

Work for a Workers World;
Join the Workers Party!

LABOR ACTION

AUGUST 11, 1947

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

FIVE CENTS

Eviction Suits Sweep Nation

A tremendous wave of attempts by profit-hungry landlords to evict tenants from their apartments and homes is sweeping the nation. This is the result of the bill which Congress recently passed. Attempts to blackjack tenants into paying higher rents and to evict tenants in order to get more rent later, have been the inevitable consequence of the bill which the Republican majority in Congress passed and which the Democratic President signed.

Chicago reports the biggest rush of eviction suits since the depression. Municipal Court clerks reported a "landoffice crush" of eviction suits. On August 1, 288 suits were filed, compared with fifty-six on July 21 and forty-two on July 22.

From Buffalo reports are that a "flood of eviction suits" are expected on September 1. Boston court clerks report that they expect a rush of filings next week. In Syracuse special provisions have been made for hearing these cases. A report on the catastrophic situation in Philadelphia appears elsewhere in this issue.

In New York City landlords are biding their time a little bit, though reports of evictions appear each day in the papers. Only last week the daily press carried pictures and reports of a family which had been thrown out of its home and which had spent two nights in the park. Another case that attracted wide attention was that of a tenant who was thrown out of his apartment for being one day late in paying rent.

This is only the beginning of the trend. For remember that landlords have decided to go easy at the beginning, while public attention is still focused on the rent problem. Their scheme is obviously to gradually increase the rate of eviction notices so that too much public attention will not divert them from their purposes.

But it is important to forestall these attempts. Elsewhere in this issue we print the first installment of a pamphlet issued by the Workers Party on the rent problem; that pamphlet gives detailed suggestions on what to do. These suggestions can, however, be summarized into one central point:

Organize tenants committees to fight against evictions and rent increases!

Organize the tenants in your house to use every necessary means—mass picketing, public protests, wide publicity, legal measures—to defend the rights of the tenants!

Rader Calls for Halt On Evictions at Philadelphia Hearing

PHILADELPHIA, July 31 — With over 8,700 evictions due in thirty days and with 1,500 more piling up every month, the City Council held a public hearing last Wednesday, July 30, on the Republican-sponsored Maxman bill, which is supposed to cope with this desperate situation.

There are 380,000 families in Philadelphia who rent their homes and all of them are faced with the 15 per cent increase, with no other place to move to, with the threat of eviction and with landlords licking their chops in expectation of the complete ending of rent ceilings. The hearings consequently attracted the widest attention.

Over 500 people jammed into a small, intensely hot room for the hearings. There were housewives, women with infants in their arms, workers who had taken a day off and representatives of various tenant and labor organizations. For six and a half hours these people sat through the sweltering heat in an attempt to voice the fears forced upon them by the criminal policies of the federal and local governments. The landlords had their lobby present, including lawyers and politicians from the Democratic and Republican Parties.

Tenants and veterans were given the floor only after representatives from the Hotel Association and the Real Estate Board had been heard. In spite of this deliberate attempt to silence the protest, these people did manage to be heard. At first limited to questions and demonstrations during the statements of the landlords, they were later able to speak for themselves. One after another the tenants rose to demand firm legislation against evictions and against rent increases which the Maxman bill does not provide. It was pointed out innumerable times that the Max-

man bill is an evasion of the needs of the present emergency and protects only the few hundred families who live in luxury suites in the big hotels and pay \$5,000 and more for rent.

One tenant, Katherine Cattlett, expressed the true sentiments of the people when she said: "We cannot and will not pay a rent increase. We will not pay even if we have to fight till our teeth fall out." Her statement was greeted by a demonstration of approval.

APPLAUD WP STATEMENT

Jack Rader, representative of the Workers Party, presented a statement which received considerable applause. (See page 2.)

"This threatened catastrophe is a result of the collapse of federal, state and municipal government program to defend the elementary needs of the people for roofs over their heads. The proposed Maxman bill does absolutely nothing to alleviate this condition. As with the entire housing problem, Republicans and Democrats, together with free enterprise capitalists, have no answers. The Workers Party is against all evictions.

"The root cause of the present eviction emergency is the failure of the landlords and owners to supply adequate housing. The fact that there are no places for evicted tenants to move to is what forces them to the wall before demands for rent increases. Sixty-five thousand families already live doubled up and overcrowded in the most cramped and unsanitary conditions. In spite of this, construction of homes is constantly decreasing.

"The landlords have already received innumerable rent increases. From 1940 to 1947 this increase amounted to over 16 per cent. The fact is that rents are already too high. The cost of living in Philadelphia has doubled since 1940. Every dollar earned by a worker in this city is only worth 50 cents to him today. For that reason the Workers Party is opposed to any increase in rents. It stands for freezing rents at the June 30 level."

CALLS FOR MASS ACTION

Rader concluded with a call for mass action from labor and tenants' organizations:

"We believe that tenants' committees organized together with the AFL and CIO would be in a position to defend tenants' rights."

Herbert Moyer, secretary of the Industrial Union Council, speaking for 150,000 CIO members, likewise denounced the Maxman bill for confusion and inadequacy. He stated: "The continuation of the present sad state of affairs can only end in mass action on our part to halt the selfish and aggressive demands by landlords."

UAW Wins First Round At Ford on Taft Act!

Detroit WP Names Benson for Mayor

DETROIT, Aug. 2—The candidacy of Herman Benson for Mayor of Detroit was announced by the Workers Party today with the filing of his name, accompanied by the \$100 fee, at the Election Commission.

Benson, 32 years of age and a machinist by trade, has been an active trade unionist for several years. He has been a member of Local 425 of the United Electrical, Radio & Machinists Union and a member of Local 101 in Detroit of the United Rubber Workers Union, where he served as a union committeeman and represented the local at the 1945 national convention of the URWU, at which he advocated the formation of a Labor Party independent of the Republican and Democratic Parties. He was a member of the committee which presented petitions to the county clerk during the campaign for a state FEPC. At present he is the Detroit organizer of the Workers Party and a staff member of LABOR ACTION.

SOCIALIST PLATFORM

In a statement to the press, Benson said:

"I am running for office on the fighting socialist platform of the Workers Party. By casting their ballots for my candidacy, militant trade unionists will be able to demonstrate their hostility to the nation-wide drive against the organized labor movement by the two old parties and express themselves for a declaration of independence of the working class from capitalist politicians. All honest advocates of full democratic

rights for Negroes and all other minorities will have the opportunity to vote against segregation in housing and in the armed forces, for the enforcement of the Diggs law and for the complete and total wiping out of all forms of discrimination.

"Our platform calls for the restoration of price control and opposes all rent increases. It calls for the organization of tenants' committees in the neighborhoods and rent and price committees in the unions for the enforcement of controls. It calls for the organization of an independent Labor Party by the union movement aimed at the establishment of a workers' government. It calls for the freedom for all nations from United States, Russian and all imperialism and for opening the doors to the homeless Jewish people and other victims of the war and oppression. It calls for complete social, political and economic equality for Negroes. It calls for a 250 billion dollar five-year program on a national, state and city basis for public works and low-cost housing. It calls for the expropriation of industry monopolized by America's Sixty Families and the socialist reconstruction of society.

"The labor movement must not follow the lead of George Edwards by actively endorsing or passively supporting by inaction the re-election of Mayor Jeffries. Jeffries has bitterly fought the labor movement for many years and attacked it in the last campaign for entering into politics. He openly advocates the theories of racial segregation. For these reasons reactionary and fascist elements have supported him in the past.

"A large vote for my candidacy and for the platform of the Workers Party will be a warning to reaction all over the nation that the working class is becoming weary of the two-party system and that it intends to oppose them with its own candidates."

"The municipal elections in Detroit are 'non-partisan' in character; there are no party designations on the ballot. However, Jeffries is known as a Republican and one of his opponents, Van Antwerp, is a Democrat. Primaries take place in early October and the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes are listed in a run-off election in November.

BULLETIN, AUG. 5—With a strike deadline only a few hours off, the Ford Motor Company today signed an agreement with the UAW in which the company waives its "right" under the Taft-Hartley Act to sue the union for damages resulting from "illegal" strikes. The terms of the agreement include a "no penalty" clause for a period up to a year during which the company and union are supposed to work out a permanent formula. It is stipulated in the agreement that the union, its officers and members are not liable to suit for any breach of contract in the event of a strike or work stoppage during the period of deliberations. A committee is to work out a solution for the question of liability and damages. If the committee fails to arrive at agreement the union may strike on that issue alone without facing suit for damages or breach of contract. The agreement also provides that the union may strike at any time on such issues not covered by the agreement, as, for example, the issue of wages.

Simultaneously with announcement of the agreement, which averted the strike at the last minute, the Ford Motor Company announced a lay-off of 51,000 workers starting within twenty-four hours.

