

Build Workers Defense Guards!

Socialist Appeal

Workers of the World Unite!

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HITLER DEMANDS SHARE OF SWAG

BRITAIN DRAFTS MASSES FOR WAR

AN EDITORIAL

Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain has jammed through the British House of Commons a conscription law providing, for the time being, for compulsory military service of all men from the age of 20 to 21.

Except for the period of the last war's duration, England's people have been traditionally hostile to conscription. Hundreds of years have passed without the ruling class being able to put the people in the straitjacket of compulsory military service.

What none of his predecessors has dared to do for centuries, Chamberlain, violating the pledge that he publicly reaffirmed only four weeks ago, has now imposed upon the masses.

Why? In the name of Democracy and a Popular War! But if the war is so popular, why is it necessary to force people by law—and by the police club that stands behind it—to join the army?

If the war is so popular, why doesn't the British government content itself with opening up the recruiting books to volunteers?

The truth of the matter is that nowhere, in no country, do the people want war. Everywhere they feel consciously or instinctively, that the coming war, like the last one, will be a dirty imperialist war, in which millions will die like flies in order to preserve the profits of empire.

All the ballyhoo, all the lies, all the hypocrisy, all the bunk about "democracy" and "independence of small nations" has not yet whipped the masses into a chauvinistic frenzy satisfactory to the war-mongers.

So, for the "popular" war, the masses have to be dragged into the army, conscripted like slaves whose life and liberty are entirely in the hands of the small clique of imperialists who rule the capitalist world and every country in it.

Among the first steps in the "war for democracy" is the brutal violation of the healthiest and soundest sentiments of the people.

The imperialist gangsters—in England and in this country as well as in Germany—fear the freely-expressed will of the people.

That is why they resort to conscription. That is why they refuse to allow the people the right to vote on whether or not war is to be declared.

Sailors Set to Strike On All Pacific Ports

West Coast Seamen Gird for Showdown on Government Hiring Halls

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) SAN FRANCISCO.—The Sailors Union of the Pacific is prepared to strike the West Coast unless all government agencies adhere to the written pledge given to the union by Harry Hopkins, Secretary of Commerce, that government-sponsored fink hiring halls will be closed and stay closed.

On April 18 Admiral Land, chairman of the U. S. Maritime Commission, in direct contradiction to Secretary Hopkins' promise of the previous week, announced to the press that the commission will open hiring halls in the port of Seattle when the commission begins its projected operations on the Seattle-Orient run.

Sailors Prepare Fight Immediately upon publication of the admiral's statement, the Sailors Union held stop-work meetings up and down the Pacific Coast and reiterated its previous position for a coast-wide strike if the government fink halls are opened on the coast.

S.U.P. headquarters wired Harry Hopkins, calling his attention to the fact that the Maritime Commission had publicly stated it would disregard the pledges he had made in writing to Harry Lundeberg, secretary-treasurer of the union.

Hopkins had explicitly written: "I can state that the shipping commissioner's office will not be used as a hiring hall for anyone."

and "if shipping commissioners are at the present time maintaining hiring halls, it is the intention of the Department of Commerce to discontinue this practice." In line with this, the government fink halls on the East Coast were shortly thereafter closed.

Pledge "Reinterpreted" But after Admiral Land's statement and the union's wire to Hopkins, the Department of Commerce appears to have adopted a new position. Hopkins himself failed to answer the union's wire. Instead Davis K. Niles, assistant to Hopkins, informed the union that "the Department of Commerce is not using hiring halls, but as the secretary wrote you we will, in accordance with the law, furnish lists of seamen to those entitled to have them. Instructions to this effect have already been sent to all U. S. Shipping Commissioners."

In plain English, the shipping commissioners of the Bureau of Inspection affiliated to the Department of Commerce will continue registering sailors for employment but the actual hiring halls will be run by the Maritime Commission, which is formally not part of the Department of Commerce but is a president-appointed body "to encourage the merchant marine."

That's the scheme. But the sailors are determined that no governmental agency shall operate fink halls.

The Kind of Democracy "We" Uphold



FLINT WORKERS PROTEST CUTS IN WPA, RELIEF

Demonstrators Demand War Funds Go to Unemployed

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) FLINT, Mich., April 25.—A militant, fighting throng of unemployed and W.P.A. workers marched into the city hall of Flint last night in a well-organized demonstration, demanding immediate alleviation of the miserable conditions inflicted upon welfare clients and W.P.A. workers.

The demonstration, which was called and led by the W.P.A. and Unemployed section of the United Auto Workers Union (C.I.O.), was an effective mass protest against the 2 1/2¢ a meal relief level, and the firing of hundreds of W.P.A. workers.

