







# New Year's Day, 1948

By Theodore Kovalesky

A shriek of whistles tells you it's here. A discordant blare of tin horns, a rattle of "noise-makers," a clanging of bells, and a many-voiced shout of "Happy New Year!" is at once the funeral of 1947 and the birth of 1948.



The clock of history ticks on; it never stops. Today is not a thing in itself separate and apart from yesterday and tomorrow, but merely a portion of the road of time that stretches between the first sunrise of the world to the shadows of the last sunset. We do not stop nor pause on the road of time; we only look about us at intervals to see how far we have traveled and to plan what lies ahead.

### The Negro Struggle

## Little Progress Recorded this Year

By Albert Parker

On the whole, little progress was recorded in the struggle for Negro equality during 1947. There were a few bright spots in the picture, but they were the exception.

On the good side was the fact that the Negro people are still pressing forward, despite many obstacles, to claim the rights that are denied them in the South. This was demonstrated above all in the growing numbers of Negroes fighting for the right to vote and daring to assert that right in the face of lynch and vigilante threats.

### Christmas Comes to the Mines

By Morgan West

Even in the coal fields Christmas comes each year. To most miners it brings a day off work, a number of bills, and a fifth of whiskey with which to forget his troubles.

### Purge at River Rouge

DETROIT, Mich.—With the growing reaction and the increased pressure from the corporations and the top leadership of the UAW, new capitulations and surrenders to the Taft-Hartley Act have occurred here in the past week.

Like another of the old years, 1919, a violent red scare has been created by labor's enemies and has grown so widespread that even the powerful UAW has capitulated to the extent of yielding to the Taft-Hartley Law.

A new year is a gift that may be used in many different ways. It is a challenge, a blank canvas on which we can paint any picture we choose. We don't ask what the new year will bring. We ask, "What shall we do with the new year?"

For us in the Socialist Workers Party the fight against oppression and for freedom goes on. As before we fight against the exploiters. We fight for equality of all people and for the rights of all minorities.

The old years have been red with blood. They have been ugly years of suffering for humanity. We travel the road of time covered with the darkness of a million yesterdays, but before us is the light of a million tomorrows, a million dawns shining upon a Socialist world.

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Evidence of this was seen in the rank and file demand for political action up and down the valley. Now it was clear that the Taft-Hartley Act was perhaps the greatest event in the history of the American labor movement for a decade.

The viewpoint of the labor bureaucrats was expressed in an interview given in Washington by Walter Reuther, president of the UAW. "We will not go along with Wallace," said Reuther, characterizing him as a "lost soul," a "great disappointment" and a man who was influenced by the Communist Party.

# THE MILITANT

PAGE FOUR NEW YORK, N. Y. MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1947

## Buick Local Votes to Comply To Avoid Reuther Administrator

By Emmett Moore

FLINT, MICH., Dec. 17—The UAW convention struggle over the Taft-Hartley law continued in the local unions here.

Buick Local 599, which sent a large anti-Reuther delegation to the convention, at its regular membership meeting after the convention, voted to file with the NLRB. The sweeping Reuther victory at the convention, and a dearth of information as to Reuther's intentions if a local refused to file hung oppressively over the meeting.

Delegate after delegate headed by Marlin Butler, defeated candidate for regional directorship, Joe Berry, president of the local, and John McGill, leader of many former progressive struggles in the UAW, bitterly denounced the Law, the convention's action and the belly-crawling compliance attitude of the Reutherite majority.

Militants in the Chevrolet local decided to fight against filing and

lost by eight votes in a large membership meeting. The Reutherites, who control the local, attempted and succeeded in throttling the discussion. With only two speakers against filing with the NLRB, debate was closed.

### LED THE FIGHT

Jack Palmer, newly installed president of the Chevrolet local who moved up to fill the post vacated by Don Chapman who was elected regional director on the Reuther slate, led the fight against the Taft-Hartley law. In a fiery talk he stated, "They (the Corporation) have learned from the past they can't beat us on the picket lines. The Taft-Hartley law was designed to be used by Big Business like a creeping paralysis—to disrupt, disfigure and demolish the whole labor movement. . . . There is a great wave of reaction sweeping across the country. The line of least resistance is to take the easy way out. People are riding this wave of reaction with their eyes closed. . . ."