Next week's LABOR ACTION will carry a full report on and analysis of the agreement.

By WALTER JASON

The entire labor movement has a vital stake in the showdown between the UAW-CIO and the giant Ford empire. This struggle may decide the fate of the labor movement in the next period under the Taft-Hartley law.

The UAW-CIO demands a clear-cut contractual pledge from Ford that it will not sue the union for damages in case of any unauthorized strikes. Victory for the union in this demand would set a good pattern for future negotiations in both the auto industry, and other major industries.

As usual, the Ford company has worked out a weasel-worded formula that pretends to give the union some protection from the union-busting section of the Taft-Hartley law that permits corporations to sue unions for damages.

Ford proposes to agree "not to institute suit against the union for damages arising out of illegal strikes under the following good faith conditions," and then Ford lists four "catches." The last, and most important one, would give a so-called impartial umpire the final say on whether the union was guilty or not.

If the "impartial umpire" found the union guilty it would be subject to suit! To accept this "condition of good faith" would mean to capitulate to the union-busting principle in the Taft-Hartley law, namely, that the union can and should be sued!

Of course, the UAW-CIO International Executive Board backed the Ford workers in rejecting this infamous proposal. Already the UAW-CIO has one important strike, at Murray body, over the same issue.

PENSION PLAN AT ISSUE

A second major point of dispute between the UAW-CIO and Ford is the alleged pension plan offered by Ford. Hailed at first as a great step forward by Richard T. Leonard, Ford director for the UAW-CIO, the proposed plan was rejected by the Ford workers' national conference as grossly inadequate, and full of loopholes.

When the fanfare of publicity died (Continued on page 2)

When the Landlord Asks For More Rent, Say "NO!"

By DAVID COOLIDGE

The Republican Party has adjoined its first splash in the public trough for over a decade and has gone home to get ready for next year's elections. The Democratic Party had control of the trough and the pork barrel from 1933 to last fall and the Republicans, like Cassius, had developed a "lean and hungry look."

This first session of the 80th Congress will be remembered by the masses of people, no matter what side of the fence they are on, as the Congress which passed the N.A.M.-Taft-Hartley bill, and the Congress which passed a rent bill worded so that the real estate interests could harass the people without at the same time giving the landlords the legal right to raise rent or evict those who pay rent.

This bill, passed by the capitalist "representatives of the people," permits a 15 per cent increase in rent, if the tenant and the landlord agree to the increase. That may sound good to real innocent persons. That means, according to the letter of the law, that if the tenant says "No," there will be no increase in his rent. But since this particular rent control bill

was probably written with and by the consent of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, there are a few loose ends which the landlords can tie around the necks of their tenants.

LANDLORD ULTIMATUM

The federal rent law ends February 29, 1948. If there is no legislation before then to hold rent down, landlords will be free to increase rents as they see fit: fifteen, fifty or one hundred per cent. Since Congress was under terrific pressure from real estate interests to eliminate all rent control and since Congress did not dare do this before the elections next year, the capitalist political deputies of the capitalist ruling class decided on a little legislative slight of hand. Rent increase by consent of the tenant. But no tenant will consent to have his rent increased.

Well, the way to get around this is to scare tenants so thoroughly that they will voluntarily sign two-year leases at an advance of 15 per cent. Why would a tenant do this? Because the federal rent law expires the last of February 1948 and in order to be protected against rent increases far in excess of 15 per cent,

the tenant would protect himself by signing up for a two-year period at the 15 per cent increase.

The landlords understood very well the intent of their Congress in passing such a bill. What did the landlords do? They immediately began presenting tenants with an ultimatum: "Sign up with me at a 15 per cent increase or you will be evicted." Could the tenant be evicted legally? No, but what is such a minor detail to a landlord? Houses are scarce, apartments are scarce, even rooms are scarce. People don't want to take any chance on being out in the street with their families, including babies and little children.

Furthermore, suppose we don't sign those 15 per cent leases? We are only safe until February, the story goes. What do we do after that? Then the landlords may raise the rent 50 per cent. And so, a lot of people have permitted the landlords to get away with jacking up the rent despite the fact that we don't have to pay more rent and despite the fact that under the law the landlord cannot evict.

How can and should all of us who rent the rooms we live in deal with (Continued on page 4)

IN THIS ISSUE:

DON'T PAY MORE RENT!

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THE FIGHT IN INDONESIA

(Turn to page 3)

Subway Fare Rise Plan Slowed, Not Stopped

New York City's Board of Estimate Forced to Retreat—Rise Will Cost Average Family \$60 to \$120 a Year

By PAUL BERN

The express train heading for an increase in the subway fare of New York City has been considerably slowed down but not yet halted. Mayor O'Dwyer and the Board of Estimate have made a tactical retreat awaiting a better opportunity to increase the fare at the turnstiles from a nickel to a dime.

Last week the proposals to increase the subway fare once more hit the head-lines after considerable behind-the-scenes maneuvering. The Board of Estimate was scheduled to act on the recommendations of Mayor O'Dwyer for an eight-cent (two for 15 cents) transit fare increase. Then City Hall rumor had it that this plan was being ditched in favor of the "five and ten" plan (five cents during rush hours and ten cents at all other times).

When the fare issue came before the Board of Estimate on Friday, Au-

gust 1, it, together with the Mayor, beat a hasty retreat under the obvious resentment of the entire labor movement and all the millions of stragglers to this piece of highway robbery. The CIO has just completed a thorough straw poll which showed that the overwhelming majority of union members and subway riders were for the retention of the five-cent fare.

The brave Democratic politicians, all of whom were really for the increase, were attempting to maneuver the State Legislature into taking the initiative and thereby place the responsibility for the increased fare on the Republican Party. The Republicans were all for the increased fare but they wanted the fare issue to be non-partisan, which means "Let's all us boys get together and give the working man, the tenant and the subway rider another kick in the belly." All of them were bewailing the sufferings of the poor landlords

who said they need relief in the form of lower realty taxes (you see, the 15 per cent rent boost doesn't satisfy them).

The members of the present Board of Estimate are haunted by the pledges they made last February when they were putting on a show in defense of the nickel fare and really giving that little man with the mustache in Albany a thorough drubbing. At that two-day hearing on the fare issue they pledged to fight on if ever the nickel fare should again be threatened. Now they are thinking of their political careers, as it's politely put.

PR ISSUE INVOLVED

There is another very practical reason for proposing the fare issue now. Both the Democrats and the Republicans don't want to endanger a more immediate political proposition that is being put before the voters this fall. All the capitalist

politicians have united in a drive to kill proportional representation at the polls this November. They don't want both these issues before the people at the same time. By placing them on the ballot one at a time they can more easily put over the democratic move to eliminate fair representation on the City Council of minority parties and a little later pick the pockets of the subway riders.

It is quite obvious that some form of increased fare will be voted by the Board of Estimate. At best they will submit it to the voters in a special election in January or February of 1948. There is still the danger, though, that the Board will vote approval and that the City Council will not reject this proposal.

If the City Council approves the increased transit fare, then it automatically goes into effect and a referendum is not needed. All tenant organizations and all trade unions

must be on the alert for such a maneuver. That's the plan of the landlords since they fear a vote on this question by the people.

FACTS TO REMEMBER

The barrage of propaganda for an increased fare has been so heavy that there is a danger that many people will forget what such an increase will mean.

Here are some facts to remember: 1. A ten-cent fare will cost every family from \$60 to \$120 per year. 2. Bondholders have been repaid over and over again on their original investments. Repudiate or otherwise amortize these bonds and there is a terrific savings in transit costs. 3. Landlords and real estate interests would be the only one to benefit, after already reaping the richest profits in decades. Real estate taxes should be increased to improve and extend the subway system and still maintain the nickel fare.

The Boss's Dictionary

Red-Plot:



NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

UAW Wins First Round in Ford Contest--

(Continued from page 1) down over the announcement that Ford and the UAW-CIO had agreed to a pension plan, and the workers learned the cost to them of this alleged pension plan, the resentment was strong among most workers...

a high auto industry official as his source of information. The truth of the matter is that this struggle is not a factional move by either of the major caucuses in the UAW-CIO. The issues are clear-cut and transcend all factional lines.

Its membership is over 900,000. It should and will get the backing of the national CIO. The Ford workers, irritated and disgusted by over four months of fruitless negotiations with the company, are ready to do their part.

FORD MOVE BOOMERANGS

The attempt of the Ford company to get Phil Murray, CIO president, to avert the showdown by taking over negotiations and working out some "compromise," boomeranged when the UAW-CIO leadership be-

came incensed over this maneuver against their independence as an international union to work out agreements with any corporation in its jurisdiction.

Victory for the UAW-CIO now would be a powerful blow at the campaign of Wall Street to strangle the union movement with the aid of the Taft-Hartley law. It would turn the defensive struggle of the workers to maintain their rights into a counter-offensive against Wall Street and its Washington government.

