

Work for a Workers World;
Join the Workers Party!

LABOR ACTION

OCTOBER 6, 1947

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIALISM

FIVE CENTS

Factions Fight For Control at NMU Sessions

By ARTHUR STEIN

NEW YORK, Sept. 30, 1947—The sixth national convention of the National Maritime Union (N.M.U.) opened here on Monday, Sept. 22. To date, none of the important issues before the convention have had a chance to come up for discussion, due to the fact that the first eight convention days have been consumed entirely by the work of setting up the convention machinery—the election of the various committees.

Thus, while it is possible to give a few preliminary impressions here, we will have to wait for a more rounded report until next week.

The intense factional warfare between the supporters of the president, Curran and the Communist Party (Stalinist) faction in the union came into the open the very minute the convention opened. Tested now by numerous votes on procedure, the strength of the two factions at the convention seems about equal. On September 22, the first day of the convention, the Stalinists lost a procedural point by a vote of 328 to 265. On the 24th, a credentials committee was elected, containing six supporters of Curran, eight Stalinists and one independent, who later was "converted" to vote with the Curran group. On the 26th, Curran won a ten to five majority on the important resolutions committee, while on the 27th, he lost a test vote on the seating of the Cleveland delegation by 360 votes to 336 votes, with nine delegates abstaining. Finally, the vote on the appeals committee on the 29th resulted in the election of ten members of the Curran caucus to five CPers.

As can be seen from these figures, the lines between the factions have not yet been distinctly drawn for a great number of the delegates, and it is difficult to predict how the vote will go on the major issues confronting the convention.

These issues, when looked upon from the point of view of the factional struggle, include such matters as the Curran proposal to increase the role of membership referendums at the expense of the Stalinist dominated national council; the Stalinists attempt to restore their Joe Stack to office; and finally, the determination of the Curran men to institute a number of democratic reforms to break the Stalinist bureaucratic stranglehold on the union.

Militant trade unionists find it necessary to support Curran in this fight, revolving, as it does, primarily around gaining greater democratic rights for the rank-and-file in the union. Nevertheless, they should not forget that there are many elements in the Curran camp whom they will have to fight tooth and nail once the Stalinist stranglehold is broken.

The Curran caucus is actually a bloc between various heterogeneous tendencies. First, there is a substantial number of expelled CP members, who, though they are still fond of calling themselves "Stalinists," have found it necessary to break with the CP bureaucracy on the issue of class-collaboration. This is the Keith-Dunne-Darcy group, which expresses its "pro-Stalin—anti-CP-USA" ideology in organs like "SPARK" and "NPC (New Committee for Publications) Reports." This tendency, though very healthy in its present struggle for union democracy, is hopelessly confused politically, and has not yet learned that the "opportunism" of which they complain in the CP leadership in the U. S. is actually integrally connected with the anti-socialist international politics of Stalinism.

The second tendency in the Curran bloc consists of that group of leaders who, under the general pressure of the drive toward war with Russia, and under the specific pressure of the Murray national leadership of the CIO, find it necessary to drift away from the pro-Russian CP in order to retain its "respectability" with the American capitalist class. Curran himself probably belongs to this tendency, together with some of his closest advisers in the National Council.

Finally, the Curran caucus has the support of a great number of genuinely militant rank-and-file who are sick of the sell-out policies of the union leadership during the war, and who correctly hold the Stalinists mainly responsible for this policy.

It is this last tendency which offers a real hope for NMU seamen. If it succeeds in working out a militant program against the shipowners and against government interference in union affairs, it will be able to unite the overwhelming majority of the membership in an all-out fight to drive the Stalinist bureaucrats from their positions in the NMU.

US, Russia Spokesmen Shape War Blocs at UN!

No Foundation!



Last week, Andrei Vishinsky, the prosecuting attorney in the Moscow frame-up trials and present Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, startled the UN with a bristling speech denouncing the United States as an imperialist aggressor, naming a number of leading personalities, from President Truman to Walter Winchell, as warmongers.

The speech of Vishinsky was Russia's answer to an earlier declaration by Secretary of State Marshall, who opened the new session of the UN with a presentation of the American view of the European crisis. Pointing the finger at Russia, he charged Stalin with keeping the continent in turmoil, obstructing the development of peace and interfering with the independence of

small nations, the democratic rights of minorities and majorities in the countries dominated by Stalin's troops.

Supporters of both camps "noted with surprise" the "unjustifiable charges" and "viewed with alarm" the situation inside the UN, yet the fact remains that both sides were fundamentally right about each other.

PREVIEW OF NEW WAR

The struggle over the Marshall Plan bears on the reconstruction of Europe and who shall dominate the continent. The war had no sooner ended than this "brave new world" saw all the danger of a new war in the open antagonism between powers which only yesterday had been joined in "a common struggle" against Hitler.

The last stages of the war, when Germany was clearly defeated, already saw the preview of this post-war period. Not all of the fanfare which accompanied the formation of the UN could hide the fact that the war produced two new world imperialist rivals, the United States and Russia, and that the struggle for control of a shrinking economic world would take place between these two giants.

The half-truths and falsehoods in the speeches of representatives of the two rival imperialists and their satellites are matched by their hypocrisy. The United States is not fighting for democracy and the economic well-being of Europe any more than Stalin is fighting for socialism. This is a conflict between the strongest capitalist imperialist nation in the world, driven by the needs of its profit system to organize and dominate the continent, and the Stalinist police state, driven by its own backwardness, poverty and consciousness of the irreconcilable relations with the United States, to extend its geographic, military and economic-political control of the very same Europe.

U. S. OBJECTIVES

Europe, laid waste by two world wars, the disintegration of capitalism and the years-long poverty it produced, is now virtually divided into two zones, separated, if not by a solid, immovable wall, then by opposing armies which can be moved in one direction or another. No genuine reconstruction of Europe is possible under present conditions, and certainly not under either American or Russian imperialism.

What American imperialism seeks in Europe is to halt Russian expansion. (Continued on page 3)

URW Militants Rebuff Weak Leadership

By E. J. McLAIN

BOSTON—The United Rubber Workers convention, which met in this city from September 15 to 22, was keynoted by the moral defeat suffered by the conservative President L. S. Buckmaster and the trimming down of his support on the International Executive Board. In the opening days of the convention, the rubber workers opposed Buckmaster by voting down proposed dues increases and salary raises for the international officers. Although Buckmaster was unopposed for the presidency, the opposition, led by George Bass, president of the powerful Goodrich Local-5, won a majority on the IEB. Later the delegates voted to postpone action on the vital issue of compliance with the Taft-Hartley law, despite Buckmaster's plea for obedience to the law.

The sharp inner-union struggle, witnessed in the elections and the dispute over the Taft-Hartley law, indicate the crystallization of a strong sentiment against Buckmaster's "labor statesmanship."

This was especially marked by the vote which postponed action on whether or not to qualify for use of the NLRB under the Taft-Hartley law. Buckmaster and the union's attorney, Patterson, pontifically advised the convention that the only American thing to do was to abide by the law. However, the convention voted to refer the matter to the incoming IEB for decision after the October CIO convention sets a national policy. (Buckmaster's attitude may be indicative of Murray's stand, for he is not in the habit of disagreeing with the general CIO line.)

PUSH SIX-HOUR DAY

Another resolution advocated by the convention advocated the spread of the six-hour day, 36-hour week, throughout the industry. To understand the full significance of this it is necessary to understand that the United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum & Plastic Workers Union of America (famously known as the URW) represents over 100,000 workers in these various industries, with the bulk of the membership concentrated in rubber. The largest locals are Goodrich, (Continued on page 2)

British Offer Does NOT Mean Free Palestine

Statement to UN Is Full of "Ifs" and "Buts"—Believed Aimed at Pressuring U. S. Acceptance of Morrison-Grady Plan

By AL FINDLEY

The statement by the British Colonial Secretary, Sir Arthur Creech-Jones, that Britain will withdraw from Palestine has the appearance of ending English imperialist rule in Palestine, but actually does no such thing.

The statement is so full of "ifs" and "buts" that it leaves the way open for the British to take any action they desire.

The Colonial Minister said that Britain agrees with the unanimous recommendation of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. He chose three points for special commendation: that the mandate be terminated; that Palestine become independent and that the displaced persons problem is an international one.