City Manager Pollock was singled out for special attention by the marching, singing demonstrators, who attacked his vicious anti-labor actions and condemned his threats that he would see to it that all "agitators" were fired from W.P.A. The members of the United Auto Workers Union (C.I.O.) packed the city hall meeting of the City Commission, overflowing into the hall, the stairs, and the adjoining rooms.

Hundreds Mass Halls While the U.A.W.-C.I.O. spokesmen, C. Walters of Detroit, Claude Workman and Kermit Johnson of Flint, (Continued from Page 2)

Mine Owners Forcing National Coal Tie-up

Operators Press Drive to Break Union Grip; Would Try to Impose Open Shop

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) WASHINGTON, D.C.—The drive against the C.I.O. through attacks on the United Mine Workers of America which already has 320,000 members on strike, gained further impetus this week when hard coal operators revealed their intentions of forcing 100,000 anthracite miners on a defensive strike.

The contract between the miners and the hard coal operators expires Sunday night (April 31) and a strike was considered inevitable in view of the arrogant counter-demands of the operators. Among the provocative proposals they issued to the United Mine Workers negotiating committee are: reduction in wages, lengthening of hours; inclusion of a penalty clause against strikes, etc.

Unless Roosevelt intervention comes quicker than government officials planned, prospect of a nation-wide shut down of the entire coal industry, bituminous and anthracite, is certain for next week.

The hard-boiled attitude of the anthracite operators verifies reports that powerful utility, steel and other industrial forces are pressing on the coal industry to drive for an open shop and the defeat of the U.M.W.A., stronghold of the C.I.O.

The present strike of the 320,000 soft coal miners centers around the operators refusal to give the U.M.W.A. a

closed shop that would exclude the A.F. of L. miners' union from the industry and thus prevent an internecine war costly to all the workers.

Since John L. Lewis announced that 100,000 additional soft coal miners were being called out next week in support of the strikers it was believed that the threat would serve to force a less recalcitrant attitude on the part of the operators.

Instead, they have been joined in a solid front by the anthracite operators who are deliberately forcing the U.M.W.A. division in this section of the industry to pull a defensive strike.

Hit at C.I.O. Because the U.M.W.A. is the organizational and financial backbone of the C.I.O., it is evident that the coal operators hope to weaken the entire C.I.O. movement through a prolonged and costly struggle with the U.M.W.A. Financial backing from Wall Street interests makes this possible.

In present negotiations between the anthracite operators and the miners' committee the operators proposed a 20 per cent reduction in wages and the return of the eight-hour day.

Meanwhile, negotiations between the soft coal operators and representatives of the 320,000 strikers were deadlocked despite intervention of a federal conciliator.

Omits Mentioning Russia In Speech Rebuffing FDR

One Third of W.P.A. To Be Fired by July 1

Republicans and Democrats Find They Have No Differences in Hacking Away At Relief Appropriations

One out of every three workers now on W.P.A. will be fired by July 1, if President Roosevelt has his way.

With the ink scarcely dry on his signature to a whole new series of armament appropriations obediently voted at his behest by Congress, running into some six hundreds of millions of dollars added to the billions already appropriated for the war machine, President Roosevelt sought to slash the relief appropriation for the coming year by one-third, to provide him with more war funds.

W.P.A. officials, according to the United Press, April 28, "planned today to remove 900,000 persons from the relief rolls this summer to compensate for the reduced budget for the next fiscal year" proposed by Roosevelt in his message to Congress last Thursday.

Republicans hail Roosevelt For the coming fiscal year which begins July 1, Roosevelt limited the appropriation to \$1,477,000,000 as contrasted with the expenditure of \$2,250,000,000 during the present fiscal year. Roosevelt's figure is a straight one-third cut of the figure for the amount expended during the previous year.

Republican members of the "economy bloc" hailed Roosevelt's message. Senator Lodge declared that he "congratulated the President on adopting the method recommended by the Republican members of this committee"—the Senate Committee on Relief and Unemployment.

43% Cut Since October The extent of Roosevelt's onslaught against the unemployed may be realized if one takes into account the W.P.A. rolls in October stood at 3,350,000 before the President ordered reduction of the rolls to their present figure of 2,800,000. If the W.P.A. officials carry out their declared intention of dropping 900,000 more, it means that since October they will have thrown off the W.P.A. a total of 1,450,000—more than 43% of those on W.P.A. in October will be out on the streets!

Since employment in private industry has actually decreased since October, President Roosevelt was unable to justify his proposals by any references to improved possibilities of employment. Instead, he blandly prophesied that "barring unforeseen and unpredictable developments, we are justified in expecting an upward trend in the volume of employment between now and June 30, 1940."