Text of WP Statement on Rent And Evictions in Philadelphia

The following statement was read to the City Council hearing in Philadelphia, by Jack Brad Rader, candidate of the Workers Party in the 5th District.

The Office of Rent Controls reports over 8,000 evictions threatening Philadelphia tenants within the next 30 days. These proposed evictions would initiate the flood which threatens to dispossess an, as yet, unsubstantiated number of the 380,000 families who rent their homes.

This threatened catastrophe is a result of the collapse of Federal, State or Municipal governments to defend the elementary needs of the people for roofs over their heads. The proposed Maxman Bill does absolutely nothing to alleviate this condition.

ing a reason entitling increases? It stands rather as a condemnation of private construction and of the feeble acquiescence of the Republican and Democratic parties to this failure.

Nor have rents remained exactly stationary. The Federal Department of Commerce stated on July 24, 1947, that the monthly rent of tenant occupied dwellings increased from \$26 in 1940 to \$31 in 1947, an increase of 16 per cent. Moreover, the bulk of this increase occurred among those least able to pay.

The Workers Party is opposed to any increase in rents. It stands for fixing of rents on dwellings at the June 30, 1947 figures and keeping them there.

WP HOUSING PROGRAM

One other aspect of this "entitlement" is the neglect which landlords have shown about the properties which they own but do not live in!

ASSURES RENT BOOST

The Maxman proposal, in effect, assures a 15 per cent increase in rents. Mr. Maxman has stated quite frankly: "...the best thing to be done for the masses is to make it worthwhile for landlords to give leases. . . . Landlords and owners are entitled to an increase in rentals -- an increase which would reflect the increased costs of operation."

The root cause of the present eviction emergency is the failure of "the landlords and owners" to supply adequate housing. The fact that there are no places for evicted tenants to move is what forces them to the wall before demands for rent increases.

The Philadelphia Housing Association estimates that 65,000 families live doubled up and overcrowded in the most cramped and unsanitary circumstances. In the face of this, new construction is falling off steadily. The Association states: "...there is every indication that the 1947 construction program will be even more disappointing" than that of 1946. Is this failure to provide hous-

One-Tenth of the Nation

By E. R. McKinney

Last May a young Negro by the name of Bush was taken from jail in Northampton County, N. C., by a mob for the purpose of lynching him. He escaped from the mob but later surrendered to the sheriff. The county grand jury took the case against the seven white men who composed the mob and was asked by the county solicitor to return true bills for: (1) kidnapping; (2) conspiracy to break and enter a jail with intent to injure or kill Bush, and (3) breaking and entering a jail with intent to injure or kill Bush.

One would think that this was enough for a grand jury, even a Southern grand jury, to issue an indictment or return a "true bill." That is, there was enough to warrant the grand jury in holding the men for court where they could have been found guilty or innocent. But not this 18-man grand jury. They freed the seven members of the mob. They took the position that the court should not have the opportunity to decide the case on the basis of the evidence.

This North Carolina grand jury did not stop with freeing the seven white men; the young Negro Bush was also freed. Bush had been arrested and charged with attempted rape of a young white woman. This grand jury decided also that Bush should not be brought to trial. He should not have an opportunity to prove his innocence. The court should not have the opportunity to prove him guilty. The grand jury decided that all concerned in this case should go free and that the whole matter should be forgotten.

AN "OLD CUSTOM"

A magnanimous grand jury, one might say. Not so. This grand jury of 18 white men either knew or believed that Bush had not attempted rape on anybody. All over the U. S. there is a custom among white women when alone at night to start running if they look back and see a Negro behind them. Both of them may have just left a car or bus and are on their way home. White women have been known not only to run but to scream, and later to claim that they were being followed. This is an old story: "I was followed by a big burly Negro," or "He was a man of swarthy complexion." (This was the signal for the police to begin looking for an Italian.)

This grand jury knows a little about these things. They didn't believe that Bush attempted to assault

anybody. Added to this they did know that a mob had attempted to lynch him. And so, this grand jury decides that the only way to save "white supremacy" and "white superiority" is to free the mob and the Negro who was charged with rape. Be fair. If one is tried the other will have to be tried. Let's try nobody.

This jury also probably felt that since Bush was still alive and had not been lynched, no harm had been done. And since the jury had no evidence against Bush but did have some against the seven, they call it a day by freeing Bush and the seven. All that should be added is: What a Country!

They had a queer primary election in Mississippi this week. The legislature had passed a new "white primary law" which permitted persons (Negroes) to be challenged in connection with their adherence to the "principles" of the Democratic Party in Mississippi. Among these "principles" are disapproval of Federal FEPC legislation, of any Federal anti-lynching bill and support of the "traditions" of the South. Negroes are expected to support this position or have their right to vote in the primary challenged.

It is reported that only in a few places where Negroes who appeared to vote, were they required to swear to the above "principles." In one county 15 Negroes were challenged and five were permitted to vote.

INSULTING HOCUS-POCUS

This puerile nonsense, of course, will never stand up, not even legally. It is only meant to intimidate militant Negroes and thrust the "handkerchief head" Negroes forward. But it won't work because there are not enough real Uncle Toms in the whole state of Mississippi to go for this insulting hocus-pocus. Even the most conservative Negroes will not dare submit to this insult.

"White supremacy" and "race superiority" attempt by every means to hold on. But it's a fake and a fraud. It is a cover for the hidden designs of Southern bourbonism, reactionary planters, political demagogues and their attendant rural and urban riff-raff. These designs have to do with capitalist profits in a very backward section of the country. Not only backward industrially but culturally, politically and morally.

The scene will change. What the Negroes need to watch out for is the day when the change comes. Negroes are going to vote in the South just as they do in the North. Some day, and perhaps not so far off, some white demagogue will decide that the time has arrived to become the champion of the political and economic rights of the Negro in the South. This demagogue will be a Southern leader of the Democratic Party; some new-fangled Tom Watson.

The Republican Party will step

into the picture also. The tocsin will sound about the traditional attitude of the Grand Old Party on the Negro question. The party of Lincoln and Frederick Douglas.

This situation will surely develop in the South. There are millions of potential Negro votes in this region. White political rabble-rousers will not go on forever ignoring the possibilities which lie in the control of these millions of potential votes. White politicians in the South will open their eyes to these millions of eligible Negro voters just as white businessmen have opened their eyes to the vast possibilities of a Negro market for their commodities.

The fact is that the businessman will take the lead. He will know that in the long run, Bilbo and Bilboism will only keep the South rolling in ignorance, stupidity, rickets and poverty. These disabilities do not create a market for the products of big business. They create only a market for ignorant and lascivious Bible pounders, peddlers of quack medical nostrums, moronic carnivals, snake doctors and the horde of "pass the biscuits pappy" political mountebanks who infest every state in the South.

What Negroes will have to be on the alert for is the change when it comes. If they are not on the alert they will become just another group being used by a new crop of political shysters. This disorientation of the Negroes is inherent in their struggle for participation in the Democratic Party primaries. Later they will be voting in the Republican primaries or in the primaries of some new party in the South.

All of these parties will be capitalist parties: parties representing the capitalist exploiters. Negroes will move from the plantations to the cities and into the new factories. Their wages will be higher and their standard of living will rise. But they will be mere pawns, just as the white industrial workers are today.

One advantage of this will be that there will be a larger industrial working class and they will all be together: white and black. Negroes can and will play an important role in this development. That is, they will and can, provided they do not get emmeshed in the net which will be spread by the capitalist parties.

A very powerful political movement of the white and Negro toilers can develop in the South. The trade union organization of this section is going forward. This movement is bound to increase Negro-white worker solidarity on the economic front. This can be extended to the political front through the development of independent working class politics divorced from the Democrat and Republican parties or from any new capitalist party which may be formed. This is something important for Negroes to think about while they fight their way into the primaries of the Democratic Party.

Apartment Hunting in Detroit

My wife and I are in urgent need of an apartment. We have our own furniture but we would gladly sell it or store it and take a furnished place. So we decided to run an ad for three days in the Detroit News. The advertising agent read our copy (which simply appealed for an apartment) and obligingly took our money although he knew that there would be maybe 50 ads exactly like it and that there simply weren't enough apartments. But if we were fools enough to pay for the advertisement he wouldn't stand in our way.

advertisement. Since we were a bit peeved we worded it as follows:

"Vultures, sharks do not reply. Don't want brand new old furniture, or dirty just painted walls, or your new 1910 sewing machine, or your modern ice-man-powered refrigerator, all at bargain 1947 inflation prices. Will pay rent but will not be your chauffeur, butler, janitor, nursemaid or factotum. Young couple, no children, merely wants apartment. ATLantic ---"

This time, however, the agent for the Detroit News would not take our money so obligingly. Oh no, you can't run that ad. It might offend the sensibilities of our readers. And so we still need an apartment. I looked through the ads in one issue of the News. Plenty of ads for "whites only" but of course nothing to offend anyone's sensibilities. Herman Benson.

