. That increase will pass right down the line until it is paid for out ready been granted. Real estate profiteers have held back on new build- LABOR PARTY, running LABOR his fascist filth. He reported on the dustry's man. Congress is industry's tancy.

agent. It is the government of the manufacturers, the real estate sharks, the packers.

What are the answers then? There are two, and the two are intimately linked with one another.

First: If steel can't operate so that it will provide labor with a decent living standard, then let labor operate steel! Just that, and it applies to every industry. If they can't produce for peace in such a way that labor can eat and live decently, then nationalize the industries, take them out of the hands of these bankrupts whose profit interests conflict with the interests of society as a whole. Nationalize these industries and put them under WORKERS' CONTROL! Labor will see to it that industry operates for the common good.

Second: There is no justifiable reason for leaving our welfare in the hands of a capitalist government. Yes, we can make Truman pay heed to our demands, we can make him listen closely by mass action. That we must do until the government is ours. And we can have our own government, a workers' government.

We can do neither by playing around with the capitalist politicians of Democratic or Republican hue. We can do neither by dancing every time Truman (before him Roosevelt, after him another representative of capitalism) calls the tune. We can do neither until the leaders of our unions are forced to quit wasting their time in governmental council rooms, until they are made to break sharply with the capitalist politicians and embark on a course of INDE-PENDENT POLITICAL ACTION.

We need the same kind of spirit in political action as kept the picket lines strong and powerful, as is still keeping the GM picket line solid. Independent, militant, political action! That we must have. In the con-

beat an injunction and that the injunction must be broken if it is

Local 107 has proved its mettle on the picket lines. The solidarity of the workers - machinists and timekeepers, operators and engineers, incentive workers and hourly workers -remains high and firm. For Local 107 is truly an industrial union which contains within its ranks workers of every trade and skill-from engineer to sweeper. There is no slightest whisper of a back to work sentiment or of weakening of any kind. The only sentiment is for deepening and strengthening the strike until the demands have been won, and it is here that the ranks must be on

GUARD AGAINST BETRAYAL!

At a mass meeting of both the General Electric and Westinghouse workers held in the third week of the strike, both James Matles, organizational director of the UE, and Ed Matthews, international representative heading the Westinghouse Conference Board, admitted that the UE had offered to call off the strike if the companies would consent to grant the same thing awarded to the steel workers, that is, to accept the figures of the government fact-finding

This is cowardice and capitulation of the worst type. It is an attempt to surrender the demands of the union without a struggle. The original demand of \$2.00 a day must be adhered to, a raise in wages without a raise in prices. If this is surrendered the valiant struggle will have been in vain, and in a year's time or less the workers will see all their gains eaten away by inflationary

### Rubber Workers Cast Strike Vote

AKRON, Feb. 5-Local 5 of the United Rubber Workers today voted approximately 42 to 1 in favor of strike action if necessary. The exact figures are not at present available but of the approximately 2700 union members who jammed into the special meeting, less than seventy voted against the strike action. (Final official vote figure was 2695 to 60.—Ed.) This impressive vote could have been bigger had the voting lasted all day. Despite that, it is more than indicative of the temper of the Goodrich workers.

George Bass, president of the local, discussed the strike situation with the membership, reported on present negotiations between the URW and the rubber barons, and indicated briefly the leadership's plan to strike the Big Four rubber companies if and when necessary.

Gideon Lowe, officer of the local, reported to the large meeting on the plans for opposing Gerald L. K. crete, that means an INDEPENDENT Smith when he comes to town with ing until they can discard rent ceil- candidates, mobilizing the political local's own work and the work of ings, and that point they have vir- strength of labor and uniting that the other Akron locals in the joint tually won. Naturally, Truman is in- political strength with economic milicity-wide anti-Smith committee of

We must guard against such a betrayal, restore the original demands and hold the leadership of the international to its pledge that no contracts would be signed this year which did not contain an "escalator clause" or a sliding scale—that is, the adjustment of wages to prices all through the year. It is only on this basis that any concrete gains will come out of the strike. "Hold the Line" now must mean both the picket line and the stand taken by the union in its original negotiations. We must stick to our demands and stay on that line till a real victory (not a hollow one) is ours.

## **Local 2715 for Special National CIO Convention**

READING, Pa.—At a regularly called strike meeting, Wednesday, February 6, Local 2715, USA-CIO, adopted with about two opposing votes, a resolution calling for the immediate convening of an emergency convention of the CIO to organize a campaign against the anti-labor drive.

The rank and file, in voting for this

SOMEBODY OUGHT TO WRITE A SONG: "IT'S SO PEACEFUL ON THE RESERVATION"

SADDLE MOUNTAIN, Okla., Jan. 16 (AP)-Hunting Horse, Kiowa chief who scouted for General Custer in the Eighteen Seventies, started a second century of life today with the hope that "just as the white man and the Indian found peace," the people of the world can live in harmony. His plea for peace was made during celebration of his 100th birthday yesterday at his Wichita Mountain home near here.-New York

### Attention, Newark!

Speaker: DAVID COOLIDGE National Sec'y, Workers Party Subject:

## Labor Needs General Staff

Time: February 23, 8:30 p. m. Place: LABOR ACTION HALL 248 Market (at Mulberry)

Admission: 25c - Free to Strikers Dancing and refreshments will follow meeting

Auspices: NEWARK BRANCH Workers Party

resolution, expressed agreement with the opinions offered by supporters of the resolution during discussion from the floor. The gist of the arguments of most of the pro-resolution speakers was that the reactionaries are getting the upperhand. Analysing the weakkneed policy of the top leadership, Murray et al., these speakers condemned Murray for seeking an easy way out of the situation by refusing to make a fight against price increases

the Reading area quieted down to a

watchful waiting for the outcome of

the current negotiations and price

finagling in Washington. Up until

now, no company that has been

struck in this area, has agreed to the

terms of the USA-CIO. One of the

main occupations of the Strike Strat-

egy Committee in this area is now

the question of soliciting and distrib-

uting relief to the striking workers

who increasingly feel great hardship.

resentation from all steel locals, has

been guiding the canvassing of small

business people and stores for con-

tributions of both money and com-

The welfare committee, with rep-

tion in the future where the issue would have to be met again. In addition, it was pointed out that one of the main purposes of a special CIO convention would be to analyze the failure and fiasco of the previous PAC policy of supporting "good" politicians. Furthermore, the speakers continued, it is undemocratic for the top leadership to improvise a new policy and strategy as they are doing with their occasional "strategy committee" meetings at Washington called at the behest of Murray. "What is needed," the supporters of the resolution said, "is a democratic convention of the rank and file to evaluate the past and develop correct

and advancing the strike policy to a

bolder level. It was pointed out that

this course of action would only con-

front us with a more difficult situa-

At the Berks CIO Council, this resolution was introduced by delegates from Local 2715. The resolution was voted for there also.

policy for the future.'