INCITE ARAB VS. JEW

England's agreement with the first point is nothing new. The Colonial Office has long been claiming that the mandate is unworkable and has long been frustrating the demands of both Jews and Arabs with the argument that the mandate is contradictory and does not allow for the satisfaction of either group because of its obligations to the other. While assuming this pious role in public pronouncements, the history of Palestine for the past twenty-five years amply proves that Britain actively engaged in inciting Arab against Jew and Jew against Arab.

It is no surprise that Britain is for the independence of Palestine. There is no imperialist ruler of any colony that does not claim that its real rea-

son for holding the colony in subjection and exploiting its inhabitants is to prepare them for independence.

With the Colonial Minister's endorsement of the principle that the DP problem is an international responsibility, there can be no disagreement, but this cannot serve as a pretext for preventing a particular group of people—the Jews—from going where they want to go, and not where His Majesty's government wants to send them.

IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS

The most sensational part of Creech-Jones' speech was the announcement that Britain would withdraw her forces from Palestine, with the implied threat that anarchy would result.

Britain's seeming readiness to withdraw is not exactly clear-cut and leaves the field open for her to take any action and still not be accused of inconsistency.

Neither the Jewish nor Arab masses of Palestine believe that the British will actually leave. Even the bourgeois leaders of both nationalities show little confidence in Britain's "threat."

Sir Arthur makes as a condition for a settlement of the Palestine problem, agreement between the present bourgeois leaders of Zionism and the semi-feudal leaders of the Arab Higher Committee. Anyone familiar with the problem knows that this is impossible. The only possibility for Arab-Jewish agreement lies with the peoples, against the wishes of their leaders.

One of the conditions set by Brit-

ain is that she is to be the judge of the "inherent justice" of the proposals. What Britain considers an "inherently just" solution of the Palestine problem is well known—the Morrison-Grady plan of last year, under which the British remain in complete control of the central administration of Palestine.

U. S. DILEMMA

The main object of the present British statement, according to one report in the Jewish Morning Journal, is to force the United States to accept the Morrison-Grady plan and "sell" it to the Jews. It is a well-known fact that the U. S. does not want Britain to evacuate Palestine, because of the State Department's estimate of the strategic needs of the Anglo-American bloc.

United States imperialism is not quite ready to step in and take over, and at the same time is committed to help establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Taft, Dewey and Martin, leaders of the Republican Party, already have expressed their support of the UNSCOP plan. Truman and the Democrats have been placed on the horns of a dilemma by their British allies: either support us and lose the Jewish vote or we will throw the whole thing in your laps.

A week before the Creech-Jones statement, the Jewish press reported that the State Department was divided on the acceptance of the UNSCOP report and that a group of career diplomats had approached the permanent diplomatic staff of the Jewish Agency with proposals for a compromise along the lines of the Anglo-American Committee report and the Morrison-Grady plan. This of course explains Marshall's neutrality—Washington has not yet made up its mind.

RUSSIA'S REACTION

Russia's Vishinsky reacted in a peculiar manner to the projected British evacuation from Palestine.

Although Russia has long demanded such evacuation, Vishinsky did not welcome it but denounced it by saying that it meant "the evacuation of the Jews." That is obviously untrue. The removal of British troops can only aid both the Jews and Arabs.

What Vishinsky inadvertently exposed was that Russia is not interested in getting the British out in order to make the country independent. Russia is only interested in substituting some arrangement whereby Stalinist imperialism can move in. Since this plan of British evacuation does not include such an arrangement, it does not serve Russia's purpose.

The liberals, the so-called "internationalists" of the UN variety, who pretend to be anti-imperialists, are all demanding that some form of imperialist army, whether British or UN, be used to impose a settlement in Palestine during a transition period.

These "anti-imperialists" ignore the fact that no transition period is necessary, that the country and the peoples are ready for immediate independence. Only the most unrealistic optimist can expect justice from the UN. Independence for both Jews and Arabs in Palestine can only be achieved by pressure of the colonial peoples and the workers of the world.

basis was laid. William G. Nicholas, director, international housing department, UAW-CIO, was elected chairman. Ben Probe, co-ordinator, 13th Congressional District, Wayne County CIO Council, was elected secretary-treasurer. It is interesting to note that the Greater Detroit Tenants' Council is still in the process of being formed and no doubt the members of the Executive Board will not be chosen by virtue of ability and amount of work done. This has already been too clearly demonstrated by Nicholas' choice for vice-president of the council, a Mr. Rosen, who is a tax consultant. Rosen's whole policy has been one of toning down any militant program suggested.

CALL LANSING MARCH

On September 22, Nicholas called an emergency meeting of the most active people in the Greater Detroit Tenants' Council. The purpose of this meeting was to make plans for

visit with Mayor Jeffries on September 24 in order to make him act on a rent control law or expose him. As Nicholas put it, "Let us put the mayor on the spot and show the people of Detroit that the mayor doesn't want rent control." Four questions were devised to ask the mayor.

1. Does the mayor agree that an emergency exists on the basis that at least 200 evictions occur a day?

2. Will the mayor march with the tenants to Lansing on September 27 in order to force the governor to include the enabling act on the agenda of the special session of the Legislature September 29?

3. Will the mayor get the other mayors of the state of Michigan to exert pressure on the governor?

4. In the event the governor does not place the enabling act on the agenda, would the mayor be willing immediately to ask the Detroit Council for the enactment of a city rent control and eviction law?

Detroit Tenants March on Lansing

Greater Detroit Tenants Council Gets Sample of Mayor Jeffries' Views on People's Needs

By TOM WINTERS

DETROIT, Sept. 28—The past week was a busy one for the Greater Detroit Tenants' Council which was formed August 28 at the request of various Detroit tenants' councils with the aid of the Wayne County Council, CIO.

Although many Detroit tenants had long been agitating for a city-wide organization to co-ordinate the activities of all councils of Detroit, the Wayne County Council was slow in acting. Ben Probe, head of housing activities of the Wayne County CIO, appeared to be deeply concerned with the problems facing tenants but was unwilling to take those organizational steps on which real tenants' work rested. Finally, when the tenant pressure became great enough (and one must not forget that election time is getting pretty close), the Greater Detroit Tenants' Council was organized.

On August 28 the organizational

meeting with Jeffries was a

(Continued on page 3)

In Next Week's Labor Action:

"HENRY WALLACE—THE BIG WIND FROM IOWA,"
a full-page article by Jack Ranger.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Which Union for Telephone Workers?

BALTIMORE—Joseph Bieme, president of the telephone workers union, made a poor showing for himself and his cause of independent unionism at a recent meeting in this city, addressed also by AFL and CIO speakers, on the subject of which union would be best for the telephone workers.

He didn't find it easy to explain why, after eight years in which independent unionism has dominated the telephone field, thousands of former union members are now turning to the CIO and AFL for unionization. The best he could offer was that, in the far and vague future, AFTER the AFL and CIO have united, he would be glad to join a united movement. He even offered his services to help them get together. Meanwhile, he is fighting every move of telephone workers to get into the AFL or CIO.

Bieme's arguments were demagogic throughout. Half-truths, used for grandstand play, constituted his stock in trade. For example, in answer to a question on the anti-Communist affidavit he ignored the principles involved by stating that CWA officers had all signed them, and that he would be glad to testify if they were not Communists. Unfortunately, he got the applause he was looking for. On a question about qualifications of CWA organizers, he claimed to forget the names of the organizers who, he knew, were under criticism, and instead boasted of two organizers because they had beaten the AFL and CIO in an election. He failed also to mention the company union arguments and pressure used to swing those campaigns.

The AFL speaker finally got too much and laced into Bieme in the summary, saying that it is much easier to tell people what they want to hear than to tell them what they ought to know. He also reminded Bieme that independent unions, with

a background of having developed from company unions (which Bieme admits is the history of the telephone union), have a way of falling to pieces.

UNIONS IN FIELD

The Baltimore mass meeting was a copy of several that have been held in different parts of the country since the telephone strike. Three unions, the independent Communications Workers of America, an AFL and a CIO union are fighting it out for control of the telephone workers' organization.

Immediately after the strike, the National Federation of Telephone Workers changed its loosely federated set-up of autonomous locals into the new Communications Workers of America. The CWA is more strongly centralized than the old telephone union, but has the same weak-kneed, incompetent union policies and the same hodge-podge organizational set-up that has existed since company union days in the telephone industry.

Anti-CWA sentiment is strong enough so that the union is finding it hard to get enough support to meet company requirements for official recognition.