TUBERCULOSIS SUFFERER ASKS ACEWR TO SEND CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT FOR BABY

The following letter was received by the ACEWR this week. This letter is typical of the pathetic joy with which packages are received by those we help in Europe.

Dear Friends: I can't tell you about our joy when we received your two packages of clothing and I send you and the committee the most heartfelt thanks. We can use everything very well since we have to start from scratch with everything since we have nothing left. There is a lot of talk about "reconstruction" but we have been waiting for this for two years. After all, we have to eat up the soup the fascists cooked for us. You can buy absolutely nothing here.

Our greatest worry these days were shoes for our little girl, and we were talking about how to get a pair of very sturdy ones for her. And that was exactly what was in the package! For her the joy was doubly great. Dear friend, forgive me for being so immodest to come with request which perhaps you cannot grant.

I am expecting something which in normal times is a cause for joy. That is, an addition to the family. (This may be the last time.) If you

would be able to get me some baby stuff we would be terribly grateful to you. For we do not know how to get it here. It would be possible to make it from old laundry, but this unfortunately is non-existent. All we own for instance so far as bed linen is concerned is one set, and this is breaking down from constant washing and quick drying. So we are in a bad fix, out of which you can help us, perhaps.

As far as my health is concerned, I feel a little better and will soon get treatment in a sanatorium. Now I close with fraternal greetings.

J. B., Frankfurt, Germany.

The writer of this letter suffers from tuberculosis. The ACEWR has undertaken to send him regular food packages, high in fat content, to help him on his road to health.

We ask, now, in the name of this man, for contributions of baby clothing, oils, talcum powder, safety pins, vitamins, and most particularly, castile soap. Any such contributions may be sent to local chapter offices or direct to the national office at 130 West 23rd Street, New York 11, N. Y.

With the Workers Party

All readers of LABOR ACTION are invited to attend meetings, class lectures and socials sponsored by local branches of the WORKERS PARTY. Visit our headquarters listed below to purchase Marxist literature, the NEW INTERNATIONAL and LABOR ACTION. For information of WORKERS PARTY activities in cities not listed below, write to WORKERS PARTY, 4 Court Square, Long Island City 1, N. Y.

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INDONESIAN LEAGUE OF AMERICA Invites You to Attend the Second Anniversary Celebration of the Indonesian Republic and PROTEST MEETING Prominent Speakers FREEDOM HOUSE 20 West 40th Street (Wilkie Memorial Building) FRIDAY — 8:00 P. M. — AUGUST 15

Our ad was not in vain. We received nine replies. We still need an apartment. Five replies were almost identical. It seems that all these people had "just" purchased a batch of brand new furniture and by sheer coincidence had to leave their newly acquired flats. They were perfectly willing to let us rent their apartments, with one little condition; all we had to pay in addition to our rent was a small purchase price for the furniture, ranging from the low price of \$900 to the more elaborate \$3,200. Of course there was also the medium \$1,200. A sixth party had "just" painted her small flat and strangely enough learned immediately thereafter that she would have to leave town. We could have the couple of rooms if we were willing to recompense her for the effort in painting and the imagination shown in the color scheme which we had not seen; and all she wanted was \$150. The seventh and eighth were quite anxious to rent us ONE ROOM for \$13 and \$15 PER WEEK. Location: on the outskirts of town. The ninth would let us have four rooms if only my wife would serve as her maid and take care of her children; and all WE had to pay was \$45 per month plus utilities. But at least we received nine replies! Then, just so we shouldn't feel that we hadn't exhausted every possibility we decided to put in another

Editorials

Indonesia's Freedom

The truce in the war between native Republican troops and the Dutch imperialist army in Indonesia does not mean an end to Indonesian strife. Issuance of the cease-fire order by President Soekarno of the Indonesian Republic, paralleling a similar order by the Dutch, will delay hostilities while a UN commission investigates, but the core of the problem remains. That core is the perpetuation of Dutch imperialist rule, backed and buttressed by British and American imperialism.

Until the Dutch are ousted there can be no peace for Indonesia, no freedom for its people. Therefore, while public attention is diverted with ecstatic reports of the truce, it remains the obligation of every person who despises tyranny and will not tolerate national oppression to join in mounting an offensive of international mass protest against Dutch imperialist policy and for Indonesian independence.

Hard pressed by U. S.-supplied-and-trained Dutch troops who have been making advances, the Indonesian Republic may have had no choice but to yield to the request of UN Security Council for an interruption of hostilities. There is nothing in the published reports of the truce, however, to indicate that the Indonesians have surrendered their stand by one iota. Even should it happen that certain Indonesian leaders decide to accommodate themselves to the pressure of the UN, it will be impossible to stifle the striving of the people for complete and unadulterated independence. As it is, the UN commission will have to act immediately on the request of Republican Premier Amir Sjahrijoedin that the cease-fire order include release of imprisoned Indonesians, restoration of Republican officials to their posts, and its return of troops on both sides to the demarcation line of July 20 (when hostilities began). The truce, however, is an uneasy one. Heavy fighting occurred the night of the truce at Madura and other places. The Republicans accused the Dutch of continuing "clearing actions." There is, in short, an explosive contest of interest that cannot be eradicated by a truce or by simple UN intervention.

In connection with the latter, it is especially interesting for us to note the attitude of the Indonesians to the United States. An effort has been made to obscure (among other things) the scandal of U. S. arms assisting the imperialist attack in Indonesia by trying to make it appear that the U. S. government is in actuality sympathetic to the independence fighters. That the Indonesians, at least, are not misled on this score is amply revealed by their implied rejection of the United States offer of mediation which was accepted by the Dutch. That they will gain little more from the UN than from one of the three (or two) powers that dominate the UN is beside the point. What is to the point, especially for us in the United States, is the meaning of the Indonesian position for it imposes special obligations on us—namely, to rip off the mask of U. S. imperialist hypocrisy, and to take such measures of protest as will effectively end overt or secret assistance offered the Dutch by the governmental representatives of Standard Oil and similar business interests.

The Indonesian people will gain nothing from UN investigation. There is, in fact, so far as the people of the world need to be concerned, nothing to investigate. The land belongs, or should belong, to the people. The Dutch have usurped it, and ruled it, in collaboration with British and American business interests. They have cruelly oppressed the people. The Dutch imperialists want to continue their control of Indonesia's 40,000,000 people. These some 40,000,000 people want no part of Dutch rule; they want their independence. The Dutch imperialists are there. The Indonesians want them out. What more do we need to know? Nothing! There is no possible compromising of the issue, not for long anyway.

Will the UN order the Dutch out of Indonesia, which is the only solution that can be accepted. The UN, like its predecessor the League of Nations, is a kitchen of thieves. If it can be made to act in the only acceptable way, it is by raising such a hue and cry in the world that the members of the commission, and the member nations of the UN in general, feel the hot breath of protest and demand in their respective countries, promising unceasing solidarity with the Indonesian people, pressuring for independence, preventing any shipments of supplies to the imperialist armies in Indonesia. We refer, by way of illustration, to the refusal of dockers in Australia to load goods destined for the Dutch in Indonesia. We refer to such actions as the protest of workers in Holland, against the government's course in Indonesia. We refer to such mass demonstrations as are now being planned by the Workers Party and other organizations in the United States.

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WORKERS PARTY
INFORMATION BLANK

I am interested in joining the Workers Party of the United States. Will you please send me all information as to your Program and how I can become a member.

Name.....
Address.....
City.....State.....

We must not permit ourselves to be misled by the truce into accepting the falsehood that for the time being there is nothing to be done. While protest may have seemed more dramatic last week while the troops were engaged in battle, it is no less necessary now. There have been truces before in the Indonesian war. They are temporary respites in a battle which cannot end without utter annihilation of the Indonesian resistance movement or permanent ouster of every last Dutch soldier. **WE MUST SEEK TO PREVENT THE FIRST, AND DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ACHIEVE THE SECOND.**

In some respects the period of truce imposes extra duties on us. It is a period we can use to DEMAND THAT THE DUTCH QUIT INDONESIA. It is a period we can use to PREVENT THE SHIPMENT OF SUPPLIES TO THE DUTCH RULERS. It is a period we can use to work up our own forms of SUPPORT FOR THE INDONESIAN PEOPLE.

Totalitarians In Rumania

Newspaper dispatches report that the Peasant Party of Rumania is being dissolved by the Rumanian Stalinist-puppet government and that its leaders are being imprisoned.