In Reading Strike center at the Labor Lyceum where the staff interviews needy strikers, arranges to give them vouchers and actual goods. Many non-striking locals have already given substantial financial contributions to the striking workers. A weekly assessment of one dollar per week has been instituted in many locals. Plans are being effected to obtain contributions from

Ranks Guide Fight

all trade unions in this area. The entire setup originates locally. When representatives from the welfare committee went to the district office at Harrisburg, Pa., on Tuesday, Feb. 5, to see what was being done there about relief, it found that the district plans were about two weeks behind what had already been done

#### NO PLANNING FROM TOP

Local initiative characterizes the strike as a whole. Because of the temporizing by the top leadership as a result of their dependence on "friendly" government officials and not on the organized strength of the working class, the strike occurred without well-laid and systematic plans. Organization and planning has come about solely as a result of the efforts of the local leadership during the course of the strike.

The windup of this situation is that the Carpenter Steel unionists have gone back to work, in an orderly fashion, after having established a formally chartered local in anticipation of an NLRB vote at the plant. They plan to make the best of the matter and carry on a real campaign that will culminate in the vote.

A more inspiring development occurred when an organization drive. again spearheaded by militants from Local 2715, was undertaken at the Parrish Pressed Steel Co. which manufactures frames for GM. Within several days about 95 per cent of the workers at this plant signed union cards, set up a chartered Union local and returned to work after petitioning for an NLRB election.

Thus the strike in this area has been the occasion for a real organization campaign. The greater credit for this campaign must go only to the leadership and militant members of Local 2715, USA-CIO. Whatever has been achieved, has been achieved by these workers.

## With the Workers Party

HEADQUARTERS, 639 Main St.

#### CHICAGO LABOR ACTION, 1703 West Madi-

son St., Room 6, Chicago 12. Telephone: CHEsapeake 5798. Office Hours: 3-5:30 p.m. daily, except Sunday. Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

## DETROIT

Detroit Workers Party announces a six-week

WORKERS PARTY SCHOOL

March 4 to April 10. Mondays: 7:00-8:30-The Role of the Trade Unions. Instructor, Ben Hall,

Detroit organizer of the WP. Mondays: 8:30-10 - History of the American Labor Movement. Instructor, Robert Stiler.

Wednesdays: 7:00-8:30-Public Speaking and Current Events. Instructor, Martin Harvey, LABOR ACTION staff writer.

Wednesdays: 8:30-10:00 - What Is Trotskyism? Instructor, Henry Judd, author of India in Revolt. Fees: 50 Cents per six-week course; free to striking workers.

Enroll now at Labor Action Hall, 3773 Gratiot (at Mt. Elliott).

### LOS ANGELES

LABOR ACTION HALL, 127 South Broadway.

## NEWARK

LABOR ACTION HEADQUAR-TERS in Newark at 248 Market St. Address communications to the orkers Party at that address. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 8:30 P.M. "The Program of the Workers Party" (How Do We Propose to Get

Socialism?) Speaker: HILDRETH JENSEN Instructor, Workers Party School

## NEW YORK CITY

CITY OFFICE-114 West 14th St. -open all day until 7 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

-open until 10 p.m.

## PHILADELPHIA

HEADQUARTERS, 1105 Walnut St.

#### SAN PEDRO LABOR ACTION HALL, 1039 So.

Meyer St.

For information of other Workers Party branches and LABOR ACTION offices, write to the National Office, 114 West 14th St., New York 11, N. Y.

## Where to Buy LABOR ACTION And THE NEW INTERNATIONAL:

News Exchange, 51 South Main St. Kallas Cigar Store, corner Howard and Market. National News Co., 333 South Main Street.

La Salle Fountain Service, 620 South Main Street. CLEVELAND

#### Wheatman's News Store, 735 Prospect Ave.

## DETROIT

At Michigan and Shelby. At Cass and Michigan. Family Newsstand in front of Family Theater, Cadillac Square.

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Mosiman's Bookshop, 20 Academy

## BROOKLYN

Currio Bookshop, 365 Sutter Ave.,

near Stone. Portnoy, 414 Rockaway Ave., newsstand, near Pitkin Ave.

S. Rubinitz, 1841 Straus St., newsstand, near Pitkin Ave. Palace Bookshop, 1817 St. John Pl.,

corner Saratoga Ave. A. Wald, Hutland Road, corner E. 98th St.

N. Tumin, 792 Franklin Ave., near corner St. John Pl. Kovinsky, 816 Washington Ave., at

Eastern Parkway.

## MANHATTAN:

Alperti's, 462 Sixth Ave., near 11th 14th St. and Sixth Ave.

14th St. and Fourth Ave. 14th St. and University Place. Biderman's Book Store, Second Ave., between 11th and 12th Sts. 42nd St. and Sixth Ave.

Rutkin's, 42nd St. near Public Library.

## HARLEM:

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116th St. and Eighth Ave. 125th St. and Lenox Ave.

125th St. and Eighth Ave.

2107 Seventh Ave. 125th St. and St. Nicholas Ave.

# Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor

## Stalinist Hatchetman At Ship Convention

Editor:

Draw your chairs closer, friends, for 'tis a tale of woe that we unfold. It is the story of Sad Sam Goodwin, active Stalinist hatchetman, who feels he was done dirt by divers people at the recently staged IUMSWA convention, where Sad Sam appeared as one of Local 9's delegation.

In 1944 Sam was a delegate to the convention also. But then he was Happy Sam Goodwin. Things were going his way, everything was rosy and he was VERY happy. At that convention Sam voted very joyfully to seat some 80 friends of his

from Local 16 in Kearny, even though no one denied that they had not been elected. They were appointed by the officials of the local and as they were friends of Sam, everything was hunky-dory. Sam, together with President Green, Van Gelder and the majority of the convention voted to overlook the matter of an election, and seated them.

Why, Sam was so pleased with things that he was on his feet several times to poke fun at those people who wanted to get a Labor Party. He even got hot at the idea that there were some union men in the IUM-SWA who wanted an aggressive fight for wage increases.

But things didn't pan out the way Goodwin and other Stalinists thought they would. Shipyard workers didn't get the raises they were entitled to. As shipyard worker dissatisfaction more and more.

And so Delegate Goodwin went to

spread, Sam and his friends began

to blame the union administration

Atlantic City for the recent conven-

And what about truth when the sailing was smooth, Sam? Or when Russia was still fighting in the second

And so as Sad Sam contemplates

But Green and the administration the chickens that have come home of the IUMSWA had the nerve to use to roost, shipyard workers, knowing some of the methods of the year before, and in so doing insured their re-election to office - but without Sam and his friends. And so Sam of poor Sam Goodwin. was sad and Sam was mad. He rushed -Local Militant back to California and told his story in the Local 9 shipyard worker.