Both the AFL and CIO are taking advantage of an obvious movement of telephone workers to break away from their old independent union.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, already had a few telephone workers organized, and has won the affiliation of two more groups of telephone workers since the strike.

TWOC BEST BET

The CIO has stepped into the picture and set up the Telephone Workers Organizing Committee as a start toward a telephone international.

Long lines locals of the old NFTW, with 22,000 workers employed by the AT&T all over the country, have already voted for TWOC by membership referendum. The telephone in-

stallation union, also having about 20,000 workers scattered all over the country, is voting on TWOC affiliation. Several small locals have already affiliated and others are taking votes.

Most progressive union people in telephone believe that the TWOC-CIO is the best possible chance for a strong union, but know it may have a tough row to hoe for a while. It will even have to compete with two Stalinist-controlled CIO internationals that already have a toehold in the telephone field. The UE-CIO has one small Western Electric plant now and has campaigned in others. They claim jurisdiction because of the similarity to work in General Electric and Westinghouse. They refuse to consider the special relation of Western Electric to the telephone in-

dustry because of its monopoly control by AT&T.

Communist Party members are refusing to support the TWOC where it is competing against CWA. On the West Coast, the Stalinist-controlled American Communications Association has a few telephone locals that left the old NFTW. It appears that both the UE and the ACA will battle it out, even if it means a jurisdictional fight against a telephone union chartered by the CIO.

Telephone workers will do well if they can see through this maze of competing organizations and settle on the TWOC as best for them because it can provide strong and militant backing from the CIO at the same time that it will give them their own international union.

Notes on West Coast Labor Movement...

By WILLIAM BARTON

OAKLAND, Calif., Sept. 25—The Mayoralty Election campaign in San Francisco has begun to shape up along lines that are typical of recent years. Roger Lapham, incumbent, leading shipowner and former official employers' representative on the waterfront, will not run again. He has endorsed the candidacy of City Supervisor (legislator) Chester MacPhee, thereby assuring opposition of the labor movement and support of the "downtown" business interests. The CIO and most of the AFL are supporting Democratic Congressman Frank Havenner, "New Deal" Democratic spokesman. Although the election is officially "non-partisan," Havenner has the active and avowed support of the Democratic County Central Committee. Another candidate is Superior Judge Elmer Robinson, who seems to have the under-

cover support of some extremely conservative AFL officials and the Hearst press. Also running is one George E. Reilly, whose supporters are rumored to be throwing their weight increasingly in Robinson's direction. It all seems mighty involved; but one thing seems clear—there is no real labor candidate in the bunch. Watch for more extensive accounts in later issues of LABOR ACTION.

The East Bay AFL has won another conspicuous trade union victory. The Retail Grocers Association has completely agreed to the demands of the Retail Food Clerks, Local 870, for a \$10 a week increase for clerks and a \$13 increase for store managers, thus ending a week long lockout by the large chains and super markets following a strike in three stores in Oakland, Berkeley and Alameda. The Association simply declared "We have lost the fight," and, in the spirit of bosses' solidarity that has been very prevalent in the area in recent times, it violently attacked the many independent grocers who refused to join the lockout.

To the members of the Alameda County AFL: You have continued to show the way to the rest of the country. Never forget that by your common action you have made it clear that you can be invincible. The AFL National Convention will be held in San Francisco very soon. Make sure your delegates use the events of the past year in the East Bay as an example of how the labor movement can meet the offensive of the bosses and their government stooges!

The strike of Warehousemen's Local 6 against Sears-Roebuck is thus far completely successful after one week, despite attempts to keep retail stores running after AFL clerks had refused to pass CIO picket lines. At

though managerial employees are frantically striving to keep the stores going during a much advertised 61st anniversary sale, the effective support by working class consumers has so reduced patronage that customers can be counted on fingers by the hour. It formerly required an armored truck to carry the day's receipts; now one messenger easily carries it in a constantly decreasing small envelope.

Senator (let 'em eat less) Taft's reception on the West Coast has been as expected. A meeting he addressed in San Francisco was picketed by 1,500 people, mostly trade unionists. In Los Angeles, where they always do things differently, an equally large picket line was accompanied by a CIO-sponsored contingent of six individuals in masks caricaturing Taft. A city ordinance was dug up to actually arrest the six for a short time. Great stuff, fellows, but I hope you realize it will take more than ridicule to lick Taft and company.

Reports have come to this correspondent of an excellent trade union seminar conducted by the University of California Extension in conjunction with the UAW. Although sabotaged by the Stalinist-right wing (and I do mean "right wing") leadership of Local 76 in Oakland and Local 570 in Richmond, the two-day sessions were attended by about a dozen rank and file members.

Conducted by the National Education Department of the union with support by some of the University faculty, all reports indicate that the meetings were very fruitful in giving the attending unionists some idea of how they can meet their current and coming problems. As significant as the classes themselves was the speech delivered by National Education Director Victor Reuther at the banquet following the sessions. The speech has been reported as an out and out attack upon the failure of capitalist America to provide plenty and security despite its tremendous technology. The solution offered was a vague "evasive appeal for militant trade union activity, consumers cooperatives, and political action not based on "company union" politics.

The speech revealed a significant thing: as advanced as the leaders of the Reuther caucus may be, they and their type cannot fill the bill as the group that will lead the American workers in the coming period. They stop short right at the crucial point—the need to overthrow the entire system by working class independent action. The advocacy and achievement of that necessary task can be instituted only under the leadership of the revolutionary socialist vanguard—represented today in the U. S. by the Workers Party.

Maryland PCA Director Forgets to Tell Who Runs Democratic, Republican Parties

By RICHARD STARKS

BALTIMORE, Sept. 19—The Maryland Progressive Citizens of America held an open air rally at Harlem Square at which time speakers urged the people to resist rent and price increases. Duke Avnet, president of PCA, told listeners that Congress should re-establish OPA as an immediate step toward bringing prices down to pre-war levels. He said that the monopolists who control the large factories and meat packing plants in America also control the men in Congress and consequently they were able to force Congress to abolish the OPA. He then stated that in the local and national elections voters should cast their ballots for Democrats or Republicans who promise to pass laws in the interests of the people.

Duke Avnet of PCA forgot, however, to tell his audience that the Republican and Democratic PARTIES are also controlled by those same big business men who forced Congress to abolish the OPA. PCA is correct in calling for im-

mediate re-establishment of OPA to roll back prices. To that end, working people of Baltimore must form price control committees through their unions and neighborhood clubs to put pressure on their representatives in Congress NOW.

But OPA is not enough. What is to stop those same industrialists and food monopolists from REFUSING to sell their products except through the black market and at black market prices? What is to stop those same industrialists and food monopolists from forcing Congress to limit the powers of the OPA just as they did during the war? Remember, even under OPA prices did rise.

If the people are to have PERMANENT control of prices, they themselves must have control of the factories, the meat packing plants and the wholesale food markets. The workers in factories all over the country must operate those factories and sell the manufactured products of those factories at prices which will suit the pocketbooks of themselves, their families and all workers.

Radio Address by Herman Benson, WP Candidate

Cast Socialist Vote in Detroit!

Herman Benson, candidate of the Workers Party for Mayor of Detroit, was invited to speak over station WJR as a participant in an election forum. The following is the text of his speech as submitted:

I am running for mayor on the working class platform of the Workers Party.

The political representatives of big business have been chopping away at the rights of the working people. We have failed to stop these attacks. Why?

Are we too feeble? Of course not! The organized labor movement counting 20 million in its ranks is more powerful than ever before in history. This strength, however, is squandered by the suicidal political policies stubbornly pursued by the top officials of our unions.

William Green and Philip Murray; Walter Reuther and George Addes; Matthew Woll and the followers of the fake Communist Party rally upon the so-called friends of labor politicians in the Democratic and Republican parties. These politicians, because they are capitalist politicians play the game of big business.

Truman, elected with labor's vote, broke the railroad strike by threatening to draft all strikers. The Congress of 1944, elected with labor's vote, sabotaged price control and by-passed every need of the people. As a protest against this very Congress which they had elected, millions of workers stayed away from the polls in 1946 or voted Republican.

The lowest level of absurdity is reached in the present elections. The CIO does not even oppose a candidate to Jeffries who fought it so bitterly in 1943 and 1945. The AFL deserts Jeffries whom it helped to elect in 1945 only to support Van Antwerp, who is no different from him.