No Justification Even the ardently pro-Roosevelt New York Post was shocked into editorially characterizing the Roosevelt proposal in the following terms: "How did the President reach this figure of 2,000,000 as the correct number of

W.P.A. jobs to be maintained? "On what is it based, other than the hope expressed in the message that 'we are justified in expecting an upward trend in the volume of employment?'" "Why should the President expect an upward trend in the volume of employment when nearly a million families will be reduced, if they fail to get private jobs, to home relief status or outright destitution? How will the removal of these customers from our economic system produce 'an upward trend?'"

The Post declared that "by giving a job to every American able and willing to work," we "would be meeting the problem, not juggling numbers." President Confuses Issue The President's message was shrewdly timed. It was delivered on the eve of Hitler's speech, obviously with the motive of having it get by with a minimum of publicity at a time when it would be soon overshadowed by reports and discussion of Hitler's speech.

Roosevelt also sought to cover himself by joining his relief cuts proposal with a denunciation of the various reactionary proposals for reorganizing the W.P.A. or shifting it to state administrations—a deliberately confusing jumble of unrelated issues, for the question of relief administration is to come up separately from the question of the amount of relief appropriations.

Swaps Demagogy With Roosevelt; Leaves Door Wide Open

AGAIN ASKS DANZIG

Hitler's Reichstag speech changed little in the continuing war crisis.

The most notable feature of the speech was the absence from it of any significant reference to the Soviet Union.

This striking parallel to Stalin's abandonment of attacks on German Fascism was further eloquent proof of the fact that the flirtation between Berlin and Moscow is by no means at an end.

Hitler concentrated his oratorical fire on the Western powers and the United States.

As everybody, including Roosevelt, expected, Hitler turned down Roosevelt's "peace" plea and reiterated his intention to restore Germany's "place in the sun" by fighting for it, if necessary.

As his answer to Britain's conscription to its working youth for the war slaughter, Hitler abrogated the Anglo-German naval pact of 1935. This pact was already a dead letter as a result of Hitler's extensive naval building during the past two years.

Pressure on Poland Heralding increased German pressure on Poland, the Fuehrer at the same time denounced the German-Polish non-aggression pact of 1934 and repeated his demand for the return of Danzig and a road across the Polish corridor.

He served notice on Britain that he would continue to seek return of Germany's colonies, taken from her by the Allied victors after the last war.

Matching Rooseveltian demagogy with his own brand, Hitler swore up and down in his two and a half hour speech that war was the last thing he wanted, that he more than anyone else in the world was solicitous for the people and desired to spare them new slaughters.

Uses Versailles Treaty As usual, he was able to buttress his arguments by throwing the Versailles treaty into the faces of his adversaries. From the point of view of the imperialist gangsters, of course, he is here on solid ground, for never was there a more monstrous piece of large scale international piracy than that embodied in the treaties which the Allies forced on vanquished Germany in 1919.

German imperialism, defeated in one war, is now challenging its imperialist rivals again and the Western European politicians are belatedly learning that at Versailles they gave birth to a Frankenstein monster which now threatens to prove their undoing.

Hitler could and did cite the endless record of British, French, and American rapacity in their own campaigns against defenseless colonial and semi-colonial peoples, before and after the last Great War.

Dog Eat Dog Nothing more clearly than this shows the dog-eat-dog nature of the war crisis. The Hitlers, the Roosevelts, Mussolinis, Chamberlains and Daladier are not talking about "democracy" and "human rights" and "culture." Speak (Continued on Page 3)

S. W. P. CALLS ANTI-WAR CONVENTION

In accordance with the powers and duties assigned to it by the party constitution, the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party hereby issues this Call to the regular national convention of the party, to be held in New York City, July 1 to 5, 1939. The agenda proposed by the Committee, together with regulations for the election of delegates, has been sent to all party branches. The Committee furthermore declares the time between now and the date of the convention to be a period of free discussion by the party membership of any and all issues, whether previously acted upon by the party or newly proposed. Discussion articles submitted to the national office will be promptly published either in the public party press or in special internal bulletins. During the past months, the crisis of world civilization has deepened to an intolerable sharpness. Every sphere of

human activity—economic, social, political, cultural—trembles to its foundations. Summing up and focussing every conflict, there looms before mankind the immediate threat of the new world war. The savage imperialist powers and the brutal class that directs their destinies can find no other means for prolonging their rule than by plunging men once more and on an unprecedented scale into an international slaughter-house. This coming war, like the last, in spite of the lying demagogy which tries to dress it up in moral ideals, will be, from the point of view of all the imperialist states, democratic and fascist alike, nothing else than a gangster struggle for resources, markets, colonies and possessions, for the chief privileges in exploiting and oppressing the great masses of (Continued on Page 3)

In the Trade Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

The stakes in the fight between the United Mine Workers of America and the Appalachian coal operators are growing higher and more important every day, as the large issues confronting the American labor movement project themselves into the scene.