"Believe it or not," says Sam, "during the whole convention, not one piece of mimeographed or printed copy of proposed resolutions was

placed in the delegates' hands." But Sammy-what a short memory you seem to have! Don't you remember that you thought that was fine last year? You must remember, because you even thought it terrible that one Local printed its resolutions on the Labor Party and the no-strike pledge in its own paper; you even got up on the floor and said so in

very unfriendly words. Sam also complains that Local 16's delegation was hand picked and yet was seated by Green. Now, isn't that a coincidence? Just-like 1944, and the same local, too. Only difference is that Sam's friend Lou Kaplan didn't pull that stunt this time—it was pulled against him. And, of course, Sad Sam now changes his costume and becomes the ardent defender of democracy-the democracy he and his CP gang did so much to strangle when they thought they were in power in

the IUMSWA. Sad Sam says he hates to tell the local these things. But truth must come out and he feels he is forced to be the vehicle for this noble purpose.

war against democracy? The hell with

that any policy that is not based on the needs and interests of the working class, can't be any good to them, have a good object lesson in the case

Who Would Want To Live Near Bilbo?

A recent poll of one million men conducted by the Army's Information and Education Division shows that 52% of the Negro ex-GI's whose homes are in the South now plan on leaving. Forty-one percent of them indicated that they wanted to move

This isn't hard to understand for any Northern soldier, either white or Negro, who was ever stationed in the South. The discrimination against the Negro in most southern cities is almost unbearable even to an observer. It permeates every aspect of daily life and becomes a sporting topic of discussion, like duck hunting, among the preponderance of the white population. While the Negro soldier certainly never escaped discrimination while in the armed forces, he did learn through travel that the South

hiding!

## For Children

dren's Alphabet, 1946 edition:

A-Atom B-Bomb

E-Enemy F-Fiend G-Grenade H—Hiroshima

just specified the North.

and I just received a letter from him -George Whitney in which he says:

## **New Alphabet**

Dear Editor:

other day and found that the children of today are not really getting a modern education that will keep them up to date with the times. We therefore composed a Modern Chil-

I—Imperialism J-Jeep K-Kill

A bill which would prohibit state, city, county and town employees from striking has been introduced before the Virginia State Legislature. It also states that unionization of these employees is contrary to public policy. So that's where Hitler is

D-Destroy

to the West Coast and another 11%

was the worst possible place for it.

We put our heads together the

C-Conscription

L-Lie M-Mandate N-Nagasaki O-Obey

P-Parasite

Q—Quota

Z-ZERO!

Fraternally.

**Blasts Anti-Strike** 

R-Reactionary S-Shoot T-Taxes U-Unknown Soldier

About It Or-

V-Victim W-War X-Date of World War III Y-You Better Do Something

Dave Corbin and Al Brown.

Training in Army . I have a son in the armed forces

"The colonel had a talk with the whole battalion today. He came right out and said that they temporarily stopped discharging men from this camp because we may be needed to break strikes. He was very smart in choosing his words. He gave examples that the coal strike would hold up heat for hospitals, etc. The men,

or some of them, fell for it. "I had an argument with a G.I. after the speech. He said that he would be glad to shoot at those goddamn strikers. I told him he was wrong to have that idea. I said that soon he'll be a worker who will be striking in order to live. I called him a damn fool for wanting to do such a thing. I explained how he would be shooting at some G.I.'s father or some ex-G.I. I won the argument as he could not deny that these facts were true. He just walked away saying nothing. I guess I got him think-

He is in Camp Campbell, Ky., and I hope you are able to use this information to blast what is being done to poison the minds of the soldiers against the civilian workers. Comradely yours,

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The Business Manager.



A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

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## Editorials-





## Labor Needs a General Staff!

In articles and editorials appearing prominently in LABOR ACTION during the last few weeks we have argued that labor must have its own General Staff, to democratically plot and coordinate the struggle of the working class against the capitalist class. It was part of our argument that industry has its General Staff, operating unitedly to resist the wage demands of labor, raise prices, instigate anti-labor legislation through its representatives in Congress, and generally promote the capitalist welfare.

Proof of the soundness of our argument came from two sources this week: in an article by Victor strikes? Each strike committee pursuing its own Riesel, New York Post columnist, and in testi-Electric Com Charles E. Wilson before the Senate Education and Labor Committee.

Riesel repors a tale of intrigue that begins in November and continues into January. During that period, for days at a time, some of the mation's powerful bloodsuckers, representing the strike-bound industries of steel, auto, meat packing and electric, met in secret at the super-swank Waldorf - Astoria to map their wage and price strategy.

"They arrived quietly," reports Riesel. "Sometimes they used the side entrances. After long sessions, the meetings broke up and the men left singly. The conferences never were recessed for mid-day meals. Food was served in the rooms. Husky hotel detectives guarded the outer doors, while private patrolmen watched the inside foyer."

Despite the heavily guarded secrecy, the news leaked out. Evidently the CIO officials knew about it. Riesel claims he knew about the conferences at the time, but was prevailed upon not to disclose his information. We do not know what foolish reasons prompted the CIO to conceal its knowledge instead of spreading the news over the country's front pages while the strikes were in full swing. In any case it has now been confirmed by Wilson's cagey and uncomfortable testimony.

Wilson admitted that he had attended a meeting "about a month ago," though he "couldn't remember" who were the other industrialists pres-

ent. He admitted that the secret conference was called to discuss the CIO's wage demands, though he pretended not to know that more than one meeting had been held.

We forebear from comment on the CIO's decision not to plaster the news over every picket line. Whether or not these secret conferences had been disclosed, the facts themselves cried for the formation of a General Staff of Labor.

The bosses have their government, their powerful lobbies and criss-crossing directorates, to act for them. What, however, was revealed during our aims, with its own forces, making its own settle-

The situation has from the start demanded a coordinated strategy board, a STRIKE COUNCIL. democratically chosen by the ranks of union men and women to guide their struggle. It has further demanded an integrated POLITICAL General Staff, operating permanently beyond this current series of strike struggles.

If there is a flaw in that argument we'd like to have some WORKER point it out to us. The capitalists have their General Staff, apart from highly protected secret conferences. Should labor, without the resources of government, wealth and industrial monopoly, have less?

Labor's strength lies exclusively in its numbers and in the fact that no wheel or machine turns unless a worker turns it. These many-millioned numbers must be brought together to exercise their power in unison. They must appoint from the ranks of labor a General Staff that will represent labor in promoting economic and political WORKING CLASS welfare.

We do not mean that miserable excuse for political labor organization such as the PAC now is -spending its time in conference with Truman, wasting the energies of labor in electing capitalist "friends of labor." We mean what the PAC should BE FORCED to become. We mean a General Staff. a political General Staff, AN INDEPENDENT LA-BOR PARTY that has no ties with capitalism or its agents, that pursues labor's independent aims.