A vote for my candidacy is a vote for a Declaration of Independence by labor; for an independent Labor Party without ties to the Democratic and Republican parties, formed by the convocation of a National Congress of Labor representing unions, veterans' groups, Negro organizations and tenants' councils.

For the declaration of a housing emergency, the freezing of rents at June levels, and a moratorium on

evictions. For the enforcement of the Diggs Civil Rights law against discrimination, for the abolition of restrictive covenants, and for full social, political and economic equality for Negroes and all minorities.

For a national 250 billion dollar five year program of public works

New York Meeting on Second Anniversary Of Viet Nam's Declaration of Independence

NEW YORK CITY, Sept. 23—This evening, at the Hotel McAlpin, a large gathering of friends and supporters of Viet Nam independence met to salute the Viet-Nam Republic on its second anniversary. On the platform were representatives from many Southeast Asian countries, some of them delegates from their governments to the United Nations.

Prominent among the latter was Madame Pandit, sitting in the United Nations for the Indian government. While she stated her belief in the United Nations, in effect her speech was an appeal to by-pass that body. For she emphatically proclaimed that only the peoples of the world uniting for peace can bring peace. The representative from Pakistan derided the democratic nations. He said they shouted only when they were the victims of race superiority, but themselves practiced that vice against their colonies. Referring to the French fight against the Viet-Nam people, still raging in a useless effort of imperialism to save itself, he wondered how the French people just released from the Nazi yoke, could seek to enslave another people.

Among the speakers from this country were Norman Thomas, Harold Isaacs and Pearl Buck. Norman Thomas blasted imperialism and spoke for internationalism, but as usual was indefinite on the "how" of it. Rather, in his usual wishy-washy manner, he contradicted that expressed ideal by using "we" in referring to the actions of the United States government, as if it were consistent with Socialist goals to bracket himself with the capitalist government. Harold Isaacs made most of the few down-to-earth remarks of the evening. He said that

financed by taxing the rich capitalists and bankers. Of this sum, three billion dollars can provide new, low-cost housing for 200,000 families in the Detroit area.

For a Workers' Government and a world of peace, security and equality through the socialist reorganization of society.

if the world-powerful United States government wanted to, it could stop the criminal war that the British, French and Dutch are now waging against the colonial peoples. He also blamed the French Communist Party for the inaction of the French workers before the senseless slaughter by the French government of Viet-Namese patriots.

Pearl Buck's speech was the expression of a discouraged heart and a rudderless mind in politics. She spoke of the American people as a nation of underdeveloped children, seeking only happy endings, unread in political matters, unaware of the meaning of events. She called upon the Asiatic peoples, in their spiritual awakening, to go into the highways and by-ways of America and teach the people here what they should know. Aside from the tinge of irony in her description of the American people, her remarks were merely puzzling.

On the second anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Viet-Nam Republic, LABOR ACTION and the WORKERS PARTY send revolutionary greetings to the workers and peasants of Viet Nam, and pledge support and every possible help in their fight not only against the foreign invading robbers, but also against the native oppressors and betrayers of the peoples' interests.

S. G.

(In a coming issue, LABOR ACTION will publish a highly interesting account of the Trotskyist movement in Indo-China, its development, its mass strength, its persecution and its conflict with the Viet Nam leadership.—Ed.)

URW Militants - -

(Continued from page 1)

Firestone and Goodyear, all located in Akron.

The URW was among the first industrial unions formed in the CIO and has a strong, militant tradition. Among its victories is the six-hour day and 36-hour week in Akron, which it has held onto except for a short period during the war. The center of power lies in the 60,000 employed in the Akron rubber plants. Having learned that the larger units are most militant precisely because of their unified strength, the four big companies have, in the past few years, tended toward decentralization with the view of weakening the union, and seeking cheaper sources of labor. There are a large number of these small, subsidiary plants all over the country as well as plants of smaller companies. In most of these the eight-hour day and 40-hour week obtain. They are, therefore, constantly under the pressure of the larger locals to negotiate for the six-hour day.

In addition to the above, the convention heard an appeal by Salerno, president of the Massachusetts CIO, for local union co-op committees to

buy groceries and sell them at cost price to union members. A resolution was passed calling for an enlarged consumer-co-op committee.

SKIRT POLITICAL ACTION

A number of good resolutions were passed in the closing hours of the convention, but because they were rushed through, their effectiveness in the formation of URW policy was handicapped. Thus resolutions for federal non-profit housing, for a uniform health and welfare program, for support of the CIO-PAC fight to repeal the Taft-Hartley law, for an effective anti-lynching bill, received little more than lip service. Conspicuously absent was a Labor Party resolution.

Given a period of dizzily rising prices, and a consequent decline in the standard of living, along with the ravages of labor-baiting legislatures, this convention did accomplish something. It showed a partially realized desire for tougher leadership in economic struggles, but failed to understand that without political aggressiveness and organization, the economic gains can be systematically destroyed.

Stalin's Poland

An analysis of the political and economic structure of Poland helps throw light on the problems of all the Eastern European countries and Stalinism in general.

LABOR ACTION and THE NEW INTERNATIONAL (its companion theoretical monthly magazine) have carried more articles analyzing the events in Poland than any other publications in the United States.

Here are just a few of the articles that you have missed if you haven't been a subscriber to LABOR ACTION and THE NEW INTERNATIONAL:

THE POLISH RESISTANCE AGAINST STALINIST RULE—Portrait of a "Country on Wheels," by Andrzej Rudziński (Labor Action, 8-25-16)

THE PROBLEMS OF THE POLISH REVOLUTION, by A. Rudziński (The New International, August, 1946, Part I—September, 1946, Part II)

THE CLASS NATURE OF THE POLISH STATE, by Ernest Eber (The New International, July, 1947, Part I—August, 1947, Part II)

ANTI-SEMITISM AND POLISH LABOR, by A. Rudziński (The New International, January, 1947)

THE TRADITIONS OF POLISH SOCIALISM—The Influence of Rosa Luxemburg, by A. Rudziński (The New International, February, 1947)

THE REFERENDUM IN POLAND,

by A. Rudziński (Labor Action, 9-2-46)

A LETTER FROM A READER ON POLAND—A Reply by Irving Howe (Labor Action, 2-3-47)

THE THIRD FRONT OF SOCIALISM IN POLAND, by A. Rudziński (Labor Action, 5-5-47)

WHO HEADS THE STALINIST QUILLING GOVERNMENT IN POLAND?—The GPU Agents Masquerade as Life-Long Revolutionists, by A. Rudziński (Labor Action, 3-47)

A TRAGEDY THAT BLEEDS—Katyń Massacre, by A. Rudziński (Labor Action, 6-30-47)

We have listed only ten out of 32 articles that have appeared in LABOR ACTION and THE NEW INTERNATIONAL since the beginning of 1946. You can obtain a complete list of these articles by writing to our office. They are for sale: New International, single copies 35 cents

—Labor Action, single copies 10 cents.

But why don't you get all these articles and make certain that you will not miss future ones? Simply subscribe for one year to LABOR ACTION and THE NEW INTERNATIONAL at the regular rates and we will send you a complete set of all 32 articles.

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4 Court Square
Long Island City 1, N. Y.

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Editorials

Freedom Train

It is interesting, and amusing as well, to watch the desperate efforts of the daily press to whip up some popular interest in the "Freedom Train," a propaganda project sent out by the Washington administration to play up the virtues of capitalist "freedom." No less appropriate occasion could have been found for this project, for it comes at a time of popular irritation with problems of daily life. Who will get very excited about a "freedom train" when grimly noticing that the actual buying power of each week's pay check decreases each time prices go up? What most American workers would appreciate would be a good long freight train loaded with goods selling at pre-war prices!

Yet to a socialist there is a certain irony in the idea of a capitalist government sending around a "freedom" train. We cannot help asking a few questions about it.

The "freedom train" has announced that when it gets down south, no discrimination against Negroes will be permitted in its environs. But the very fact that it must make such an obviously embarrassed announcement indicates how absurd are its claims that its much-vaunted "freedom" actually extends to the millions of Negroes who live in this country. For what happens once the "freedom train" leaves? Segregation, Jim Crow, discrimination continue as the basic pattern of American life. For the Negro, then, the "freedom train" is nothing but a whiff of smoke.