At this same meeting the Reutherites, who for two years campaigned for a Labor Party, introduced a resolution calling for the rescinding of the local's stand. This resolution was tabled for one month.

## Flint UAW Official Offers Wage Plan To Meet Inflation

FLINT, Mich., Dec. 15—Jack Palmer, President of the 11,000-member Chevrolet local 659, UAW-CIO, issued the following statement to the press and radio:

"The inflationary spiral which has gripped the American economy places the wage workers in an unenviable position. Each and every price increase robs the auto worker of the very necessities of life. The last eleven and a half cent wage increase was wiped out months ago by price rises."

"While wages, since the end of the War have risen 30%, prices have soared with jet propulsion speed over and above these tiny wage increases. No end to this process is in sight."

"The stupid assertions, lies, and propaganda of the National Association of Manufacturers and all of their apologists that wage increases are responsible for price increases are exploded when we examine hard facts. If there was an iota of truth in this propaganda Big Business should explain their mountainous profit hoard and the rise of prices far exceeding the wage boosts of the past two years."

"Without a shadow of a doubt it is now clear that the tremendous profits of industry are pressuring and building up the forces of inflation in this period, as it will of necessity bring on depressions when the market becomes glutted with overproduction in the next. Corporate profits after taxes in 1947 will be 17.4 billion dollars as compared with 8.4 billion dollars in the lush days of 1929; twice as much as they were at the height of the War. This is the real secret of inflation in the U.S.A. today."

"Government reports indicate that the next three months will find prices soaring even further into the stratosphere. This is indicated by all the stock market reports of wheat, meat, butter and eggs. The boosts of oil, coal, tires, gasoline and tractors of the last few days. Prices in the next months presage runaway inflation."

Its effects on the auto worker were graphically illustrated by Secretary of Labor Schwelienbach who revealed that "the average city housewife who goes to buy food must take \$21 to buy what \$10 bought in 1939 and what less than \$15 bought on V-J day or even as recently as 18 months ago."

"From all this I conclude that it is urgent and necessary that the UAW request a hearing for a substantial immediate cost-of-living wage increase. We must find a solution to price jumps at every juncture of the economic cycle which wipe out wage increases. In any event all wage increases can easily be met by the huge stockpile of corporate profits without raising prices one penny."

Youngstown readers of The Militant are invited to hear Joseph Hansen on Sunday, January 4, at 8 p.m., Room 302, Leedy Bldg., 115 E. Federal St.

## Pauley Admits Grain Tradings



Admitting that he speculated in grain commodities while working for the government, Edwin Pauley, special assistant to Sec. of the Army, is seen here with Sen. Homer Ferguson (R., Mich.) during hearings in Washington. Many other "insiders" are believed to have made millions on the food market by utilizing private government information for personal gain. Federated Pictures

## Truman Demands 17 Billions to Chain Europe

(Continued from Page 1) on the economy, and therefore the politics, of the 16 nations included in the program. Taking full advantage of the helplessness of these nations, the ERP provides for the appointment of an economic dictator ("Economic Cooperation Administrator") and a political supervisor (with the rank of U. S. ambassador) to the 16 nations.

These two, under Truman and the State Department will have control of the program—and woe to the government that fails to obey them. The Administrator will tell them what he wants, how to allocate their budgets, how much goods or money they can have if any, and whether they will receive them in the form of grants or loans. The political supervisor will see to it that the countries receiving these funds follow the Wall Street line on foreign policy and repression of labor at home.

In addition the ERP specifically requires that the participating nations agree to sell the U.S. scarce raw materials, including those used in the atomic bomb; that they take financial and monetary measures to stabilize their currency along lines suited to the best interests of Wall Street; that they put aside in a special fund an amount of their own currency equivalent to the value of the ERP grants, which they will be able to spend only as the U.S. sees fit, etc.

What economic and political effects will the ERP have on Europe and on the U.S.? Whom will it help, whom will it hurt?

The main beneficiaries will be the American capitalists; to a lesser degree their European satellites and junior partners will also improve their positions. The economic future of Western Europe will be mortgaged to Wall Street and the big corporations will be able to get their hooks into every nook and cranny of the European economy, insuring that it serves and does not compete with American domination and American profits.

perity of Europe—to do so would require rebuilding all of Europe that was destroyed in the war, effecting a genuine unification of European economy and resources and putting an end to capitalist profit, greed and anarchy. At best, the ERP will patch up some of the worst holes in the economy and enable it to stagger on for another period. Any economic revival that takes place under the ERP will be on an extremely low level and will be so controlled that the real benefits go to the trusts, both European and American, and not to the working people.