## **Fact-Finding in Hiroshima**

America has the best system of fact-finding, statistics and research in the world. We can put our trained specialists to work on anything and they'll come home with bushels of facts and arith-

The Army of Occupation in Japan put a crew of men to work in a city that existed up to August 6, 1945, when an atomic bomb burst on it. Their "research job" was to find out the facts about the number of casualties and what had happened. Their report is out now, but the newspapers-to judge from the way it has been shoved away on the back pages-don't seem particularly proud of it. Here is what they found had happened in Hiroshima during a few seconds on the morning of last August 6:

- 1. A total casualty list of 306,545-including dead, missing, injured and persons whose lives were directly affected by the bomb. 2. There were 78,150 people killed outright.
- 3. 13,983 people are still listed as missing; vanished from sight.
- 4. 9,428 were seriously injured; 27,997 men and women suffered minor injuries. 5. Suffering from sickness, lack of homes,

food and clothing were 176,987. That is the final count on Hiroshima from the 400 pound lone bomb dropped by the American

Air Force. Three out of four persons in the population were casualties. What will the research crew find out in Nagasaki, where the streamlined, more effective bomb was dropped? That hasn't been reported yet.

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## One-Tenth of the Nation By J. R. Johnson

GEPC and the Labor Party

like every working class struggle, has two sides. The first is the pressure that is brought against the capitalist class and its political agents in Congress. If that struggle is not successful, it exposes their reactionary character to the public at large, and clarifles important political issues.

The second aspect of the struggle is the fact that it mobilizes the masses of the people, sets them in motion, gives them a consciousness of direct participation in the solution of social problems and gives them experience in organization. The two aspects are not separated. To the degree that the enemy is unambiguously exposed and the terms and conditions of the struggle made clear, the greater is the mobilization and clarification of the masses.

#### WHOSE IS THE BLAME?

That is precisely what is at stake in the present struggles for the FEPC bill. The Southern senators and the opponents of the bill in the House are the main enemy. Of that there is no doubt. The main fire must be concentrated against them. But the mass struggle, the petitions, the protests, the demonstrations, mass meetings lose half their force and add confusion where they should enlighten. That is so because it is not consistently made clear that the Southern senators are only the open enemy, while Congress as a whole is a concealed enemy and carries on only a token resistance.

If President Truman and the large body of the Democratic Party wanted the FEPC bill to get through Congress they could get it through. They do not do it for the same reason that they do not force through federal legislation against lynching. To take steps in Congress to improve the situation of the Negro in the Southern states means the splitting of the Democratic Party. They are not prepared to split the Democratic Party for the benefit of Negroes. In this respect Truman carries on faithfully in the tradition set by the late President Roosevelt. This is what should be made known to the masses of the Negro people so that they would be able to carry on an effective struggle for the FEPC insofar as this struggle is directed against obstructionism in Congress.

The Republican Party made a permanent FEPC bill one of the planks of its platform in the 1944 elections. The Democratic Party passed the original FEPC bill. There are only two major political parties in Congress. Isn't it ridiculous to lay all the blame on some Southern senators for obstructing a bill which is sponsored by the two parties, which be-

Members of the Senate have made

newspaper headlines for the past

three weeks with their jeering, mock-

ing speeches against the minority

groups of this country. They were en-

gaged in a filibuster against the Fair

Employment Practice Commission

bill, marked by violently slimy ti-

Democratic Party is for Negroes.

Another wants to keep America

"pure." All the ideas that the fascist

groups labored over for so long are

now being presented in the United

States Senate as the finished product

of the so-called representatives of

The senators who are supposedly

in favor of the bill are a sorry spec-

tacle. Fearful of "breaking prece-

dents" and mortally offending their

bigoted brothers, they have permit-

ted the filibustering senators to go

their own way with little opposition.

the FEPC bill, presented on February

chairman, McKellar, on the ground

that the Senate was not considering

the FEPC bill but a motion to amend

the Congressional Record. When

Senator Bradley protested and ap-

pealed this decision, McKellar de-

clared that the appeal was debatable.

There is no time limit on debates.

The senators who are leading the

filibuster have won the right now

to "talk on the appeal" until the

Every indication is that the "sup-

porters" will either make some com-

promise or allow the bill to be

shelved, as has happened so many

In June of 1945, Senator Bilbo fili-

bustered against granting additional

funds to the temporary FEPC and

HOW TRUMAN "SUPPORTS" FEPC

President Truman, who could have

kept the commission going by issuing a directive, didn't do so because

"it might not have been legal" and

it would "doom the long - pending

bills to make the wartime agency

Instead of ordering the Fair Em-

ployment Practices Commission to

continue its fight against employers

who discriminate in hiring, Truman

gave what was left of the commission

FEPC supporters give way.

won his point.

permanent."

The petition to limit debate on

was ruled out of order by the

One senator doesn't believe the

By CHRIS WARREN

rades against democracy.

the people.

The struggle for the FEPC bill, tween them control 99.9 per cent of year to change the vote in Congress the votes of the House?

Under the circumstances, the concentration upon the Southern senators and the Southern Democrats as a whole actually gives prestige to those fakers (including Senator Chavez). They rake in publicity as liberals and genuine democrats for carrying on a struggle which they more than anyone else know will end in the victory of the Southern reaction-

#### THE ROAD TO VICTORY

On Saturday, February 9, when a bill was brought in to substitute an appropriation bill for FEPC, S-101, only twelve people voted against. There were 71 voting for. And from the beginning every single member of the Senate knew that this was going to happen.

What is the way out? It should be obvious after all these years that the telegrams, meetings, deputations, etc., which have been tried year after

### HARLEM WP BRANCH BACKS FEPC MEETING

The Harlem Branch of the Workers Party, located at 2143 Seventh Avenue, Room 106, at its last meeting denounced the shameful filibuster of the Southern senators against the permanent FEPC and the cowardly capitulation of the rest of the Senate to the undemocratic and bigoted Jim Crow senators.

The Workers Party pledges itself to redouble its efforts in the fight for the realization of its program for "complete political, economic and social equality for the Negroes," of which the first step is the abolition of discrimination in employment.

The Workers Party hails the efforts of the unions in their fight for a permanent FEPC and announces its wholehearted support of the coming mass meeting in Madison Square Garden on February 28. We call on all workers to attend.

The Workers Party is circularizing all its friends, members and sympathizers to attend this important meeting. In addition, the Harlem headquarters will be open on Friday, Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7 to 10 o'clock, for the purpose of selling tickets.

The general public is invited to join us in our educational and discussion meetings on Wednesday evenings at 9 o'clock. The headquarters are also open on Mondays and Fridays for informal discussions, use of the library, etc. All are welcome.

to act. It was just kept busy and quiet

looking up the "effects of reconver-

sion on minority groups in the job

market." The FEPC closed its offices

throughout the country with thou-

The Senate, since the time of the

Civil War, has passed no legislation

against discrimination of minorities.

The FEPC backers admit that there

is little hope that they will change

this system now. It has been impos-

sible to get the bill for a permanent

Fair Employment Practice Commis-

sion on the floor of the Senate or the

House of Representatives so that a

In the House, the FEPC bill is a

bill of the Labor Committee. There

are twenty-three committees which

have priority over the Labor Com-

mittee and these committees have a

total of twenty-one bills that must

be decided on before the FEPC bill

One hope the FEPC supporters

had was Calendar Wednesday. Cal-

endar Wednesday means that every

Wednesday the House may consider

legislation without regard to the

Rules Committee, which decides

vote can be taken.

is taken up.

sands of cases waiting to be heard.