For the class conscious worker, who remembers the record of struggle which the American labor movement has had to put up in order to gain its rights and who is aware of the present attempt to deprive American labor of these rights, the "freedom train" raises a number of other questions.

Will there be an exhibit devoted to Sacco and Vanzetti?

And another for Tom Mooney?

And a third for the innumerable martyrs of American labor struggle, the martyrs of Haymarket and Centralia and Memorial Day in Chicago?

For LABOR ACTION the only real freedom train is that train which takes the form of the great mass movement of the American working class. This is the train which will really reach the station of its basic needs and its ultimate freedom when it adopts that good old socialist engine and abandons the obsolete caboose of playing around with capitalist politicians. Yes sir! Put a socialist engine on the working class train—and THAT'll be a real freedom train!

Big Business

The power of big business in government has rarely been so obvious as it is under the Truman administration. Although the profiteers were always sufficiently represented in the successive New Deal governments of Roosevelt, the times called for a more skillful coloring to sustain the claimed impartiality of a capitalist government. With the war, this began to change swiftly and Roosevelt called upon big business to take charge of the various parts of the government, releasing most of his New Deal aides who were so necessary to his administration during the years of economic crisis.

Truman, however, has not merely picked up where Roosevelt left off, he continued the policy inaugurated by Roosevelt to a point where not one of the men Roosevelt had around him is left. Bankers, businessmen and personal cronies now make up the administration. There is the St. Louis banker, Snyder, and the Wall Street banker, Forrester, who heads the merged military departments of the government. The latest appointments to the air corps include: Arthur S. Barrows, president of Sears, Roebuck and Co. and director of the Illinois Continental Bank as undersecretary and Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, chairman of Pan American Airways, as assistant secretary.

Gen. William Draper, former vice president of the Wall Street investment house of Dillon Read, was made Assistant Secretary of War. It was Draper who, according to Drew Pearson, appointed to his staff a former Dillon Read representative in Germany, Dr. Alexander Kreuter, who "had been a contributing member of Hitler's SS Corps."

These are merely a few examples among an endless number which show how the government is fused with big business. Is it any wonder then, that the economic and political policies emanating

from Washington are calculated to defend and promote the interests of the profiteers? It is their government; they run it.

This little incident merely emphasizes how foolish is the political activity of the official labor movement when it seeks to elect this or that "friend" running on the tickets of the Republican and Democratic parties which are both dominated by the big monopolists. They are not merely deluding themselves in thinking that labor can win or accomplish anything by such a suicidal policy, but are deceiving the tens of millions of workers in this country.

There is only one way out of such a situation: organize an independent labor party, based on the trades unions and workers' organizations of every variety. We must fight the economic battle of labor and of all the common people with a political weapon, a party based on the vast majority of the people, with a program designed to represent their interests. Begin now the fight for a government of labor, of the vast majority whose meagre livelihood depends on their daily toil.

What Is Happening In Stalinist Poland?

By ABE STEIN

As in the other Russian dominated countries of Central-Eastern Europe, the complete annihilation of all political opposition which carries support among workers and peasants is on the order of the day in Poland. With one hand the Warsaw regime is striking out against the working-class by arresting and bringing to trial before secret military tribunals, many important leaders of the Socialist Party (not the Socialist Party organized by the Quisling regime) which has been declared illegal by the regime. (Last week's LABOR ACTION carried the story of these arrests and an appeal on behalf of these Socialist prisoners by the Polish Socialist Party delegation abroad.) With the other hand the Warsaw police regime has already set in motion the whole infamous apparatus of arrests, denunciation, frame-up trials and long prison terms against outstanding representatives of the PSL (Polish Peasant Party).

On September 10, a military court in Cracow sentenced nine persons to death and seven others to long imprisonment on the usual unproven charge of espionage for a foreign power, and of being connected with the democratic underground movement known as the WIN (Freedom and Independence) group. Unlike previous trials of the same kind which were aimed primarily at annihilating the WIN and discrediting it as the tool of foreign imperialism and a fascist organization, the Cracow frame-up was also directed at the leadership of the Peasant Party.

Among those sentenced to 10 and 15 years in prison were four leading members of Mikolajczyk's Peasant Party. They are, Stanislaw Miraszewski, deputy secretary-general of the PSL; Karol Buczek, editor of the PSL paper in Cracow; K. Starmach, a Polish Peasant district leader, and M. Kabat, Polish Peasant Party functionary.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR RESISTANCE

If the Warsaw Stalinists follow in the footsteps of the Hungarian, Bulgarian and Rumanian Stalinists, then it is only a question of weeks or at most months until they arrest Stanislaw Mikolajczyk and his closest collaborators and either sentence them to long imprisonment or execute them. It is hardly necessary to point out that a similar fate is in store for the Socialist Party leaders.

While we do not underestimate the power of the Stalinist machine, it is absolutely correct to assert that the Stalinists face serious difficulties in carrying out their criminal designs in Poland. Although the Warsaw regime is trying to hide the fact, the Polish proletariat is in a rebellious mood. In the most industrialized centers of Poland, such as Lodz, Silesia and Dombrowa, important strikes continue to take place. And as Comrade Rudzinski recently wrote, these places are the traditional strongholds of the revolutionary workers organizations. The advanced workers are opposed to the Stalinist regime and support the real PPS which is now illegal.

Indeed, so strong is this opposition to the Stalinists that it even finds expression in the fake Socialist Party which shares governmental power with the Stalinists. Just how far the Stalinists will go depends on how much resistance the workers demonstrate against the attempt to liquidate their avowed leaders. How much resistance the Polish workers exert will depend in turn on what kind of support they get from the international labor movement.

FIGHT THE FRAME-UPS

To what degree the poorer peasants who constitute the backbone of the Peasant Party will react to this attempt to liquidate the PSL and its leadership is impossible to tell. But the Polish peasantry is just as much oppressed now as under the pre-war regime of the Colonels or under the Nazi's. And neither the Colonels nor the Nazis were able to break the fighting spirit of the Polish peasantry.

Should the Warsaw police regime succeed in eliminating all political opposition from the scene, then the Polish workers and peasants will have suffered the most crushing of all blows. It should be added that the crushing of the peasant and worker anti-Stalinist opposition is designed as an obstacle in the way of creating and building a revolutionary Socialist party in Poland.

Because the murderous "consolidation" of the Stalinist regime in Poland means a continuation of national oppression, and deprives the Polish workers and peasants of the right to democratically decide their own fate, the Workers Party calls upon the international labor movement to denounce and fight the monstrous frame-ups which the Warsaw Quislings are preparing at Stalin's behest.

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.....

Spokesmen for Russia and US Line-Up War Blocs at UN--

(Continued from page 1)
...and to bring some stability to the present temporary division of the continent in order to prepare its reserves for the coming world war. That is the meaning of the Marshall Plan. It does not seek to take away what Stalin has already seized, in Europe. It does not propose to come to the assistance of the rebellious peoples living under the police regimes in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Yalta and Potsdam had consigned a large part of that world to Russia—without the consent of the peoples inhabiting these Eastern European countries.

No, the Marshall Plan seeks to "contain" Russia within those territories and says: All right, you have gone far enough. Since Russia will not, and cannot be contained by diplomatic request, the Marshall Plan seeks to halt Russian expansion by the creation of a Western bloc, sustained by American capital and dollars.

The Plan is likewise calculated to strengthen America's economic position in Europe. American capitalism cannot sustain its present level of production without vastly expanding its control of the world economy. Wasteland or not, Europe is a key to America's capitalist economic future. Hence the United States aims to secure its own domination of the continent by containing Russian expansion and establishing class peace in the countries of the West.

And while each of the European countries not now controlled by Russia has a different importance to America's plan, all of them are decisive in one way or another to its success: Greece, Italy, France, the Low Countries, etc. It has already led to a sharp intervention in the

internal affairs of these countries and made it possible for Vishinsky, his own hands bloodied by the legal murders of the Moscow Trials and the destruction of countless revolutionary workers and peasants in Eastern Europe, to make capital out of America's role in Europe, in the very same way that Marshall did in describing Russia's imperialist role in Europe.

A THIEVES' KITCHEN

But in reality nothing new has been disclosed by the present debate in the UN. LABOR ACTION pointed out long ago that a world body composed of imperialist powers, bankrupt capitalist countries and colonial nations, could only reflect the antagonism of a class society and the instability of the police regimes that exist in many of the totalitarian regimes using the label of democracy.