This strike of 320,000 miners who might be joined next week by another 100,000 unionists has significance not merely because of the huge numbers involved—decisive as this itself might be—but also because of the indispensable nature of the coal industry especially in war-time, and because of the strategic role of the U.M.W.A. in the entire C.I.O. movement.

Future prospects of the C.I.O. depend considerably on a victory or at least an avoidance of serious defeat by the U.M.W.A. in its present struggle.

Questions of the role of the union movement in war-time, the next steps in unity negotiations between the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L., and the inner regime of the C.I.O. hinge on the outcome of the coal strike.

Roosevelt's intervention in the dispute is considered a matter of days. How he uses his powerful position and influence on the strike settlement will reveal much on what treatment labor can expect from his war machine. How John L. Lewis reacts to government intervention should furnish a pretty good gauge of Mr. Lewis's actions in the next war.

The Main Issue

Main issue of the strike is the U.M.W.A. demand for a closed shop. Already all economic demands have been withdrawn by the C.I.O. negotiators. Lewis has indicated his willingness to compromise still further and insist only on a union shop and the removal of the penalty clause for strikes in violation of contract.

To understand the vital importance of this issue one must remember that the A.F. of L. is supporting wholeheartedly the organizing campaign of its recent affiliate, the Progressive Miners of America, a reactionary and dual union in the coal mining field.

Exclusion of this rival is necessary to prevent a bloody and costly internecine war with the A.F. of L. in this field. Even partial success by the A.F. of L. would spur hopes in William Green and the die-hard clique that ruin of the C.I.O. is possible. The least the A.F. of L. bureaucrats would gain is further weakening of the C.I.O. thereby making probable a unity pact which would definitely tend to be reactionary.

Bill Green's Game

Latest proposal of William Green to the federal conciliator in the coal strike shows what a shrewd and demagogic game he is playing to stab the C.I.O. in the back. Once a member of the U.M.W.A., Green knows of rank and file resentment within the miners union over Lewis' dictatorial control and unsavory record of the 1920's. Green was part of that Lewis machine. Now he proposes a national miners' referendum to determine collective bargaining representatives, hoping thus to capitalize on the resentment.

Best answer to the phoney Green proposal is introduction of more democracy within the U.M.W.A. Ohio miners, for example, would take more kindly to the Lewis regime if district officers were elected, not appointed. It is the inner flaw within the C.I.O. set-up which the A.F. of L. even more guiltily, uses hypocritically. A bureaucratic regime exists in both organizations. Lewis has the additional handicap of placing the albatross of Stalinism around the neck of the C.I.O.

Just as the interests of the entire labor movement are injured by the A.F. of L. attacks on the Wagner Labor Disputes Act, the invasion into the U.M.W.A. territory threatens to bring the possibility of a bigger open shop drive in major industry.

Powerful utility, steel and other industrial forces are backing the coal operators and insisting on an open shop drive. The A. of L. light against the C.I.O. in this industry can only aid in those plans.

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FLINT WORKERS PROTEST W.P.A. SLASHES

TWO AND HALF CENTS A MEAL NOT SUFFICIENT

Demonstrators Demand War Funds Go to Unemployed

(Continued from Page 1) Voiced in no uncertain terms the determined protests of their organization, the massed hundreds on the stairways and in the halls lustily sang "Solidarity," and gave rousing renditions of "Soup" and "We'll Hang Old Pollack to a Sour Apple Tree."

Since those outside the room in which the City Commission was meeting could hear nothing of what went on inside, local unemployed leaders gave fighting speeches from the top of a flight of stairs.

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L. A. Mexicans Defeat Local Jim Crow Move

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) LOS ANGELES, April 26.—When their homes were threatened by a petition presented to the City Council which would bar them from living in certain districts, Mexican workers of Azusa, a small town near here, turned for aid to the Los Angeles Committee of the American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees.

The fund immediately formed a committee in conjunction with the Mexican Sports Club of Azusa, an organization of young Mexican workers, and printed leaflets in English and Spanish condemning the attempt to establish racial restrictions as to the place of residence and calling on the Mexican workers to fight for their rights.

Council Retreats When the City Council heard the petition, the fund sent at-

orneys who demanded that the Council reject the petition. In face of the militant protest and the organized resistance, the Council conceded that it had no power to restrict areas from residence by Mexicans.

A unanimous vote of thanks was passed by the Mexican Sports Club in appreciation for the assistance given by the American Fund.

The Los Angeles Committee of the American Fund has organized several affairs recently to collect money for refugees from fascist countries. Among these were a concert and a basketball game.

In the basketball game the C.I.O.-All-Stars battled the Dura-Steel team of Local 1421, United Electrical and Radio and Machine Workers of America, who are the champions of the C.I.O. Southern California Division.