Filibuster Lynches FEPC Bill

are not sufficient. New York State today has a permanent FEPC. Every intelligent person knows that Dewey supported this bill because of the great mass demonstration of the Negroes in Harlem in the summer of 1943. Every intelligent person knows that this mass demonstration made the labor organizations as well as the Democratic and Republican Parties realize that the situation had reached a breaking point and that something

had to be done.

Congress must be made to feel that the masses of the Negro people and organized labor are sick to death of their saying one thing and meaning something else, which year after year is practiced by the so-called liberal senators and congressmen. The road to victory is the road to Washington, taken not by speechifying delegations, but by the masses of the Negro people themselves as was threatened in the March on Washington movement. If the mere threat of such a movement made Roosevelt rush through the temporary FEPC bill, we can be certain that the presence of some thousands of Negroes in Washington will make Truman realize, as Roosevelt was made to realize, that all this tomfoolery must stop. Thus while the main fire would be concentrated on the Southern reactionaries, Congress as a whole would be made to feel that the masses of the people meant business. Nothing else will stop this annual bluff which is being played around the FEPC as it has been played with the federal anti-lynching bill. \*

It is time also for the Negroes to promote the movement to take the initiative for a Labor Party. At present their energies are directed to the fruitless task of making the Democratic Party or the Republican Party keep its promises to the Negroes. Add up the results over the past years. Wouldn't it be better if the Negro people offered their support to organized labor and agitated the labor organizations to form a new and independent labor political party? Inside and outside Congress it would mobilize a united attack against the common enemy of the laboring people in the United States. If half the energy and time and

trouble which have been spent during the last ten years in trying to convince Congressional politicians had been directed toward organized labor, that fact alone, in addition to the great perspective that it would have opened, would have scared the living daylights out of capitalist politicians. They would have realized that the Negro people could not be tri-

action. However, if a representative

demands that the FEPC bill be

brought to the floor immediately, the

opposition can move to adjourn. The

move to adjourn is usually very pop-

ular and the representatives go home

for the day. The final touch to the

whole farce is that if and when the

FEPC bill is brought to the floor for

discussion on Wednesday the oppos-

ing representatives can talk all day,

stall the vote and on Thursday go

back to their "usual" duties. They

don't have to worry about the Fair

Employment Practice Commission

bill until the following Wednesday

-and then only if there is someone

in the House with childish innocence

and hopefulness enough to start on

It is obvious that if the workers

of the United States want action

against the employers who practice

discrimination in hiring, they must

put no faith in the representatives

of these employers. The House of

Representatives and the Senate are

eager to work overtime on bills to

curb labor. They fight viciously

against all bills that strengthen the

solidarity of the working class.

the merry-go-round once more!

the House for

## OFF LIMITS

By JAMES M. FENWICK

#### WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II

In comparing World War I and World War II, one of the most arresting and obvious differences is that in 1918 the coming of peace was accelerated by the revolutionary activity of German soldiers and sailors, while in 1945 the German soldier fought until he was driven from the last pile of rubble in Berlin.

Despite a two-to-one allied numerical superiority in troops, complete allied domination of the air, a lack of materiel, the nearly complete destruction of the homeland, a ghastly number of casualties, and an unbroken chain of defeats beginning as far back as Stalingrad and El Alamein, there were no significant signs among the German soldiers of a revolt against their fearful conditions.

There are even many Marxists who, mechanically drawing revolutionary conclusions from the deep-going economic and political decay of capitalism, fail to understand this characteristic of the times. The Socialist Workers Party of the United States, for instance, commits this error. Many French Trotskyists, who are not ungifted political analysts, expected revolts to break out in the German army at the time of the invasion of Normandy, and similar revolts to take place on the German home front. Such actions, we are compelled to record, did not occur. Why not?

### WHY THE GERMANS KEPT FIGHTING

There was scarcely an American soldier who did not say on more than one occasion, "Why did they keep on fighting? They know they're licked."

There are several reasons. Among them was the tight control exercised by the Gestapo and the SS troops. The exceptionally large number of German troops shot for one form of insubordination or another is a testimony to the hatred of the war that existed in the common soldier. The effectiveness of the repressive measures is likewise apparent.

The maintenance of discipline was facilitated, of course, by the elimination of revolutionary socialist elements from the population in the six years of Hitler's rule prior to the war. The number of such persons-and they were the most courageous, the most conscious members of the working class-runs into hundreds of thousands.

The German was snared, also, by the Hitler demagogy, which could not be answered effectively by capitalist counter-argument. For example, take the Hitler demand for Lebensraum (living space) and for colonies. How could England, for instance, ever plausibly oppose this demand in the eyes of the German people while retaining her own crown

Hitler's plea could be effectively countered only by socialists, who demand freedom of ALL colonies. The socialist order, as contrasted with the capitalist one, is the only one which makes economic well-being possible without the enslavement of colonial peoples. Hence, allied propaganda was doomed to remain ineffective.

## THE DECISIVE LACK

In Russia in 1917 and in Germany in 1918, it was a socialist agitation which brought, or aided in bringing, the bloody slaughter to a close. That type of agitation, of course, is impossible for the capitalists, for by its nature it involves a struggle against one's own government as well as the government of the enemy country. The soldier says, in effect, to the enemy soldier, "Look-what have we got against each other? Why don't you fight those on your side who wish to continue this slaughter. I'll do the same on my side, and we'll put an end to this business."

Instead, the capitalists up until the last days of the war ceaselessly sowed the idea that all Germans were guilty. The Allies were unable (and unwilling) to split the German enlisted man from his officers and to offer the prospect of a better world. Only socialists can do that. All that the Allies could promise was the de-industrialization of a great capitalist country-that is to say, to introduce capitalist barbarism in Germany.

It is no wonder that the German soldier, deadly tired of the war as he was, fought hopelessly on to the bitter end.

## WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

Within the ranks of the working class the socialists, and the Stalinists in particular, who substituted national hatred for socialist fraternization, bear the heaviest responsibility. The workers of all countries paid for it in a needless prolongation of the war. What might have been achieved by a correct

policy was revealed in action by French Trotskyists. Fraternization was conducted with German soldiers so successfully that they even aided the resistance movement with arms, rubber stamps for forging identity papers, etc. In Paris the French comrades would hold up

German soldiers on the street at night in order to secure their weapons. The following is a typical One soldier who was held up, thinking that

our comrades were stick-up men, automatically handed over his brief case, which was found to contain around twenty packages of cigarettes. which were very valuable on the black market. Our comrades handed it back.

"We're not bandits. We're socialist internationalists. We have nothing against you. You are a victim of the war like ourselves. Our enemy is your enemy-the Gestapo and the SS. We want your pistol to protect ourselves from them, and to fight them and their counterparts in France."