Originally organized as a body to do the bidding of the big powers, it devised a system of vetoes in the hands of the Big Five which guaranteed the unworkability of the UN. It reduced all small countries to rubber stamps of the big powers.

Every important world problem of peace, from peace treaties to control of the atom bomb, has been postponed by the UN because it could not and cannot now resolve the antagonism which exists between the powers, each seeking survival in a declining world at the expense of the other.

The UN is merely the sounding-board for the powers from which they declaim to the world with all the hypocrisy at their command that which is not true: that they are striving to organize the peace of the world.

In truth, however, the UN is the arena in which the organization of

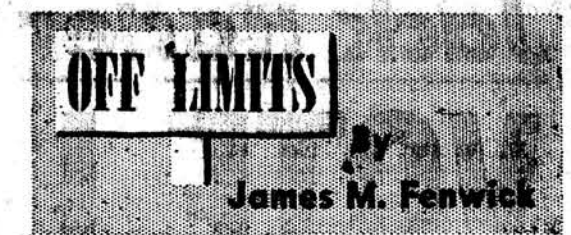
the Third World War is being prepared now.

EUROPE SUFFERS

The European continent suffers deeply in this conflict. On top of the normal contradictions of capitalism, Europe has experienced the two most destructive wars in the history of mankind. The flower of the European population is dead; incalculable wealth has been destroyed; the continent is hungry and millions are homeless. And yet this great continent of tens of millions of people could reconstruct a new world, given the conditions of peace and the unification of all countries on a socialist basis.

But there is no genuine hope for a divided Europe; singly or in blocs, none of the nations can revive their economies and embark on the high road of economic reconstruction. In addition to the peril of a Third World War, the continent is sharply divided. The absence of a United States of Socialist Europe can only drag out the present crisis. Neither a Stalinist-dominated Europe, nor an American, can provide the answer to the real needs of the people: security, peace and freedom. For each of these two powers, Europe is a means of economic and political exploitation in behalf of their respective ruling classes, of the satellite groupings they place into power and retain there.

That is the real meaning of the debate in the UN, which if it differs in details from the League of Nations and in the powers which dominate it, is fundamentally like its predecessor. It is not a peace body, but a war arena. The imperialists are exercising their diplomacy in preparation for a shooting war.



MITHRADATIC MEASURES

Mithradates, known, naturally, as The Great, was king of Pontus in Asia Minor in the first century B. C.

He was a ruler in the goriest tradition of antiquity. He succeeded to the throne at the age of eleven when his father was stabbed to death by courtiers at a banquet that got a little out of hand. His mother, who evidently had a very practical attitude toward children, tried to assassinate the young Mithradates on several occasions. Being a perceptive boy who knew when he wasn't wanted, he fled to the woods and became a hunter. He returned to seize the throne. In the course of consolidating his power he murdered his mother, his sister—whom he was married to at the time—his sons, and his concubines.

Unlike Truman, whose sole claim to be placed alongside of such presidential titans as Fokk, Fillmore, Arthur and Coolidge seems to be his ability to rise early, Mithradates was renowned in succeeding centuries. His courage, size, physical strength, speed, skill in riding, use of weapons, capacity for eating and drinking, and his mastery of twenty-two languages were legendary. He collected art, gave prizes to poets and best eaters, and practiced magic on the side. His long career of warfare against the Romans was terminated only by a revolt of his own troops. Mithradates thereupon committed suicide.

But it is not for all this that his name has come down to us. Such a history was rather routine in antiquity. Mithradates remains famous for his resistance to poisons, an immunity which he reputedly built up by carefully administering increasingly large daily doses of poison to himself.

Similar mithradatic measures are currently being employed by the government of this country. Daily a little dose of poison is injected into every adult in the United States. The poison is an old and deadly one, and its name is militarism.

By this means, government measures which, say, ten years ago, when Roosevelt made his "quarantine-the-aggressor" speech, would have provoked grave disturbances in the public are passed off almost without notice. Only when we soberly analyze the extent of the present military establishment, comparing it with what existed ten years ago, can we begin to understand how far along the road to war we have traveled, and how swiftly.

ARMING THE HEMISPHERE

One of the best ways of arming at this understanding is to poll the areas of the world where the United States is currently intervening militarily. We shall set aside, for the purposes of this consideration, the even more important economic intervention which the government is making.

It is elemental in these days of long-range bombers, the atomic bomb, and guided missiles to speak of hemispheric "defense." This primarily involves Canada, which is envisaged as a primary but not exclusive hemispheric front in case of aerial attacks from Russia—or for attacks upon her, to speak right up on a rather taboo subject. Already a great deal of joint U. S.-Canada military activity has taken place. Weather stations have been set up, officers have been exchanged, and plans for the standardization of equipment have been made.

In Alaska, an important flank in arctic strategy, air bases are being rehabilitated, materiel is being tested, and winter maneuvers are being projected. In Greenland, another important flanking area, radar stations have been activated and other installations planned.

South America is being similarly integrated into the war plans of United States imperialism. Such was the significance of the Rio conference. Military pacts, the distribution of military surpluses, the establishment of training missions, and arms standardization programs are in various stages of realization. Heavy contributions to the military cemeteries of the Atomic War will be made by Latin America, if U. S. capital has its way. The military potentialities even of the antarctic are being explored at this very moment.

WORLD-WIDE COMMITMENTS

The United States, however, has not the slightest intention of waging a defensive hemispheric war. It has already rushed extensive military aid to Turkey and Greece in order to contain Russian imperialist expansion at this critically important point. Plans are now afoot to increase the Greek army to 270,000 men. Large U. S. naval concentrations are also maintained in Mediterranean waters.

Conversations are currently taking place between Egypt and Washington aiming at a \$100,000,000 modernization program for the Egyptian army. Long under English domination, Egypt is the most recent of a series of countries which have fallen under U. S. influence as a result of economic difficulties of the "mother" country. Palestine may be next; England is already apparently pulling a great deal of its military equipment into Kenya.

The U. S. maintains troops in Germany, Trieste and Italy which have something more than symbolic value. Closest military ties unite England and the United States. The joint Chiefs of Staff established during the war is still operative, as the Russians have been so happy to point out.

In the Orient, in addition to huge military installations scattered all over the Pacific, the U. S. maintains troops in Japan and Korea, with a military advisory group in China, supplemented by the 7th Fleet at Tsingtao. In Indo-China French troops are almost totally equipped with U. S. arms. The same is true for the 120,000 men of the Dutch army in Indonesia.

Compare this balance sheet with that of 1937. Is it any wonder that on the basis of it characters like George Fielding Eliot and Henry L. Stimson can rush into the public prints crying that they are not for a preventive war against Russia at this time?

The dosage, you see, is being stepped up. The "preventive" war is being prepared.

Tenants March on Lansing--

(Continued from page 1)

very revealing one. Jeffries completely exposed himself. By some of his stupid answers he left no doubt that he is on the side of the real estate interests and that, as far as he is concerned the tenants can go to the devil.

Following are excerpts of the conversation between the committee and Mayor Jeffries:

"Mr. Mayor, in view of the fact that there are about 200 evictions a day and that there is no housing available to care for these evicted people, wouldn't you say that an emergency exists today?" "It depends on what you mean by an emergency," said the mayor. "If John Doe gets evicted and he has no place to go, then for

him, it is an emergency." The fact that families with children are being thrown out on the street and that the winter months are coming has made no impression on the mayor.

When asked what he would do if the Legislature did not act September 29, the mayor answered that he hadn't thought about it and that the committee should come back next week for an answer. One tenant asked the mayor if he approved of five people moving into one room. The mayor answered: "There's your solution to the housing shortage. They are doing it in the Book Cadillac Hotel." This bit of callous wisdom produced an outcry from the committee. The Book Cadillac is one of the nicest hotels in Detroit.

It was apparent by this time that Mayor Jeffries did not give a hoot about the tenants in Detroit. Mayor Jeffries tried to imply that he believed in administering the law impartially, but the meaning of that impartiality was clear. The tenants understood well enough that he was interpreting the law to benefit a few landlords. When asked if he was "freezing rents at June 30, 1947, levels and if he was against evictions," he answered no. "The landlords suffered under OPA and though they don't deserve a 15 per cent increase, they deserve a 7 to 10 per cent increase. I'm against some evictions, but not all evictions."