Statement by S.W.P. Branch On C. P. Role in California

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) LOS ANGELES, Calif., April 25.—In a sharp reply to Stalinist attempts to link Dave Price and Rena Vale with the Socialist Workers Party, the Los Angeles Branch of the S.W.P. has issued a statement exposing the activities of these two capitalist politicians and denouncing the treacherous role which they and the Communist Party are playing in California.

Dave Price is a former member of the Clarity caucus in the Socialist Party of California. He was a bitter enemy of the left wing and took a leading role in destroying the Socialist Party of that state by illegally expelling the left wing under the guise of "Trotskyism."

Rena Vale is a former Stalinist who has gone over to the right wing of the Democratic Party lock, stock and barrel.

The statement of the Los Angeles Branch of the S.W.P. is as follows:

Never Were Trotskyists The recent attempt of the Communist Party in California to identify the Trotskyists with the activities of Dave Price and Rena Vale is just another link in the chain of slander and frame-up which have now become the prevailing political methods of STALINISM. We emphatically state that neither of these two individuals are or ever were members of the Socialist Workers Party or any other Trotskyist organization. We have never collaborated with them in their present "political activities" and condemn their role just as vigorously as we condemn the role of the Communist Party. If the Communist Party is working hand and glove with the Olson political machine, Dave Price and Rena Vale have chosen the miserable political path of acting as informers for the anti-Olson capitalist politicians. Neither of these roads can serve the interests of the working class; they are two sides of the same counterfeit coin.

It is quite obvious that the Stalinists have been engaged in desperate efforts to integrate themselves into the capitalist political machine of Olson. The Stalinist today lives and breathes for one purpose: to become accepted and acknowledged by the boss politicians as responsible, respectable, patriotic and devoted servants to capitalist democracy. All the power and influence they have in the labor movement is directed to this end.

It is neither our duty nor our purpose to "expose" the time, place or circumstances of this process to the circles of capitalist politicians who for one reason or another are opposed to accepting the services of Stalinism.

The S.W.P. points out that the present struggle in California state politics between two groups of capitalist politicians is charged with great dangers for California labor. Behind the present attack on the Olson administration is the desire of Big Business to launch a vicious attack on the living standards of labor, on unemployment relief, on the labor unions. The Olson administration, in turn, cannot and will not resist the pressure of Big Business to whom in the last analysis it owes its allegiance. Determined and organized political and economic pressure of the working class can wrest certain concessions from the Olson administration but to seek an "ally" for labor in the Olson machine is an illu-

sion which every new turn in the situation will shatter.

The treachery of the Communist Party consists in their having tied whatever labor unions they control to the tail of the Olson kite. They stifle the independence of the labor movement. They bitterly attack any attempt on the part of the labor movement to free itself from the reactionary hold of the old capitalist parties. They block every attempt to achieve the independent political organization of the working class by spreading the poisonous illusion that progress lies in the direction of a har- monious alliance with the "left wing" of the capitalist parties. They attempt to frame up every militant worker who opposes this course as an agent of Hearst, the Associated Farmers and the Employers Association.

Labor cannot defend itself from the present offensive of Big Business if it confines its political activity to the struggle between two sections of the boss class. In the end this will result in labor's defeat. Olson and his political opponents will unite and make deals against the working class, the poor farmers and the pension movement, the moment they sense a lack of militancy, vigilance, and independent political action on the part of the labor movement and its allies.

Out to Smash Labor The present legal offensive against the unions as evidenced in such recent cases as the Howard Automobile Agency, Warehousemen Union, etc., is only the preludé to organized vigilante and gangster attacks. California capitalism is determined to win back every inch they lost to labor in the strike waves and union organization drive. The banks and the big farmers are determined to smash any attempts to organize the quarter of a million agricultural laborers in this state. We must consider serious measures for a counter campaign. Dependence on Olson is a delusion that will destroy the fighting power of labor ranks.

Great Opportunities But if the situation presents great dangers it also offers the labor movement great opportunities. The last state election saw the middle class in California rally to the support of labor in its struggle against the anti-picketing ordinance. This is a favorable sign of the greatest importance. The impoverished middle class, the pauperized aged, the small farmers, the great mass of agricultural laborers, the unemployed, the dispossessed youth, all will rally to the banner of the labor movement if it shows that it means to fight for its own interests and the interests of all who are oppressed by the profit barons. California labor, as well as labor nationally, should immediately take steps to organize a great convention of its forces: A.F.L., C.I.O., Railroad Brotherhoods, Independent Unions, for the organization of an independent Labor Party; a party that will unite, politically, the forces of the working class; a party that will challenge the right of America's Sixty Families to plunge the mass of people into unemployment and war.