This action is part of a general tendency in eastern Europe. The Stalinist puppet-regimes, which do not enjoy mass popularity and which are not based on a freely expressed democratic choice of the masses, are attempting to tighten their rule by taking punitive measures against all opponent political groups. This is part of the natural development of Stalinism: its tendency to totalitarianize whichever state it manages to gain control of. For Stalinism is inherently and by every aspect of its composition and activity a totalitarian movement; it is antithetical not merely to the true democracy of socialism or to the democratic character of the working class socialist movement; it is antithetical even to the scraps of limited democracy which workers can gain under a bourgeois democratic regime.

The present totalitarianization of eastern Europe has two purposes: (1) to tighten Stalinist control in preparation for the oncoming imperialist struggle for Europe; and (2) to suppress, with typical Stalinist ruthlessness, the political oppositions of whatever character which resist the consolidation of the Stalinist regimes.

Now the Rumanian Peasant Party is not one for which socialists have any sympathy or with which they have any agreement. Rumanian politics are notoriously corrupt and it is more than likely that this party has its share of that corruption. It is a party of petty-bourgeois capitalism; it does not seem to have the degree of mass support which the Polish Peasant Party has among its peasantry. And it seems likely that the Rumanian Peasant Party is working as an agent or accomplice of Anglo-American imperialism.

Yet we believe that revolutionary socialists should protest against the oppression of this and similar parties by the GPU. To defend the democratic rights of, for example, the Polish Peasant Party is not in any way to support its program. On the contrary: we wish to regain the workers' democratic rights in eastern Europe precisely in order to break whatever influence such a party has on the masses.

But when the Stalinist terror regimes suppress these petty-bourgeois or bourgeois parties; when they arrest their leaders on trumped-up charges; when they use the suppression of these parties as a means of and preparation for destroying all other, including radical and socialist, oppositions—then socialists must defend the civil liberties of these parties, regardless of how wide the area of political disagreement with them.

We are opposed to the totalitarian consolidation of the Stalinist regimes in eastern Europe. We take much the same stand on this matter that Trotsky did with regards to the situation in Hitler Germany when he said that the underground socialist movement should fight for the political liberties of all groups opposed to the totalitarian Hitler regime. And we think that that is the proper position for socialists to take.

Lynch Verdict

On May 23, Gowdin (Buddy) Bush was kidnapped from the Northampton county jail in North Carolina by a lynch mob. The lynch mob was cheated of its victim when Bush made a break for freedom, and escaped into the swamps. With attention focused on the incident by the dramatic escape, public officials made a great show about apprehending the lynchers. Seven white men were accused and the grand jury was asked to indict them.

This week the Northampton County grand jury sitting in Jackson, N. C., heard both cases; namely the accusations against Bush, and the accusation against the lynchers. The grand jury decided that Bush was innocent of the charge of attempted "rape" of a white woman. Bush had denied the charge all along. There wasn't a shred of evidence against him. The verdict of this Southern jury is proof of the absolute fraud behind the charge. Southern juries are not known for their liberality in considering evidence against Negroes.

But if there were no facts at all to substantiate the charge against Bush, the evidence against the lynch mob was substantial. The lynch mob failed of its purpose, but it was a lynch mob nevertheless. Yet, the jury, after a couple of minutes of deliberation, returned a no-bill against the would-be lynchers.

The case speaks for itself. We need add but one comment: after the trial, Bush announced that he would go to his uncle's farm to live and would not return to the saw mill where he has been employed. "I believe I lost my job at the saw mill, and it might be dangerous to return to Rich Square."

Right to Vote

Negroes voting for the first time in Mississippi's Democratic primary, on the basis of a Supreme Court decision, were required to state on oath that they would oppose FEPC, anti-poll tax and anti-lynching legislation. We are pleased to note that only a handful of Negroes availed themselves of this particular right to vote.

WORLD POLITICS

Russia's Economic Crisis—II

By IRVING HOWE

Last week we reported some of the information which appeared in the London *Economist* about the internal economic crisis in Russia. We noticed then that the current Stalinist economic plan is to place the heaviest burdens on the working class by imposing increased "norms" of productivity and increased price rates which in effect mean wage cuts. In its eagerness to prepare for war production with which to defend its imperialist position in Europe against rival imperialisms, the Stalinist regime has continued what is virtually a war-time regimen of labor discipline and wage rates: it is sweating and starving its own working class in order to maintain its military apparatus. These were the conclusions which we drew from the facts presented in last week's column.

Let us examine in further detail some of the material presented by the *Economist*. In its report we learn that certain important adaptations have taken place in the Stakhanovist (speed up) system. The *Economist* writes: "Payment by results, rewards for skill and efficiency, progressive piece rates have been the guiding principles ever since the inception of Stakhanovism in 1935. The policy is now being pushed to new extremes. Output above the standard norms is to be even better rewarded than hitherto; the standard norms are to be raised; and often output below the standard norms is to be penalized through decreasing scales of payment. The new collective agreements that are to be signed between the industrial trusts and the trade unions in April will embody these principles." (My emphasis—I. H.)

Let us stop a moment. Two points suggest themselves immediately: (a) The Russians are apparently learning from the more "efficient" methods of American labor-saving. Where in the past they merely awarded Stakhanovists with extra pay for their speedup, they are now adopting another feature of the infamous Taylor plan: they are penalizing those who fall behind the "norms" which, in true assembly-line fashion, have been increased. (b) This speed-up is "approved" by the Russian "trade unions." Not even the most conservative and reactionary union in the U. S. would dare to do such a thing; the only unions in the U. S. which in recent times dared openly approve of the speed-up were, significantly enough, the Stalinist-controlled unions during war-time. **WORK MORE FOR LESS.**

The *Economist* comments on this situation: "The worker (in Russia) will have to produce much more than hitherto, not only in order to get bonuses and special rewards, but also in order to earn his previous minimum. At the same time control over the payment of bonuses is to be tightened up. Output above the standard norm will from now on not be specially rewarded if costs of production rise together with output. Indeed in some industries lowering of costs is to be made the condition for the payment of bonuses."

A similar change is to take place in agricultural production. Previously wages had been paid on a combination of time and piece rates. From now on, writes the *Economist*, "the uniform payment per working day is abolished, and all agricultural wages are to be calculated on the basis of efficiency—that is, in relation to harvests." So that when there are droughts or crop failures....

Yet despite all the measures by which the Stalinist bureaucracy is trying to force increased productivity, it seems quite unlikely that it will be increased. As Keith

Hutchison comments in *The Nation* of July 19, "... as long as a vast majority of Soviet workers are ill fed, as well as ill housed and ill clad, any considerable increase in their productivity seems a lot to expect." Which is something of an understatement!

PEASANTS AND COLLECTIVES

The *Economist* contains some interesting information on the Russian agricultural situation which is in as considerable a crisis as the rest of the economy. "... the over-all situation is grim. Restoration of the pre-war grain output is not expected under three years; the figures of the last harvest have not been disclosed. The peasants have failed to deliver their quotas of grain to the government; and so the stocks for feeding the urban populations must be low.... The technical standards of farming, none too high even before, have decayed. There have been acute shortages in everything: tractors, draught animals, fertilizers, and skilled agriculturalists. Only half the collective farms practice rotation of crops; shallow ploughing is very common; and wide stretches of land have been left to the weeds. The crop of flax has been only half the normal.... 75 per cent of the pre-war sowing area in the western provinces is again under cultivation; and the farms there have about fifty per cent of their cattle."

(No doubt part of this picture of backwardness and chaos can be explained by the destruction wrought by the war. But only part. The failure, for instance, to practice rotation of crops, which goes back beyond the war, shows again that Russian agriculture remains, despite a layer of mechanization on its top, fundamentally backward and primitive.)

And now we have some sad news for those theoreticians who see Stalinist Russia as a "workers' state" and who in order to crawl out of that highly embarrassing position (or dilemma?) have been frantically searching for a few backwoods peasants who owned a cow or a few chickens, so that they could chart the rise of "capitalism" in Russia. The tendency has been, according to the *Economist*, toward collectivization and away from individual ownership, even among the small peasants. "... nearly 12 million acres of collective land had been unlawfully taken away from the Kolkhozes (during the war—I. H.) and have now been returned to them. If so much land—four per cent of the total sown area—had been misappropriated by peasants, this would have been a symptom of a revival of the peasantry's individualism and of its continued opposition to the collective system. But this has not been the case. Ten out of the 12 million acres were 'misappropriated' by factories, offices and organizations. During the war these had been allowed (under the law of April 7, 1942) to run their own 'auxiliary farms' on unfilled Kolkhoz land for the benefit of their employees and workers.... Less than one and a half million acres were 'misappropriated' by the peasants themselves. The Government is not prepared to tolerate even this; and Mr. Andreev's Board for Kolkhoz Affairs has resorted to draconian measures in order to restore all the land to collective farms. If illicit private farming has, in these years of chaos, revived on so small a scale—one-half per cent of the sown acreage—then the conclusion to be drawn is that the collective system has had time to strike very deep...."