"But I'll be disciplined for turning up without my pistol."

"We're in danger, too. But only in the struggle for socialism can we bring the war to a close." They continued the discussion briefly.

In the end the soldier gave up his pistol voluntarily, shook hands with our comrades, and wished them good luck.

That little incident multiplied a thousand-fold would have brought the world slaughter to a crashing stop.

For the lack of it millions of men, women, and children lost their lives, and the world has posed before it the threat of another and more horrible

Only the international socialist revolution can

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## America's No. 1 Fascist Picketed in Chicago



CHICAGO, Feb. 10-Marching in a circular picket line before the Ashland Avenue meeting hall which housed Gerald L. K. Smith, "Rev." Arthur W. Terminiello and Fred Kister, professional rabble-rousing American Hitlers bent on organizing their combat squad known as the "Christian Veterans of America." 1.000 Chicago anti-fascists demonstrated for almost three hours on Thursday while Mayor Kelly's cops

arrested 19 participants. Faced with the utmost provocation by the sight of a few hundred fascists being escorted through the massed and continually moving picket line, the demonstrators showed their anti-fascist wrath and solidarity with ringing jeers, booming "Down with Smith" and singing derisive songs: "Oh, We'll Hang Gerald Smith to a Sour Apple Tree," "Solidarity Forever."

The pickets marched beneath placards of the participating anti-fascist groups-Jewish War Veterans, Workers Party, Socialist Youth League, Socialist Workers Party, Socialist Party, "The Protestant," "Core" and University of Chicago students. Markedly absent were placards from those organizations which supposedly initiated the picketingthe Stalinist Communist Party and unions it controls and the American Jewish Congress.

Fight American Fascism, Smith Spreads Race Hatred, Combat Smith's Fascist Poison, Big Business Backs Smith, No Concentration Camps Here, Smash Fascism Before Fascism Smashes You, and Smith Is a

Strike - Breaker were the slogans borne by the Workers Party and its youth affiliate, the Socialist Youth League. Other groups bore appropriate signs.

#### COPS ASSAIL PICKETS

In response to the appeal of the notorious Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling, Mayor Kelly had over 300 cops on hand, inside and out, to "preserve order impartially." Not content with smashing their way through the line intermittently to escort the fascists through, these cops repeatedly singled out from the picket line or from the sympathetic crowd of 500 spectators across the street, individuals whom they roughed up and hurried into waiting squad cars or wagons. Meanwhile a few rocks, bottles, vegetables and stink bombs burst through the meeting hall windows or glanced off fascists and cops. The fire department showed up to add confusion briefly, while inside the closed doors Smith ranted: "They'll be burning the White House next."

Shortly after nine o'clock, with the meeting having been under way an hour, word passed along the line that the Stalinists were pulling out with their followers. This took place under the hoots of the picketers' "Hold That Line." The disappearance from the scene of more than a third of the line had an immediate effect on another third, composed of unorganized anti-fascist individuals, with the result that the remaining organized participants were those primarily of the WP and SWP. These groups withdrew at 9:35 when it was obvious

given the increasing use of individual action by enraged anti-fascist youths from the sidelines. Judge Heller of the Desplaines Street court attended the meeting

that the demonstration had accom-

plished all the positive action that

could be gained in the situation,

inside and emerged to denounce Smith and order immediate booking of the arrested demonstrators, who had already been unnecessarily fingerprinted. "It's a dastardly thing," he is quoted in the press as saying, "that in the name of free speech a taxpayer has to spend money to protect a lousy skunk named Smith." He denounced the cops for not having booked the youths arrested, and then released them on their own recognizance. Hearing is to be held to-

The judge also issued warrants for the arrest of Smith, Kister and Terminiello on the charge of "creating a diversion tending to breach of peace" signed by Ira Latimer, head of the Chicago Civil Liberties Committee (not the Civil Liberties Union). A warrant was sworn out by a wounded demonstrator against a cop with "Star No. 329" for assault. These cases are to be heard Wednesday, with great interest centering around them in view of the fact that Smith and his followers have never previously been arrested for their provocative anti-Semitism and labor-

Kister is quoted as having said among other filth he spewed in the closed meeting:"I don't like to make attacks upon racial minorities, but the Jewish people as a whole in America are behaving very badly." He is a Republican candidate for Congress. "Father" Terminiello is an unfrocked Catholic priest, billed as the "Father Coughlin of the South." The capitalist press unanimously treated the demonstration as a "riot" by a "mob," deliberately overlooking the fact that the picketing was a real successful demonstration of what can be accomplished when MASS ACTION is

The principal defect of the demonstration was that it was not sufficiently organized, united, planned; it did not encompass sufficient numbers of Chicago workers and progressive anti-fascists, who can only be assembled in such a way by their representative organizations.

There wasn't a TRUE unionist or anti-fascist on the line who would not heartily welcome such a healthy, united, fighting, democratically-controlled development! Then and only then will it be possible to speak of STOPPING the growth of fascism wherever it raises its head!

"friends of labor." Mayor O'Dwyer

beat his chest and pulled his hair in

public, ordered a brown-out, closed

the schools and reopened them, and

carried on ceaselessly. Radio news-

casters spoke as if hospital patients

were freezing in their beds. The New

York Post, supposed to be liberal and

pro-labor, with supreme hypocrisy

editorialized that to continue the

strike "is to give every citizen of

New York, however sympathetic to

labor, a vested interest in anti-union-

The strikers realized that the pic-

ture was being over-painted to

bring pressure upon them and to

create anti-strike sentiment. The

hardship story was fabricated. The

strikers said that the city could get

fuel oil with its tugs and barges. As

for coal, the railroad tugs, not on

strike, normally carry the city's sup-

ply. The strikers were substantiated

by impartial shipping men who af-

firmed that most of the city's coal

was hauled on railroad barges

## Stalin Winner in Russian Elections!

EXTREE!\_\_

Tens of millions of people were needlsssly stirred out of their beds and away from their work last week in Stalin's Russia in order to vote in the elections which the Genial Leader had ordered. This is really a very serious matter, of course—this shameful spectacle of millions of people herded to election booths to vote "Ja" under the watchful eyes of the secret police; this totalitarian plbiscite which made a mockery of the most simple and elementary of democratic and socialist

Of course, there was no opposition, no disagreement. The reason? Very simple. There can't be any opposition or disagreement in Stalinland. There can't be, first, because of the simple reason which all workers who don't wear ear-muffs over their eyes recognize: Russia under Stalin is a totalitarian dictatorship.

Wonderful country, no? Everybody agrees; everybody troops to the polls and votes unanimously. Only one hitch: didn't the same kind of

thing go on somewhere else-in Hitler's Germany? But here's the official reason from the mouth of Stalin's cohort, Kalinin, who said in an election speech:

"The business qualities and political value of the candidates are discussed and their previous activities evaluated. As a result, by polling day the electors have unanimously chosen a definite person who answers the requirements, for whom they will cast their votes unani-

Since it is known in advance that the Russian people will vote unanimously, why vote? But maybe there was a dissenter or two. In that case, we are informed by an Associated Press report from Russia. those voters who wished to vote against the official list of candidates "could step behind a curtain" for that purpose and register their dis-

Go on, that's no curtain. That's a shroud.