The Socialist Workers Party is straining every effort to achieve this by advocating this program within the labor movement. We seek to convince the rank and file of labor that this must be their road.

N. L. R. B. ACCUSES GOODYEAR TIRE CO.

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) AKRON, Ohio.—The National Labor Relations Board issued this week a complaint against the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. charging unfair labor practices, including the organization of the company's notorious "flying squadron" for strike-breaking purposes. The United Rubber Workers of America has been pressing for action against the company for over a year.

Y.P.S.L. LEADS SCHOOL BUDGET CUT PROTEST

Stalinists Veto Picket Line of LaGuardia City Hall

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) NEW YORK.—In response to the threat of curtailed educational facilities called for in the educational budget cut of the LaGuardia administration, some 7,000 students massed near City Hall on Thursday, April 27.

The effectiveness of the demonstration was weakened by the tactics of the leadership of the demonstration—the Stalinist American Student Union. At about 2:30 in the afternoon there were thousands of students near City Hall. A group of them began to move toward the City Hall building where the Board of Estimate was in session considering the budget. The thousands of students met with opposition from one cop. But the Stalinist leadership, fearful of antagonizing the LaGuardia administration which they had helped elect, quickly backed down and moved away.

At this point members of the Y.P.S.L. (4th International) began to shout for a picket line. The Stalinist leadership proposed a meeting in Foley Square which is four blocks away from City Hall. They figured, no doubt, that this would be a safe distance from City Hall. When the Y.P.S.L. raised the slogan of picketing City Hall instead of moving to Foley Square, several Stalinist hoodlums tried to tear Y.P.S.L. placards. The Y.P.S.L. adequately defended itself.

Y.P.S.L. Opens Meeting

At Foley Square the Stalinists tried to shout down Y.P.S.L. militant slogans against the cut by singing "Hold Tight." They then broke the meeting up into several smaller ones in order to disperse their demonstration more quickly.

The Y.P.S.L. then started a meeting at which speakers condemned the education budget cut, and the Stalinist A.S.U. for not picketing City Hall. Irving Panken of the Y.P.S.L. district council and Irving Howe, associate editor of the Challenge of Youth, speaking for the Y.P.S.L., called for a picket line.

Some 100 students responded the vigorous militant speeches and marched to City Hall where the cops prevented them from picketing. The cops said that the picketers could not make any noise because the Board of Estimate was meeting. The Y.P.S.L. then picketed at the outskirts of City Hall, shouting "Sh. . . Sh. don't tell anyone, but the Board of Estimate is cutting the educational budget." Then after some more slogans and picketing the line was called off.

The contrast between the bootlicking attitude of the A.S.U. toward the LaGuardia administration and the militant fighting position of the Y.P.S.L. was clearly seen by those students really interested in fighting for decent educational facilities.



LAYOFF DRIVE CONTINUES ON N. Y. PROJECTS

Somervell Announces New Cuts From Job Rolls

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) NEW YORK CITY, April 27.—While President Roosevelt opens up the throttle to full steam ahead and Congress shovels in the dollars that are sending the war machine plunging down the tracks like a locomotive gone wild and headed straight for destruction, the unemployed are being forced to bear the full brunt of the cost.

Lieutenant-Colonel Brehon B. Somervell, local Works Progress Administrator, announced yesterday that next week he will lay off 13,740 workers in New York. Of this number 11,740 will be taken from construction projects and 2,000 from white-collar projects. This will slash the W.P.A. rolls in New York City down to 143,000.

Destitution and starvation will thus be forced on additional tens of thousands so that Roosevelt and Congress can go on burning money in the war machine. The Welfare Department reports that they have been besieged with applications from people in desperate need as a result of the dismissal of 10,800 W.P.A. workers at the beginning of April. Home Relief officials estimate conservatively that they can declare not more than 12,500 of the relief workers dropped in April and May as eligible for city help, but acceptance of this number of cases, without considering tens of thousands of other needy families, would add about \$600,000 a month to the relief budget, which is enough to buy at least seven first-class fighting planes.

At the end of this week the W.P.A. will close three white collar projects in New York City—the analysis of electric utility reports, sponsored by the Federal Power Commission, and milk distribution and clinical reports on home relief cases sponsored by the Health Department.

New York Bill Denies Teachers Free Speech; All Labor Is Menaced

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) ALBANY, April 19.—Legislation anticipating the military dictatorship which will be clamped down upon the United States when Roosevelt plunges into the coming war has passed the stage of "consideration" by capitalist politicians and is now in process of being written down on the statute books for immediate use against progressives.

Today the New York State Assembly passed by a vote of 107 to 27 the ultra-reactionary Devaney bill, which ostensibly prohibits the employment by the State or in the teaching systems of persons advocating the overthrow of the American government.