We should of course not draw the same conclusion as the *Economist* for we do not identify Stalinist totalitarianism with genuine socialist collectivism. But it is clear that those people who are seeking for tendencies toward private capitalism in the Stalinist Russia had better be very patient; they are in for a long, long wait.

Korea: Suppressed, Robbed, Fought Over by Big Powers

By G. McDermott

The United States government is employing methods for which British and Nazi imperialism earned hatred. Korea is one of the places that proves this. These methods include naked military rule, use of quillings, seizure of property, and suppression of native democratic movements.

For the Koreans, this means misery equal to or worse than they suffered under decades of Japanese rule. As a result, Koreans' hatred for American imperialism is equalled only by their hatred for Russian imperialism which rules the northern half of Korea.

The two greedy rivals have cut the country in half, erecting a wall between the industrial north and agricultural south. This is responsible for much of the hardship that Korea is suffering. The Russians in Korea are the same totalitarian robbers that they are elsewhere. This article, however, is devoted to the crimes of the American government.

During the war, when Allied leaders promised the peoples of the world a rosy future, Roosevelt promised the Japanese colony of Korea independence. At the Moscow conference, the Big Four announced that Korea was to be a free and independent nation again. She was considered to be an ally.

With the landing of American troops, the truth began to come out. The Korean "allies" were subjected to the same military dictatorship as were enemy countries. Representatives of the Korean people were brushed aside and the Japanese Governor of Korea, General Abe, was asked to "keep order."

The Koreans hated their Japanese overlords. As Japanese imperialism went down to defeat, in many areas tenants elected committees to run large estates and workers elected committees to run factories. American bayonets stopped this.

Then, Washington and Moscow announced a five-year "trusteeship" was to be set up by them for Korea. The Koreans knew the word well. The Japanese had also set up "trusteeship" for Korea—and then systematically robbed the country for forty years.

The two imperialist rulers began to look around for quillings. An interim puppet government of native

They Promised Freedom, but...



Koreans was planned. However, no one was declared eligible except those who agreed to trusteeship. The only candidates were the Korean Stalinists, so the plan fell through. In the meantime, the American commander (who rides around in a luxurious private train formerly owned by Hirohito) is aided by a Korean Representative Democratic Committee—appointed by himself! The circles that he works with are the large landlords, businessmen and former friends of the Japanese. The most hateful actions of the American militarist rulers center around the disposition of former Japanese property. Japanese corpora-

tions had formerly owned 80 per cent of Korean land and wealth, with another nine per cent owned by individual Japanese colonists. That owned by individual colonists was seized and sold by the military government. Since most Koreans are poverty-stricken peasants, they could not buy the land. Businessmen, landlords and wartime profiteers could and did.

But the property owned by Japanese corporations—80 per cent of the national wealth in the American zone—is now owned by the military government. The militarists simply vested title in the lands in themselves. Thus the U. S. Government now owns what was formerly the property of the Japanese masters. Some liberation!

WAR PREPARATIONS

The army will not keep this tremendous wealth, of course. But the Korean people won't get it either. American imperialism is clever. As in the Philippines, a native quilling government will eventually be established which will see that Wall Street gets actual if veiled control of the country. That's what the war was fought for!

In the mean time, strategically located Korea is being busily prepared for World War III. The Russians are drafting and training an army of 100,000 men in their zone. Again, American imperialism is more, clever. It has only a Boy Scout movement. But what a Boy Scout movement!

The "boys" are 18 to 35. They are commanded by a general. They are sent to military schools directed by Nazi-trained leaders who admit that the movement is patterned after the Nazi Youth Corps. The Boy Scouts receive military supplies and money from the U. S. Army. An American Colonel acts as "adviser" to the movement. This force, 80,000 strong at this writing, is "unified in its political views" during its training.

Latest note on the unhappy country is a news dispatch that the U. S. Far Eastern Air Force has made plans to evacuate all American civilians from the country by air, just in case.

The picture of what the master imperialists in Washington do is complete. First, they suppressed democracy in Korea. Then they robbed it. Now they're getting ready to fight over it.

RIO CONFERENCE:

U. S. HAS NEW SCHEME FOR LATIN AMERICA

By A. FERRARA

Amid the sumptuous surroundings of Quitandina, exclusive Rio de Janeiro summer resort for Brazil's upperclasses, the foreign ministers of 19 Latin-American countries will gather on August 15 to hear the United States air its latest scheme to chain the 130 million people of Latin-America to its military machine. In the hypocritical language of diplomacy, this treaty has been publicized as "a pact for the mutual defense of the Western Hemisphere."

Let us examine the main provisions of this pact. Joint military action by all signatory nations against any act of aggression from within or without the hemisphere is the first point. A joint military staff to direct such military actions is to be created at the next Inter-American conference at Bogota in January, 1948. Joint military action means a sharing of military facilities as well as a common plan. This provision, then, lays the "legal" basis for the wholesale occupation of Latin-America by the United States armed forces when war breaks out with "unknown" aggressor and rival of American imperialism, Russia. Given the military agreements being worked out with Canada, American armed might will prevail from the southernmost tip of Tierra del Fuego to the arctic reaches of the Hemisphere, the moment hostilities begin.

The second provision eliminates the possibility that any nation will dare exercise the "right" to be neutral. It states that when two-thirds of the nations adhering to the pact agree to take military action, all other member nations must go along with the action. Washington is supremely confident it can always corrupt, bribe or threaten a two-thirds majority into agreement. Thus, with one stroke of the pen, Washington intends to wipe away the only vestige of formal independence small and weaker nations can claim in time of war, the "right" not to be drawn into the imperialist slaughter.

VISIT U. S. MILITARY BASE

Should the Rio Conference adopt Washington's proposals and write such a pact, it would facilitate the conversion of Latin-America into a vast military base under the iron-handed control of the United States General Staff. But whether Washington's plan is approved or not, there will be no let up in the current drive to train and equip Latin-American armed forces with American material. Already the United States has sold millions upon millions of dollars worth of arms and other equipment to most of the countries of Latin-America. American guns, tanks and planes have flowed in plentiful quantities south of the Rio Grande in recent months. Along with them have gone American Military Missions to teach their use. To widen and extend this plan to standardize Latin-American military equipment and training along United States lines, Truman has asked Congress to pass a bill known as the "Inter-American Military Cooperation Act." In all likelihood, this measure will be passed at the next session of Congress.

What effects will Washington's military schemes have on the political life of Latin-America? The claim is made that with the United States acting as sole supplier of armaments to the continent, rivalries between the different countries will be kept in check and the onerous burden of military costs be lightened.

A look at the events leading up to the Rio Conference serves to dispel this brazen fairy tale. The truth is, the United States has been fomenting an armaments race in Latin-America. While refusing to sell military equipment to Argentina, Washington has been raising Argentina's neighbors to military "equality" by furnishing them with arms. But Washington has not based its refusal to sell arms to Peron on the ground that his government is dictatorial and has expansionist ambitions, but on the ground that Peron had not complied with the Act of Chapultepec by expelling former Nazi agents and liquidating Nazi holdings in Argentina. Now that Peron has "complied," Washington will equip Peron's army, the largest in Latin-America, if he signs the Rio pact as Washington wants it.

This is how Washington brings peace to the Western Hemisphere. Not by calling for a general reduction in armaments, but by dangling its supply of deadly weapons as bait to win the support of Latin-American countries to its preparations for World War III.

AN ATTACK ON THE PEOPLE

What are the effects of Washington's plans on the internal politics of the various Latin-American nations? There can be no doubt that the emphasis on military preparations strengthens the hands of the military cliques, those nests of reaction as Trotsky once described them. In the name of the Truman Doctrine, Hemisphere defense and security, not only outright dictatorial governments, but the so-called "progressive" and "democratic" regimes in Brazil and Chile, to name but two, are unleashing a savage offensive, ostensibly against the Stalinist parties, but in reality against the working-classes in their respective countries.

Already the blood of Chilean workers has been shed by the Chilean army, one of those being equipped with American arms. And because economic difficulties are multiplying of the present time for the comprador bourgeoisie of Latin-America, it is a certainty they will utilize the ideological and material weapons provided by American imperialism to crush the masses.

The American workers and their organizations must speak out and condemn the Rio pact and every other expression of Washington's plan to imprison the Americas in a military straight-jacket. They must do so not only to demonstrate solidarity with these oppressed, semi-colonial peoples, but also to defend their own interests. The more Washington's reactionary plans succeed in Latin-America and Europe, the more confidently will the American ruling-class advance its attack on the masses at home. It is from this viewpoint that we present this and other articles that will deal with developments at the Rio Conference.

A CALL TO ACTION BY THE WORKERS PARTY

Don't Pay More Rent! Fight Against Evictions!