## **Big Three Continue UNO Empire Fight**

The latest meetings of the UNO Security Council-in which the big imperialist powers, the United States, England and Russia have been airing their quarrels over the division of the spoils of war-was thrown into further uproar this week when Russia charged that England was unwarrantedly interfering in the affairs of Indonesia. This charge was, of course, not difficult

to substantiate: British imperialism had sent troops to Java in order to prevent the people of that country from driving out their hated Dutch overlords.

The British, keenly aware that a. successful revolution for national independence in Java would provoke similar revolts in its Asiatic empire, decided to pull the Dutch chestnuts out of the fire-especially since they had some chestnuts there, too. And so British troops murdered and massacred thousands of Javanese whose unspeakable crime it was to believe that the words of the Atlantic Charter applied to their country as well.

It wasn't difficult, then, for Vishinsky-Stalin's spokesman at the UNO -to show that British imperialism was at its dirty work again. But the very same time that it was waxing righteous about British imperialism, Stalinist Russia was pressing a demand for "trusteeship" over Tripolitania, the former Italian colony for the control of which the victorious

powers are now struggling. Of course, the professional apologists of Stalinist imperialism would trot out all their "arguments" about how Russia needed Tripolitania for its defense; how the peoples of Tripolitania were clamoring for rulership by the Genial Leader, Joseph Stalin; and how there was probably a Byelo-Ukranian minority in some Tripolitanian nook which had long been oppressed by the Tripolitanian nationalists and which yearned for

reunification with the Stalinist motherland.

But who would take that seriously? Who could take seriously any arguments trying to veil the simple fact that Stalin's Russia, with that unique kind of gall of which it is the master, was itself engaging in imperialist intrigues in Africa while condemning Britain for precisely the same kind of thing in Indonesia?

One can imagine the more shamefaced kind of Stalinist apologist whispering: But won't Russian trusteeship be "better" than Italian or British? To which it should be said: In the French cabinet for the whole past period there have been five ministers who were leaders of the French Stalinist party. During this time, French troops brutally suppressed the movement for national independence among the people of Indo-China, France's far eastern colony. During this entire shampful episode, the French Stalinists in the DeGaulle cabinet made not one public protest against DeGaulle's colonial policy. This is how the Stalinists behave towards colonial people-how their rule is "better."

But the basic fact is this: the colonial peoples of Asia and Africa, stirred to revolt in recent months in behalf of their national independence, want the rule of no oppressing power, be that rule under the polite label of "trusteeship" or "dominion status" or what have you. 14.

## Lessons of the Smith Demonstration

CHICAGO, Feb. 10 - One thousand ty, Chicago Local, swung its full pickets and 500 sympathizers suc- forces into informing the labor movecessfully demonstrated their anti-fascist hostility toward would-be American Fuehrer Gerald L. K. Smith and his notorious followers here last

News of Smith's appearance leaked out to the public in a local paper'sgossip column only three days before his meeting. Yet the Stalinist Communist Party had known about it at least five days earlier. They kept this information within the confines of organizations they dominate, apparently planning to make as "exclusive" an anti-Smith rally as they possibly could. They refused to notify the predominantly non - Stalinist CIO unions, and intended to utilize any "credit" they gained from their type of rally as a talking point for their factional interests in the Chicago labor movement.

Immediately upon learning of Smith's plans to address his hencherans of America," the Workers Par-

Nobody in New York City could

see it with his own eyes, but every

New Yorker was solemnly assured

that ruin, worse than that inflicted

upon Hiroshima by the atom bomb,

had been visited upon the city by the

3,500 striking independent tugboat

workers of the harbor. Yet on Feb-

ruary 11, the eighth day of the

strike, on which day they succumbed

to the terrific pressure exerted on

them and are reported to have con-

sented to arbitration, there is still

ample coal in the city, still a supply

of fuel oil, no curtailment of food

except by the black market and if

the subways have been cold, this is

The 3,500 members of the United

Marine Division of the AFL Interna-

tional Longshoremen's Association

(King Joe Ryan's union) refused to

accept the niggardly five and ten

cent hourly increases offered by the

tugboat owners and walked off the

tugs on Monday, February 4. The men

were asking for hourly increases for

unlicensed deckhands to bring their

wage to \$1.35 from 67-72 cents, and

for licensed mates, engineers and

skippers to bring their wage to \$1.57-

\$1.83 from \$1.10-\$1.42. These demands

need to be understood in light of

the fact that during the war these

The other major demand was for a

forty-hour week with time and a half

for overtime. This demand also can

be understood only in light of the

fact that the men worked as many

as 72 and 80 hours on straight time.

federal government "took over" the

certainly not the first time.

By SUSAN GREEN

ment that the fascists were organizing. Letters were mailed to the CIO unions, calling upon them to take action to stop the fascists, set up committees within each local to organize for picketing and calling upon them to take the leadership in the anti-fascist fight. Contact with various key figures was established to urge speedy action.

Yet the factional gulf between the pro and anti-Stalinist forces could not be bridged on this occasion and in the atmosphere created by the Stalinists' totalitarian maneuvering. The CIO leadership tried to excuse itself from participation in any action on the ground that it had been treated disloyally by the Stalinists and anyway did not have sufficient time to make preparations.

## SILENCE WON'T WIN!

Behind this refusal lay an even men organized as the "Christian Vet- more basic objection - picketing would only serve to give Smith pub-

licity. Here the union leadership fell directly into the same trap that the pre-Hitler German union leaders did. The idea of mobilizing the workers to take their own independent action against the fascists (and the protection given them by the police) strikes these leaders as somehow "building up Smith." Instead, this is the ONLY way that the American working class can effectively smash the budding native fascist movement and keep it disorganized. No, Smith's reactionary movement cannot be "overlooked" as a crackpot outfit which will somehow disappear from the scene in a cloud of silence!

The Workers Party, furthermore, notified all its sympathizers and readers of LABOR ACTION to come to its headquarters and join the WP contingent in picketing. The Socialist Youth League, youth affiliate of the WP, likewise distributed a leaflet at the University of Chicago and Marshall High School urging the anti-fascist students to participate on the line. Many of the most militant

#### students on the line came directly to it in response to this call.

Two nights before the demonstration, a committee of the WP approached the Socialist Workers Party, proposing that (1) a joint committee be set up to inform the unions and mobilize support for the picketing, (2) that joint statements be issued and (3) that arrangements be made for mutual defense on the picket line in case of anticipated discrimination against Trotskyists by the Stalinists who were attempting to exclude us. The SWP, in line with its policy of not cooperating with the WP any more than it can possibly avoid, rejected the first two proposals, going along with the third.