150 IN MARCH

In spite of the fact that there were only two days to plan the march to Lansing, over 150 tenants of Detroit congregated at a downtown meeting place on September 28. Spirit was good and the tenants were determined to stage a good demonstration in Lansing even if the governor was not present.

The day before the march Nicholas had received an answer from the governor, stating that he was not well enough to meet with the Greater Detroit Tenants Council, and that he did not think it wise to call a special session of the Legislature to consider the rent problem as the legislators were overstrained and should not be overworked. And furthermore many of them were now working on their farms and should not be disturbed.

This letter enraged the tenants and they took the stand that the cavalcade should proceed as planned. Heading the cavalcade was a sound truck from Local 600. When the cavalcade arrived in Lansing, a UAW local received the tenants in its local union hall. R. J. Thomas was presented to the tenants as the spirit behind millions of tenants in the United States. The fact that R. J. Thomas has not done a thing about tenants evidently did not concern the speaker who introduced him. The factional struggle inside the UAW intrudes into tenants' work as into everything.

The tenants then marched from the union local down the main street to the Capitol, carrying signs calling for an end to evictions, for an immediate rent control law, for the eviction of Governor Sigler, etc. Again the sound truck headed the parade and played union songs. The tenants marched up to the steps of the Capitol. They were addressed by various speakers and then a picket line was formed in front of the Olds Hotel, where the governor has a lux-

urious suite of rooms.

On the march back to the union local hall, the driver of the sound truck was told by the Lansing police that he was not to play any records as it was against a city ordinance.

POLICE RELEASE TRUCK

The recorder was turned off and a short time later was turned on again. The police surrounded the truck and took it and the driver away to the police station. Immediately the leaders of the demonstration turned the march back to the Lansing police station to find out what had happened to their sound truck and the driver. When the picketers turned back, a motorcycle policeman came up to the leaders and informed them that they could not do this. The police were told: "We have a right to go wherever we want to. We have the right of peaceful assembly and you can't stop us. We have a right to find out what happened to our sound truck and driver."

The cop immediately hurried off to the police station, and the following conversation is reported to have taken place. The cop rushed to the lieutenant and cried: "The marchers have turned around. It is causing a terrible traffic problem. The lieutenant turned around to one of the tenants and said: "Take your damn sound truck and get the hell out of town." It provided a small lesson in the strength of united action, of sticking together.

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WORKERS PARTY INFORMATION BLANK

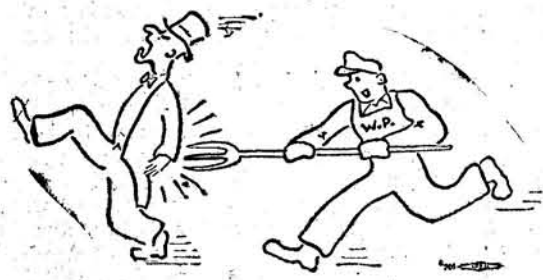
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Name.....
Address.....

Jack Rader in 5th Concilmanic District!

VOTE LABOR, VOTE WP IN PHILADELPHIA!

ELECTION PLATFORM



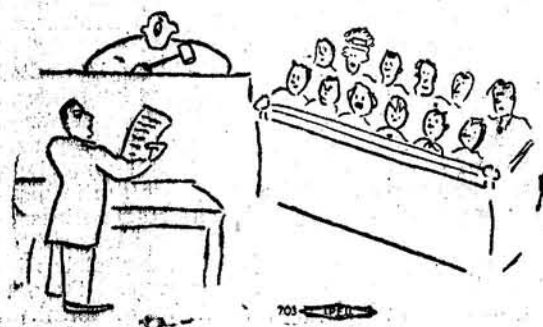
1. Drive Jim Crow out of Philadelphia! For a strong FEPC! For full economic, political and social rights for ALL minority groups!



2. For price and rent control. For the organization of strong consumer and tenant committees.



3. For a full-scale housing program. Philadelphia needs 500,000 new homes in the next five years.



4. For a strong workers' defense League. Stop political persecution of those who fight for labor's rights!



5. Vote for a socialist program. Vote for security, for peace, for democracy, for equality for all! Don't waste your vote on capitalist politics.

Democrats-GOP Combine To Gag Candidate of WP

We needed about 600 signatures on our nominating petitions to be placed on the ballot. We obtained 1201.

We filed our papers two days before the deadline.

Our papers were declared to be in order and in compliance with the law by the lawyers who examined them.

The County Board of Elections, which consists of two Republicans and one Democrat, declared that there were more than enough genuine signatures on the papers.

Yet we are not on the ballot. Our nomination papers have been rejected by this same County Board of Elections.

HOW IT WAS DONE

How was it done? It was not a magician's trick. It was done by the simple exercise of power by the County Board of Elections on flimsy technical grounds.

The election law is so ambiguous and open to so many divergent interpretations that grounds can always be found for invalidating nominations. The same so-called errors, which the commission claimed to find on our petitions, are also found on the primary petitions of the county commissioners themselves.

Why are we off the ballot? Because the Republicans and Democrats have a monopoly of political power and they do not want that monopoly challenged. They are determined not to permit labor to choose labor candidates.

Our party, our program and our candidates are independent of capitalist politics. We are a party of and for the working class. That is the real reason we are not on the ballot.

The capitalist class is engaged in a widespread political and economic attack on the working men and women of this country. The Taft-Hartley bill, the killing of OPA, the abolition of rent ceilings, the tremendous price increases, the campaign of red-baiting—all these are part of the destruction of labor's standard of living and of its political rights. The decision to deny the Workers Party a place on the ballot is part of this hysterical anti-labor campaign. The Socialist Workers Party and its candidate, Irene Le Compte, have been similarly banned.

The action of the Board of Elections was undemocratic. It is a sad joke that a week before the arrival of the Freedom Train the Workers Party and Socialist Workers Party were denied an elementary democratic right. But the political monopolists, like the economic monopolists, do not worry about the people's rights. Their concern is with power and profits.

This election campaign is a campaign for civil liberties. Above all, it is a fight for the rights of independent labor parties to challenge the capitalist parties. This fight is the fight of all working men.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Write in the name of Jack Rader, in the slot provided, for councilman of the Fifth District.

2. If you live in the Seventh District, write in the name of Irene Le Compte for City Council.

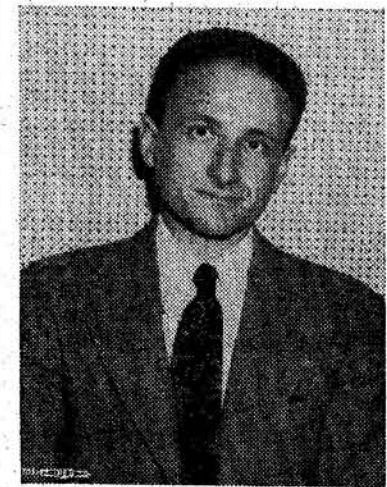
3. Come to the election rallies of the Workers Party, and support the campaign.

4. Write to the Workers Party at 1139 West Girard Avenue for further information and literature.

5. In your unions and other organizations, urge support for independent labor candidates.

Socialist Fighter

Jack Rader has been in the labor and Socialist movement for 15 years. He is at present a member of the AFL Metal Polishers Union, Local 90. Comrade Rader has been extremely active in union affairs since 1935 when he was an organizer for the Textile



Workers Union and later active in the great Textile General Strike which resulted in the formation of the present CIO Textile Workers Union. The year 1937 found our candidate active in the unemployed movement in New York City, serv-

ing as organizer for the Youth Section of the Workers Alliance. In 1943, Comrade Rader was a member of the organizing committee and a shop steward in the United Steel Workers of America—CIO, in its drive to organize the Pullman Car Works in South Chicago. As shop steward of the huge machine shop he helped bring unionism to the Pullman Car shops for the first time in almost 50 years.

Comrade Rader has been more than an active and militant union man. He has also been a Socialist throughout his activity. He was active in organizing the Young Peoples Socialist League—Fourth International, and a member of its National Committee.

In the struggle against fascism, native and foreign, and against Jim Crow and racial hatreds, Jack Rader has taken an active and leading part. His talks and letters on the fight against Jim Crow in Philadelphia have been reported and published in the "Philadelphia Tribune." He was one of the organizers of the demonstration against fascist Gerald L. K. Smith in Philadelphia in 1946 and 1947.

He is a veteran of World War II, having served in the U. S. Navy. He saw action in the battle of Okinawa.