We herewith publish the opening section of a pamphlet on fighting the rent increase and evictions, written by Irving Howe for the Workers Party. The pamphlet will appear soon, and will sell for five cents. Orders may be sent in now.

THIS is a call to action. Every word in this pamphlet is intended as preparation for action by tenants in the present crucial rent situation. Every word is meant as ammunition in the desperate fight which American tenants have to wage against the landlords' attempt to raise rents. In that spirit this pamphlet is written; in the same spirit, we hope, it will be read; and most important of all, in the same spirit IT WILL LEAD TO TENANT ORGANIZATION AND ACTION!

What we have to say is very simple. We propose that tenants get together and organize on a house-to-house basis. We propose that tenants refuse to pay any more rent by taking a firm, united stand against the landlords. And that while they are doing this, they also organize to fight evictions in their neighborhood.

To achieve this aim, we propose the following specific steps:

(1) ORGANIZE THE TENANTS IN YOUR HOUSE OR BLOCK. Each house should have a tenants' committee, which represents the tenants as a whole and is elected by all the tenants. This committee should serve as the executive organ of the tenants, leading their fight. Tenant committees of the houses in a given neighborhood should get together to coordinate their work and help each other.

(2) The first point on the agenda of the tenants' committee should be a UNITED RESISTANCE TO ANY LANDLORD ATTEMPT TO RAISE RENTS! Under the law, you don't have to pay more rent... unless you agree. And there's no reason to agree. As we will show later in this pamphlet, the landlords are making UNPRECEDENTED profits. To agree to rent increases is to give yourself a wage cut. Agree in tenants' meetings to refuse rent increases in a body. DON'T PAY MORE RENT!

(3) There will unquestionably be a wave of landlord attempts in the next few months to evict a great many tenants. They will use all sorts of pretexts—"renovations," "need the place for themselves" and other legal dodges allowed by the jelly-fish "rent control" bill recently passed by Congress and signed by the President. IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THIS WILL BE THE MAIN DANGER! As soon as a landlord serves an eviction notice, get your tenants together; try to get the help of your neighbors and the neighborhood tenants' organization; and get busy.

How to Fight Evictions

(4) WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN EVICTION NOTICE!—Tenants should utilize all possible legal technicalities to fight eviction moves. (If court action is indicated, cheap legal aid can usually be had from local trade unions and tenant organizations.) But remember that this is a fight that has to be fought by the tenants themselves; it can't be left in the hands of lawyers, even your lawyers. That means tenants threatened with eviction must do the following:

(a) USE MASS PRESSURE. Run picket lines around the house you live in or around the office of your landlord. If the landlord is a bank or an insurance com-

pany with offices in the main part of town—so much the better; picket those offices where thousands of people will see. LET THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT "X" INSURANCE COMPANY OR "Y" BANK OR "Z" REAL ESTATE COMPANY IS TRYING TO THROW TENANTS OUT IN THE STREET!

(b) GET WIDE PUBLICITY. Newspapers are sensitive to the rent problem these days. Notify the papers that you're going to picket. Have attractive placards. Get wives and children out too; they're affected as much as anyone. Use imaginative stunts that will be good for pictures; in New York City some veterans pitched pup tents in front of the landlords' offices.

(c) GET POPULAR SUPPORT. Get all sorts of organizations—trade unions, veterans' groups, neighborhood clubs—to support you. Let them make miserable the life of the landlord who wants to throw you out, by bombarding him with protests, petitions. In that way the landlord will know that he has the great mass of the population against him. And get these organizations to join you in your picketing.

(d) If the eviction procedure goes through, remember the United Auto Workers Flying Squadrons plan in Detroit which promised to put back the furniture of any one who was evicted. That idea can be applied elsewhere. NO ONE SHOULD BE THROWN INTO THE STREET JUST BECAUSE A LANDLORD WANTS MORE PROFIT!

Organize for an Offensive!

(5) Tenant organization should work hand in glove with the labor movement of its city. Most tenants are themselves workers and union members. A jump in rent is the same as a cut in wages. If the union fights against

wage cuts, it should fight against rent increases. Get the unions out to help you; get them to set up housing committees for their city or area. The unions can and should be the bulwark of the tenants' fight.

(6) Don't only take defensive measures; organize for the offensive. Make a strict check on the services given you by your landlord. If any essential services are not provided, report him to your local Board of Health or Department of Housing or their local equivalent. You also have the right to request rent decreases from the local Office of Rent Control in cases where services have been decreased. Be vigilant in defense of your rights.

(7) Tenant organizations cannot concern themselves only with local issues. So long as there is no adequate housing program, there'll be a rent crisis. Together with trade unions, veteran groups and neighborhood clubs they should fight for such things as:

(a) Local legislation to declare a complete moratorium on evictions so long as there is a housing shortage.

(b) Local or state legislation to impose air-tight ceilings on rents.

(c) An adequate housing program to relieve the present shortage.

These, then, are a few of the things that have to be done immediately. Wherever there is a branch of the Workers Party—a party of militant socialism which fights for the rights of the workers and of all the poor—it stands ready and eager to help in the rent fight. That is why the Workers Party is publishing this pamphlet. In many areas, the Workers Party and its members are already deep in the fight in behalf of tenants' rights.

Hangings and Deportations Highlight Palestine War Between British Imperialists and Jews

By AL FINDLEY

The following three news items, epitomizing the Jewish problem, appeared in the press on Wednesday, July 30:

● NEWS ITEM: A large quantity of soap, manufactured from the bodies of Jewish concentration camp victims, was buried today in the Bukovina Jewish cemeteries with religious services.

● News Item: 4,500 Jews aboard three British deportation ships arrived at French ports and refused to land. They declare they "will not land as long as they are alive."

● News Item: British hang three Irgunists. Irgun announces it will hang two British sergeants.

To these items appearing on the same day should be added an earlier one: "United States Congress adjourns without action on the Stratton bill, which would allow some DPs to enter the U. S."

EMPIRE VERSUS JEWS

It is not hard to understand what is driving the Jews to migrate to Palestine. The first news item would be sufficient illustration. But to that is added the general decay and misery of post-war capitalist and Stalinist European society, plus the persistence and the continued growth of anti-Semitism in Poland, Hungary and Rumania. What would be hard to understand is that the Jews should choose to remain. To the Jewish DPs, the need for a new home is one of life and death.

It is this deep-rooted feeling and need that the British Empire stifles. The disintegrating British Empire that once ruled the world now finds itself impotent as against its rivals, the American and Russian imperialists. Its colonial empire is falling apart in India, Burma, etc. But there is still one group that the imperialists of Britain can dominate—the helpless Jewish immigrants to Palestine. The British Navy rammed and boarded the Exodus 1947 outside Palestinian territorial waters and put the 4,500 refugees on three small vessels lacking food, water and air, and shipped them back to the hell they had escaped. No longer are the British satisfied with sending these refugees to the concentration camps of Cyprus, where they at least have the consolation of a limited priority in admission to Palestine. This time the Foreign Office has set out to show those "d-n Jews" who rules the waves. Back they go to the port of embarkation—France.

Some Jewish journalists have attributed this viciousness to the personality of Bevin. How simple! But British cruelty to the Jews is not the result of personality or party. It began with the conservative Churchill in 1920, continued with the liberal Lord Samuel and the laborite Lord Pasfield, reached a height of viciousness in the "White Paper" of Chamberlain and remained the policy of war and post-war democratic England.

These men have this in common: They place "national" interests above anything else; they desire to perpetuate the Empire as long as possible.

For the sake of the Empire they are willing to sacrifice whatever liberal, human or "socialist" ideals they possess. The disintegrating British Empire is desperately attempting to maintain its grip on the Near East. For that it needs the support of large sections of the Arabian ruling class. The needs of the land-starved, usury ridden, Arab peasant, the desperate need of the Jews for a haven, are of

Jews Can't Tell One from 'Other



WINSTON CHURCHILL



ERNEST BEVIN

no importance as compared even with a temporary continuation of the Empire.

ZIONISTS DISCUSS ATTITUDE

These truths seem to be trickling into the minds of the leaders of Zionism, as can be seen by the reports that all parties in Palestine are now engaged in discussion for a fundamental re-evaluation of their attitude toward England. Prof. Brodetsky, English member of the Jew-

ish Agency, declared that "the actions of the British toward the 4,500 Jews on the Exodus 1947, ends all hope of cooperation between the Jews and England." The complete rupture of relations between the British occupation authorities and the Jewish population through mass civil disobedience, that had been decided on a year and a half ago and given up under pressure from bourgeois Zionists, is once again being talked about.

The Haganah, after a long period of inactivity, has swung into action again, attacking a radar station and blowing up a deportation ship. The "Neumuniel Haganah" group of militants in the Haganah, issued another demand for continued militant resistance by the Haganah.