In reality the bill is designed to prohibit free speech and especially to prevent school teachers from explaining anything to their pupils but what is dictated by the representatives of Wall Street sitting in the state capitol at Albany.

The language of the Devaney bill apparently covers a much wider scope than the notorious McNabbe bill which is now in committee. The McNabbe bill specifically strikes at "Communists," whereas the Devaney bill proscribes advocacy of all "anti-American isms." But both bills are alike directed against the forces of labor and progress.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIRL WISHES ROOM in modern, quiet home or share apartment. Brooklyn preferred. Write c/o Socialist Appeal.

WASHINGTON, D. C. L. R. JAMES, author of "Black Jacobins" & "World Revolution" will speak on "THE COMING WAR," Wednesday, May 3, 8:15 p.m., 918 U. S. N.W. Auspices: New Workers School.

Get Your APPEAL At the Newsstand



Notice: We regret the delay of one day in issuing the 8-page May Day Appeal. This was unavoidably due to the large amount of extra work entailed in its publication. We are sure that our readers will have excused this delay after noticing the excellence of the May Day issue.

"I consider it a pleasure and a privilege to greet the Socialist Appeal and the Fourth International both morally and financially on the first of May."—A. Singman of Pine Bush, New York.

We want to acknowledge receipt of the following May Day Greetings which arrived too late to be included in the May Day issue:

- (1) A. Singman of Pine Bush, N. Y.
(2) The Los Angeles branch of the S.W.P.
(3) The Berkeley Y.P.S.L. unit of California.
(4) A branch of the Workers' Circle in Boston, Mass.
(5) Karl Liebknecht Unit, Y.P.S.L., New York.

"I went into Lansdale, Pa. last week to visit some old friends and looked up some former members of the old Socialist Party branch. One whom I had never met before looked over the 3 last issues of the Appeal and pulled out \$1.00 for a sub. The other subscriber said that if I would have asked him he would have subscribed long ago! I believe that if we had enough people to go out and sell the Appeal we could double the circulation. "When I first started to sell the paper I had a number of friends who refused to take it

when I offered it to them for nothing. Now they are regular readers and like the paper!"—Howard Stump, Appeal agent of Quakertown, Pa.

NEW APPEAL POSTER:

Talk about your latest summer creations from Paris! The Appeal Poster Shop is now at work on its latest creation in the form of an A-1 poster, Comrade R. who is directing the work tells us, "It's the best yet!" From a preliminary view of it we can agree.

This poster will be sent out in quantity to all branches in about one week's time. Watch for it and make good use of it!

Subscriptions fell off sharply this week. We hope that this isn't an early sign of the summer slump! Here's the record for the week:

Table with 2 columns: Location and Subscriptions. Includes entries for New York City, California, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York State, New Jersey, North Dakota, and a Total of 30.

The following branches increased their bundle orders:

- (1) Los Angeles is taking 25 more per issue for a total of 150. John Murphy, by the way, is making great strides towards wiping out completely the old debt owed by L. A.
(2) The new Y.P.S.L. unit of Madison, Wis., has jumped all the way from 10 copies per issue to 30 copies. D. Thorpe is the new literature agent for the unit.

Anti-War Speeches Win Crowd from A.S.U. Rally

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) BOSTON, April 20.—It took only one member of the Young People's Socialist League (Fourth International) to win the entire crowd away from a jingo American Student Union meeting held here on the Common on April 20—the day of the student strikes against war.

John Hamilton, an ex-Y.P.S.L. member, and now the organizer of the Boston Y.P.S.L. mounted a peach basket only 50 feet away from the large Stalinist pro-war rally. The only one in his audience was comrade Besie Schlossberg. The audience and they sang a duet of "Banker and Boss", a workers' song of solidarity.

All eyes turned toward Hamilton as he started to speak. In a few minutes the major portion of the crowd that had been listening to the pro-war speeches of the A.S.U. orators moved over to listen to Hamilton. The Stalinists became frantic. They had gathered their crowd by hiring busses and bringing down all the students from Harvard, Radcliffe, Wellesley, Simmons Colleges that would come to hear the speakers on the Common. But this lone young socialist, who kept telling the crowd how to fight war by fighting capitalism, had won

the entire audience away from the A.S.U. meeting in a few minutes' time.

Call the Cops Finding themselves without any listeners, the Stalinist leaders, in true rat-like fashion, called the cops and demanded that they silence Hamilton, claiming that the Ypsel orator had no permit to speak. But Hamilton was victor of the day in every respect. He whipped out his speaker's permit and in a loud and clear voice harangued against the war mongers for the next thirty-five minutes.