Adequate Housing A Desperate Need

This is the Workers Party's program on housing for Philadelphia:

We are opposed to evictions. We are for a law forbidding evictions. We are for absolute rent control. No rent increases.

The cost of living is already so high that most workers live from one week's wages to the next. Food takes 50 per cent of the average worker's wages. Tenants must organize tenants' committees to stick together against rent increases and to prevent evictions. The Workers Party is ready to help such organizations.

Above all, Philadelphia desperately needs a real municipal program. That is the only answer to the housing crisis. Private enterprise is a failure. It is simply incapable of providing people with decent and sufficient roofs over their heads. One look around the city proves this. The city government must build at least 100,000 new homes every year for the

next five years to relieve the misery of homelessness and substandard dwellings, doubling up and overcrowding. The money for such a program could be obtained by taxing the rich, the big department stores and banks.

These homes should be built to fit the incomes and needs of the majority of the working people, without discrimination. They should be built as communities, with shopping facilities, nurseries for children, schools and recreation facilities for people of all ages.

It can be done. Modern science and technique can supply the materials. But capitalism holds back decent living conditions because the big landlords and real estate profits stand in the way.

Mass organization of the workers into a workers' party is needed to establish the political means for obtaining such a program. Profits must be pushed aside by the peoples' needs.

By JACK RADER, Candidate of the Workers Party for City Council, Fifth District

The time has come for labor to issue its own DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE—to organize an independent political party of the working class to defend labor's rights and living standards.

The Taft-Hartley Act is a terrible body blow against organized labor. It is a product of the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. Taft-Hartley is the policy of the whole capitalist class, not of one section of it. Truman's veto was a fake, as everyone knows. He tried to buy labor's vote at a cheap price, knowing that the bill would pass. Did not Truman propose drafting of strikers in the railroad strike last year? Democrats and Republicans are the twin political faces of the boss class.

The Republican-Democratic Congress attacked without mercy the living standards of the working class. They abolished OPA, causing a rise to heights where butter, meat and eggs are becoming increasingly out of reach. They failed to propose any housing program, although ten million families need homes. In Philadelphia alone 100,000 families need new homes. They defeated FEPC. They continued the heavy tax burden on the workers.

Every one of these attacks on the people has been duplicated locally. The Pennsylvania Legislature passed its own "Little Taft-Hartley Act." It did nothing about housing, it failed to establish rent ceilings. The State Democratic and Republican machines united to defeat FEPC and refused to outlaw the KKK.

Labor can no longer continue to pay the price of not having a political party of its own.

BASED UPON THE MEN IN THE SHOP

Everything that labor wins on the picket line is stolen from us in Washington, Harrisburg and City Hall.

The policy of supporting "good" Democrats and Republicans has failed. That was PAC's policy for the last election when the Taft-Hartley Congress was elected. William Green of the AFL supported the "good" Republican, Hartley, for Congress. The Democratic and Republican Parties are capitalist parties and carry out a program of attacks against labor in the interest of the capitalist class.

The working class is ready for independent political action. It is the leadership which is afraid of a bold step, afraid to lose favor and personal position. The majority of members of trade unions can and must carry their program to success. Everything depends on the rank and file memberships.

What would an independent Labor Party be? It must be organized and run by the membership, the men and women in

the shops, those who work. The leadership would be the shop stewards, the shop militants, the lower ranks of the trade union leadership. A Labor Party would be completely a workers' party.

What would a Labor Party do? It would force speedy repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act immediately and free the unions. But it would have to go far beyond that "to new victories in ever-widening spheres of interest for the people as a whole." Every problem that affects the people's welfare could then be dealt with in the interest of the majority of the people—housing, price and rent control, racial discrimination, a decent standard of living.

TOWARD A WORKERS' GOVERNMENT

This would only be the beginning. An independent party of the working class would have to deal seriously with the problems and causes of depressions and unemployment. In protecting the interest of the workers it would meet opposition from the capitalist class. It would have to defend the workers from capitalist attack and face the need of organizing a workers' government to do this.

Only a workers' government could even begin to solve the problems of economic security. Only then could all the vast techniques and materials of modern science and production be harnessed for the use and benefit of the majority rather than for profit.

Today the organization of a Labor Party, free in every way from the capitalist parties, is issue number one. It is the first need of labor if it is not to be driven into the next depression and the next war handcuffed and defenseless. The election campaign of the Workers Party is part and parcel of the fight for an independent mass party of labor.

WE CAN SHAPE OUR DESTINY

We do not have to do these things forever. The working class must begin to fashion its own destiny before the destructive forces of capitalism atomize all civilization into barbarism. Capitalist war has already ruined the European continent, reduced its people to cave-dwellers and starvation. American imperialism and Russian imperialism are preparing to throw all humanity into an atomic war for the benefit of their ruling classes. Atomic energy, which could be used to produce plenty for all if it were under workers' control, now threatens to turn all civilization back to barbarism in the hands of the ruling master class.

The choice before us is socialism or barbarism; atomic destruction for the profit of the few or the utilization of modern technology by a socialist society, run by and for the workers to satisfy the needs of the people.

Organized Labor Can Do It:

Drive Jim-Crow Out of Philadelphia!

WHAT IS JIM CROW?

It is the American equivalent of the Nazi theory of race superiority. It judges a man by the color of his skin. It is the superstitious, ignorant and dangerous social practice of discrimination against the Negro people.

WHO PRACTICES JIM CROW?

Every fascist, anti-Semite, labor-hater and capitalist stooge sooner or later comes out as a Negro-hater. It hasn't failed yet. Examples: Gerald L. K. Smith, Bilbo, Rankin. Behind these men are the Big Money interests, the 60 Families, Wall Street. That is how fascism grew in Germany, and that is how Smith and Co. want to try it here—by getting the big money behind them. The Jim Crow demagogues are among the most dangerous men in America today. They find support in many aspects of American capitalist society, in which racial hatreds are deeply rooted. It is American capitalism which supplies the fertile groundwork for these demagogues. Without fighting capitalism, the fight against fascism and racial hatreds cannot succeed.

WHO PROFITS FROM JIM CROW?

Only one class profits—the capitalist class. It profits by dividing the workers along racial lines and by trying to use one group of workers against the other. Henry Ford used to be very good at this before the CIO stepped in. He would hire Negro workmen to scab on white workers, and then, when he had forced the white workers to a cheap settlement, he would fan race hatreds and start the white worker fighting the Negro worker.

U. S. Steel Corp. followed this policy for many years and broke many strikes in this way. All the workers, Negro and white, suffered. The capitalists gained. Today, this is no longer true to this extent. Workers at U. S. Steel are all members of the CIO for their common interests as workers.

DRIVE JIM CROW OUT OF PHILADELPHIA

- 1. A widely organized campaign of labor, Negro and Jewish organizations for mass action to demand an immediate City FEPC. Only mass action will get such a law, not lobbying or postcard writing or depending on "friends" in the Republican or Democratic capitalist parties.
- 2. Formation of local neighborhood committees against discrimination to organize this fight locally. Similar committees should be formed in the trade unions.
- 3. Abolish all restrictive covenants which place social or religious bars to tenants. Break the ghetto chains. Let people live wherever they wish.
- 4. Fight discrimination everywhere as the greatest danger to working class unity. The trade unions, the labor movement above all must take the lead in this struggle.
- 5. Support the Workers Party as the consistent fighting organization for social, political and economic equality for all people.

How to Write-In Jack Rader's Name

When you face the voting machine, look first for the line with the list of offices. This will be the first printed line on the machine. Look down this line until you come to the office of CITY COUNCIL. Directly above these words you will see an elongated slot. WRITE THE NAME OF JACK RADER INTO THIS SLOT.

Bring a pencil with you in case the Republican and Democratic watchers "happen to forget" to put one on the machine.

ATTEND THESE PHILADELPHIA ELECTION RALLIES!

Socialist Program for the Philadelphia Electionst

Speaker: JACK RADER

Tuesday, October 23, 8:30 P. M. Labor Action Hall

WIND-UP ELECTION RALLY AND DANCE

SPEAKERS — DANCING — ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday, November 1, 8:30 P. M. Labor Action Hall

1139 West Girard Avenue (Entrance on 12th Street)

Clip this and mail to:

WORKERS PARTY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
1139 WEST GIRARD AVE.
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Please send me further information about the Workers Party.

I can do volunteer election work.

Enclosed find contribution of \$.....

Name

Address