Whether this militancy on the part of the official leaders of Zionism will endure, remains to be seen, the probabilities are that with the first minor coercion on England's part, such as sending the 4,500 to Malta or Africa, their militant talk will evaporate. Only the rank and file of the Jewish workers can see to it that militant resistance is continued.

HANGINGS, COUNTER-HANGINGS

The utter disregard of the imperialists for the lives of their own soldiers and the futility of the terrorist policy of the Irgun and Stern groups can be seen from the hangings and counter-hangings of last week.

The British condemned to death three Irgunists for participating in the attack on Acre prison. Disregarding an appeal from the UN Investigating Committee, the death sentences were confirmed. The Irgun, claiming that they were engaged in military espionage, kidnapped two British sergeants and let it be known that they would be hanged if the three Irgunists were executed. The kidnappers were punished by the imposition of military law on Nakhanya and other Jewish communities, but the combined efforts of the

British house-to-house search and Haganah action were unable to find the kidnapped soldiers.

The British government knew that the kidnapped soldiers would be hanged. Yet on Tuesday, July 29, the Irgunists were executed. During the last two years close to 200 British soldiers have been killed by underground activities. What are the lives of two more when the life of the Empire is concerned? The Foreign Office is willing to sacrifice ten, or one hundred times ten, if it will help the "City" (London equivalent of Wall Street) maintain its rule.

The Jewish population is expecting strong repressive measures as a result of the hangings. What they will be, no one knows. However, the High Commissioner has announced that last year's martial law will not be reimposed. Apparently the British have learned that such action is futile and only angers the population into greater sympathy with the terrorists. The government will concentrate its efforts toward forcing the Jewish Agency into active struggle against the terrorists.

DEMAND TROOPS GET OUT

While the government is deciding on what repressive actions it will take, it is closing its eyes to terrorist actions by fear-drunk soldiers and police, who twice invaded Tel-Aviv. The first time they indiscriminately shot and killed five Jews, and destroyed property; then ran amok in armored cars at the funeral of their five victims, injuring thirty-three more.

This complete demoralization of occupation troops is nothing new. It is the fate of all troops who face a hostile population and has always happened. These troops have a tendency to later become the tools of the most demagogic and reactionary elements of the home politicians. In the Palestinian situation, because of the close connection between anti-

Semitism and fascism, these troops are becoming ripe for Mosley's Union of British Fascists. At home, too, these incidents are being used by Mosley. For the first time in modern history, anti-Semitic pogroms (organized by the fascists) took place in three cities in England last weekend. The continued occupation of Palestine by British troops, will inevitably breed more incidents, which will be grieved for the fascist mill. It is therefore of immediate interest to the British working class to demand the immediate return of the troops.

The policy of the Irgun and Stern groups is a terrorist one. Terrorism to us is not a term of abuse. It is the term applied to the killing of oppressive rulers or their agents, in the belief that with the killing of an individual here and there the attention of the people will be aroused and that this slow attrition will force the oppressors to abandon or modify their policies. That is the declared aim of the Irgun and Stern groups. Whether their aims and objects are justified or not, their method is a futile one. It substitutes the actions of a few brave people for mass action by the entire population. In Palestine it has simply served the British as a FORMAL (not real) pretext for imposing restrictions on the population, for hanging seven Jews in the last six months.

The hanging of the two British soldiers has evoked an unprecedented flow of moral indignation. Starting from the Colonial Minister, Zionist leaders, the heads of both Judaism and Christianity and the usual assortment of liberals all have joined in an outpouring of moral precepts. We for our part do not share this moral indignation against the Irgun. While opposing their action and policies as futile and reactionary, we direct our indignation against the oppressors, those who "legally" murdered three misguided youths, those who prevent harassed and persecuted refugees from finding a haven.

Say "No!" To the Landlord - -

(Continued from page 1)

this question? First we tell the landlord "NO." We ORGANIZE as tenants to resist the landlords. We organize in the apartment building, in the block, in the area, in the WHOLE CITY. We refuse to pay more rent. We are paying far too much rent now. We tell the landlord we will only accept LOWER RENT, not higher rent.

There is something else we have to watch for: that is the attempt of the landlords to get higher rent by refusal to paint and make repairs. We demand repairs and new paint just as before.

We can do all these things if we are organized as tenants. There are more tenants than landlords. One landlord may be renting out a hundred houses or a thousand apartments. But that's one hundred or a thousand people against one. That's true, however, only if the thousand are organized. We are organized in

the factory, against the employer, let's get organized in the street against the landlord.

Suppose some hard-headed and arrogant landlords try eviction procedures. There are all sorts of landlord-made laws about how and under what conditions tenants may be evicted. The law varies from state to state. But, ORGANIZATION will take care of attempts at evictions. Evictions can be stopped by tenants, provided we are organized.

During the depression the unemployed workers organized in the National Unemployed League, stopped evictions. Hundreds and sometimes thousands of the unemployed would assemble at the home of the fellow worker who was to be evicted. When the deputy sheriff or the constable came with the eviction notice, he was not favorably received. There were times after the family had been evicted and the furniture placed on the sidewalk that the unemployed

organization would carry the furniture back into the house.

There are many ways to take care of this disgraceful attempt of the landlords to raise rents. But absolutely nothing effective can be done unless tenants are organized. We must be organized so that we can protect ourselves!

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The Campaign in Detroit

Examines Record And Backing of Mayor Jeffries

By HERMAN BENSON

DETROIT—The utter futility of the present political policy of the labor movement is about to be proved for the thousandth time in the Detroit municipal campaign. This time, the proof may take the form of a public farce.

Mayor Edward Jeffries has announced his candidacy for a fifth term. Here is a partial list of labor leaders, politicians and publicists who have already openly pledged their endorsement to Jeffries or who have hinted quite broadly that they might do so:

(1) The Communist Party of Michigan in recent issues of its weekly paper, The Michigan Herald, has praised Jeffries for assorted empty gestures on behalf of the "peopl." Those who know the Stalinist methodology have no doubt where they stand.

(2) United Public Workers, CIO, controlled by the Stalinists, was quoted in the press via its head, Yale Stuart, that it intended to support Jeffries regardless of what anyone else did.

(3) Tracy Doll, fellow traveler of the CP in the UAW, who has been rewarded for his services by elevation into the presidency of the Wayne County CIO, praised Jeffries at the recent Detroit CIO convention for a "job well done."

(4) George Edwards, president of the Common Council of Detroit, has publicly pledged his support to Jeffries and has disappointed his followers by withdrawing from the mayoral race. Edwards owes his rise to political face and fortune to the support of the UAW, of which he is a member. For a long while he has tried to balance himself between the factions in the UAW in order to have the support of all for his political career but by now he has reluctantly identified himself with the anti-Stalinist camp. Fearing that he would be unable to defeat Jeffries, he has endorsed him!

(5) Two of the three local Negro weeklies do not know what they will do. The editor of the Detroit Tribune indicated that they might support Jeffries if he is the lesser of "two evils." A spokesman for the Michigan Chronicle said speculatively: "There's an old saying: if you can't beat 'em, join 'em." This philosophical outlook would indeed be appreciated by the Negro victims of police assassinations in the 1943 riots... if only they weren't so dead.

TOUGH JOB

And so a glorious hour of good will seems to be striking in Detroit

politics. Everybody seems to be rallying to the standard of His Honor, the Mayor. However, you can always count on us! We have no intention of getting stuck in this thick molasses of hypocrisy.

There is nothing novel in seeing all sections of the labor movement scurry to scrape up votes for some capitalist politician. But generally the labor leaders feel obliged to prove that the man they support is a "friend of labor" or the "lesser of two evils" (or some other such profundity). It will be a performance well worth watching when the labor officials turn over backwards to hail Jeffries as a "pro-labor" candidate.

Jeffries is a Republican or at least enough of a Republican to have run in the last primaries for the Republican nomination for governor. We oppose him no more and no less as a Republican than as a Democrat. Both are the political tools of the capitalist class. But we remind our readers that the labor officials have always opposed the formation of a Labor Party because it might lead to the election of Republicans! The Stalinists, who have harped most monotonously on this theme, are the first to support Jeffries.

In 1941 Jeffries was elected to his second term as mayor with the support of the CIO. His opponent denounced him as a man supported by "radicals" and special interests (labor). By 1943 Jeffries had won the acclaim of fascist and Ku Klux elements in Detroit for his public endorsement of the murder of Negroes by the police during the riots and for his open adherence to the theories of racial segregation. In the elections of 1943 and again in 1945 he was opposed by the CIO, which spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to defeat him; but he won re-election nevertheless in campaigns which were unmatched in their appeals to anti-union and anti-Negro sentiments. He attacked the CIO-supported candidates as men supported by "radicals" and special interests (labor and Negroes) who want to establish a CIO dictatorship in the community.

And now for a "good job, well done" is he to get the support of workers in general and Negroes in particular?

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