After the picketing the Workers Party contingent and other participants met at its nearby headquarters to discuss the evening's events and plan for an open meeting on the following Wednesday to discuss "The Next Steps Against Smithism - the

## Labor Knows a Scab When It Sees One!

Bosses, Mayor Combine Against Tug Strikers

Mayor William O'Dwyer, the Tammany Democrat who was put into office largely by the working class votes mustered by the American Labor Party and Communist Party who presented him as a "champion of liberalism" and a "friend of labor," has lost little time in proving himself a scab and a strikebreaker.

The ex-policeman, swivel-chair general turned mayor closed down the city for 18 hours in an edict of martial law more drastic than any imposed on blacked-out New York, bombed-out London or Hitler-occupied Paris.

The reason for shutting down practically all business, and barring employees from their work was not an air raid, as some puzzled citizens first thought, but the blitz of the big boat owners against the tugboatmen in their strike to obtain security and a living

O'Dwyer did not give a thought to the use of any number of measures to alleviate public discomfort occasioned by the strike. Quite the opposite. His extraordinary brass-hat device, by inflicting hardships a thousandfold more severe than the temporary fuel shortage caused by the failure of the tug owners to settle up, is designed to scuttle the tug workers' fight for security and a living wage. He hopes to mobilize the entire weight of public opinion against the strik-

Truman, also has Truman's assistance in this strike. If martial law doesn't work, sailors stand by to man the tugs on orders of Washington.

Seldom has such a big strike-breaking hoax been And O'Dwyer is the man labor backed for mayor:

LABOR ACTION and the WORKERS PARTY said PENDENT labor candidates!

# O'Dwyer, who had the blessings of Roosevelt and

during the election campaign, that the workers were voting AGAINST themselves. They will continue to do so until they get their OWN party, running INDE-

usual strike-breaking move by the hour week, but with the tidbit of a active to January 1, government to government, the men voted two to one to "Let Truman steer the tugs." Truman couldn't do it. The four hundred struck tugs remained docked. But the Army and Navy operated about forty-five of their own tugs, and the city added about five to that men did not receive a single raise. number.

On Friday, February 8, Ryan and other top union officials, over the heads of the strike committee, submitted terms to the strikers that had been agreed upon with the tug owners in a day-long conference. The On Wednesday, February 6, the sell-out didn't work. Again two to one, the men voted down the propotugs and demanded that the men re- sition for a fifteen-cent hourly inturn to work. Recognizing this as the crease with no mention of the forty-

two-week paid vacation after three lift its seizure of the tugs. At last years of service.

Not only did the men vote this insult down, but they were plenty sore. Captain Bassett, head of the strike committee, is reported to have resigned. The indignation around the voting hall ran high. Unlicensed deckhands told reporters of having to work from 72 to 80 hours a week to get \$50 take-home pay. Veteran skippers declared they were fed up. "They impose on us at every turn," the men said. "Sometimes we are relieved on our boats as far away as New Haven and Providence, and we have to come home on our own time and at our own expense."

## A GOOD STRIKE

Just what went on behind the closed doors at Manhattan Center on February 11, when the men are reported to have accepted arbitration, is not known. It is known that King Joe Ryan went into the meeting "certain as anything can be" that the men would go along. On February 10. union officials, employers, federal agents and the calamity - howling mayor of the city convened and brought forth the hoary arbitration idea, the terms of which are: return to work, wage agreement to be retro-

report, the tugboat OWNERS are holding out against arbitration but the heat is still on the strikers with the mayor's scabby scare announce-

This has been a good strike. The men recognized the strike - breaking tactics of government seizure and didn't fall for them. They recognized the sell-out offered them by Ryan and voted it down. And their militancy bucked a vicious, lying, overdramatized anti-strike campaign participated in by even the so-called tugboat owners.

throughout the war. But suppose the strike of these aggrieved essential workers were to have brought real inconvenience to that "New York citizen." It is high time for him to place the blame for such inconvenience where it belongs. Definitely not on the workers who did not get a raise throughout the high - profit - high - price war period, who worked up to 72 and 80 hours a week on straight time, who today have to work that long to get \$50 weekly take-home pay, who endure other impositions at the hands of the

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Combination Offer: MINTON & STUART-MEN WHO LEAD LABOR..... NEARING-THE AMERICAN EMPIRE Regular Value \_\_\_\_\_ OUR PRICE .... **WORKERS PARTY—SECURITY AND A LIVING WAGE** 

Why Workers Strike

by his worried statement of a few weeks back about Philippine disorders, knows. Are soldiers being kept abroad to promote democracy? Just the

**Bring Troops from Philippines!** 

Secretary of War Patterson, on January 17, told a committee of

He added: "I don't think there is much doubt of the fact that there

BUT on January 16, exactly one day before, General Eisenhower

"There is no effective Philippine agency now in existence to main-

"As a result of the war, the Philippines were left without an effec-

tive police force.... Now armed bands of guerrillas roam the hills, bent

on pilferage which only our active presence controls. We are now en-

gaged in recruiting a force of 50,000 Filipinos to replace a comparable

number of our men in the Philippines and elsewhere in the Pacific, but

it will be many months before this force becomes effective enough to

accept the responsibility of policing the islands. It is our clear obliga-

pines. These will be reduced as rapidly as possible to a garrison of ap-

proximately 79,000, which will be needed on July 1 to carry out our con-

at least-just doesn't know anything, neither how the point system

American imperialism require, namely, that the estates of rich Filipino

landowners and the property of American corporations be defended

against the poor peasants, otherwise known as "guerrillas" or "ban-

dits." He also knows how many troops will be needed to occupy (par-

don, to carry out our continuing responsibilities) there when "Inde-

pendence Day" arrives-79,000 out of a total of 375,000 in the entire

Patterson may not know, especially when he is being questioned by

suspicious soldiers. But Eisenhower knows. Countless newsmen, who

have sent dispatches from the islands, know. And Truman, as is shown

As you can see, the Secretary of War-when talking to enlisted men,

But General Eisenhower knows perfectly well what the interests of

"On January 1 we had approximately 279,000 troops in the Philip-

soldiers in Manila that "The War Department is not interested in the

will be a permanent garrison in the Philippines [which, as everybody

knows, are to be "completely independent" not later than July 4-Ed.],

but long-range programs have not been finally decided upon.

That's as clear as any other double-talk, isn't it?

Why are American troops in the Philippines?

internal political affairs of the Philippines."

told a meeting of Congressmen in Washington:

tion to assist until that time arrives....

tinuing responsibilities there."

tain law and order.

opposite! Bring them back from the Philippines and from everywhere else, too!

## DETROIT WORKERS PARTY FORUM

Friday, February 15: Company Security-a new trap for the Labor Movement.

Speaker: SAMUEL BACH

Friday, February 22: Jim Crow in Detroit-a reply to the slanders of the Detroit News.

> Speaked: LUCILLE SPRAY LABOR ACTION HALL - 3773 Gratiot

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