Politically, the effects of the ERP in Europe have already been made plain. For the privilege of participating in the conference that listed their needs last summer, France and Italy had to drive the Stalinists out of their governments. The ominous figure of de Gaulle appeared on the scene again. A French version of the Taft-Hartley Act has been enacted; in Greece the punishment for strikes is death. All of Western Europe has moved to the right since the enunciation of the Truman Doctrine last March—in the direction of naked capitalist dictatorship such as exists in Greece.

DECEPTIVE FIGURES In the United States the economic effects will be far-reaching, especially in stepping up the inflationary trend. Truman tried to minimize these effects, asserting that the total expenditure required would be less than 3% of the national income during the four-year period. But such a figure is deceptive because it deliberately ignores the fact that there is a desperate shortage in the U. S. of many of the chief products required by the ERP, and that these same products are basic in the American price structure.

In the absence of effective price control, such as only mass consumer committees and workers control of production could insure, the big purchases of these products by the government are sure to add fuel to the flames of the inflation. This will hasten the coming economic

Just as the Taft-Hartley Act was the domestic counterpart of the Truman Doctrine, so the ERP will be accompanied by new anti-labor assaults in the U.S. Bent on keeping the burden of the inflation on the backs of the workers, determined to prevent the workers from interfering in any way with their plans for world domination, Big Business will try to march further down the road of reaction, repression and the smashing of the labor organizations.

### Good Affair Held By Lynn ACEWR Chapter

The Lynn Chapter of the American Committee for European Workers Relief opened its winter fund drive with a Dance and Buffet Supper on December 6 at the Jewish Community Center.

Two local artists, a pianist and vocalist, donated their services for the evening's entertainment. Dancing and a buffet supper followed. Net proceeds amounted to \$128.36.

## AFL and CIO Officials Reject Wallace

The "responsible" AFL and CIO labor bureaucrats have already made clear that they will not support Henry Wallace as a third party candidate for president in 1948. The only exceptions in the union movement are the Stalinists and their sympathizers.

The viewpoint of the labor bureaucrats was expressed in an interview given in Washington by Walter Reuther, president of the UAW. "We will not go along with Wallace," said Reuther, characterizing him as a "lost soul," a "great disappointment" and a man who was influenced by the Communist Party.

Thus there are other reasons why Reuther, Murray, Green, Whitney and Co. won't support Wallace.

fact that the labor bureaucrats have been lined up solidly behind the Truman-Marshall plans for Wall Street domination of the world. They are not only lined up, but working overtime to integrate the unions into the war machine in this country and to sell the Marshall Plan to the workers abroad.

Wallace, in his own way and for his own reasons, which he thinks coincide with the best interests of U. S. capitalism, is resisting the State Department's policy of cold war with Russia. That is his chief crime in the eyes of the Truman administration's loyal labor lieutenants.

Second is the fact that the bureaucrats are bitter opponents of any new party—not only of a third capitalist party headed by Wallace and influenced by the Stalinists, but of any kind of party, including an independent Labor Party based on and controlled by the unions.

Most of the labor bureaucrats have not committed themselves publicly on 1948, but everyone knows that they intend to spend millions



WALLACE

it entered, and that a Republican or Democratic reactionary might be elected with a Labor Party on the ballot next year. That would still be a hundred times better than supporting the "lesser evil." Because it would be able even in its first campaign to elect a large number of congressmen and local officials and to pile up an impressive national vote which would give pause to the capitalist politicians when anti-labor legislation came up for consideration.

The history of the Republican Party is very instructive in this connection. Formed as a radical party to fight the reactionary slaveholders Democratic Party in 1856, it was defeated at the polls in its first attempt for the Presidency. But just four short years later it won a plurality, taking over both the White House and Congress and sweeping the slaveowners out of political power.

What is the alternative to a Labor Party? The uninterrupted growth of reaction because the workers are paralyzed politically, the passage of more and worse Taft-Hartley Acts, the rise of fascism. Labor has to start some time building its own party and now is the best time—because the Democrats stand exposed as partners with the Republicans in imposing the program of the NAM on the American people.