By that time the main speakers had arrived. Hamilton introduced John Poulos, C.I.O. organizer of Lynn, who continued telling how war could be averted by a relentless struggle against the war makers—the capitalist class. Poulos was followed by George Mathews, organizer of the Harvard Socialist League (Fourth International) who rushed from an anti-war meeting on the Harvard campus to speak on the Common.

In the meantime, the A.S.U. realized that the Y.P.S.L. speakers were too much competition for them, and they closed the meeting early. The crowd remained to hear the Socialist speakers until the Y.P.S.L. closed the meeting many hours later.

Congressional Investigators Launch W.P.A. "Red" Hunt

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) NEW YORK CITY, April 26.—Agents of the Congressional Committee investigating the W.P.A. attempted to violate the law, it was learned last night, in their efforts to uncover "reds" among the workers employed on the Federal Arts Projects in this city.

After distributing copies of a questionnaire among 100 persons employed at the project, demanding among other questions, the union and political affiliations of the workers, the committee's attorney, H. Ralph Burton, who has served as counsel for the ultra-reactionary Daughters of the American Revolution and other wealthy patriotic groups, tried to order the W.P.A. project to mimeograph his questionnaire and distribute it to the workers.

According to Congressional act it is specifically forbidden to the W.P.A. to distribute or prepare any inquiry into the political or organizational affiliations of its workers. The law forbids discrimination against relief workers because of race, religion, politics, or union membership.

The sixteenth and last question of Mr. Burton's questionnaire read: "Are you a member of any alliance, associa-

tion, society or union? Name all. State amount of dues paid. State how often meetings are held. State who solicited you for membership."

Other questions attempted to discover the past professional background of the workers, to make a comparison of their present W.P.A. compensation with the sums they earned in private employment, and to determine their birthplace and citizenship status.

The Red Herring One of the major efforts of the present "investigation" of W.P.A. and relief by the House committee headed by the notorious Representative Woodrum who is a bitter opponent of any and all relief appropriations, is to prove that recipients of relief are "reds" and should therefore be thrown into the streets to starve.

A "red" in the eyes of Congressman Woodrum is anyone who does not salute the American flag three times a day, doesn't want to go to war to fight for capitalist profits, belongs to a union, or makes less than a Congressman's salary.

Join the Socialist Workers Party

By Dwight Macdonald

SPARKS IN THE NEWS

World's Fair Tale

You have probably seen photographs in the papers of the Soviet pavilion at the New York World's Fair: a towering monstrosity, streamlined up to an enormous statue of a man in overalls holding aloft, in a Statue-of-Liberty attitude, a large star. The architect is Boris Yofan, most renowned of present-day Soviet architects, who did a similar job for the Paris Exposition, substituting for the man in overalls a pair of muscular young people in shorts.

Yofan also did the Palace of the Soviets in Moscow, whose colonnaded tiers rise up like a huge wedding cake to form a pedestal for a gigantic statue of Lenin. That there is something esthetically grotesque in a building serving as the pedestal of a statue—and what statues!—this bit of grammar school architectural lore has yet to penetrate the Russian steppes.

At any rate, there is quite a story connected with Yofan's latest monstrosity. It seems—according to some one who should know—that many months ago a pair of Soviet architects arrived in this country with a plan for a Soviet building at the Fair. This was submitted to the Fair's architectural board, which, as is the routine, criticized it and suggested certain changes so as to bring it into harmony with the surrounding buildings. The architects went back to Moscow, and no more has been heard over here of either of them.

This winter Yofan and an associate, K. S. Alabian, arrived in New York and presented an entirely different plan. On examining this one, the Fair's architectural board found that its ground plan was some fifty feet bigger than the space allotted to the building and, furthermore, that its central tower, bearing the workman-and-star, was one hundred and eighty feet high, which was just one hundred feet higher than the top limit which had been set for all governmental buildings at the Fair. The board was, therefore, about to return the plans with a request for drastic revisions when a wire came from the State Department in Washington.

Its general gist was that the two previous architects had been liquidated because their plan had been criticized, and that it would be much appreciated if the Yofan-Alabian plans could be approved by the board without any major changes. So the board, being kindly fellows, let the tower stand—and, to give room for the extra fifty feet of ground space, moved over three adjoining buildings, one of them being, incidentally, the Japanese pavilion. Yofan returned in triumph to Moscow, where he was fittingly honored. And just before he sailed, he gave to the press an interview in which he made a number of contemptuous re-

marks about the bourgeois architects of the United States.

Footnote on the Romanovs

"More than 600 volumes of early nineteenth century fiction which came from the Imperial Library at Tsarskoe-Selo have been purchased by the University Library. . . . The books came from that section of the private library of Nicholas II which was housed in the Alexander Palace. There they must have remained on the shelves, undisturbed by the curiosity of the Emancipator or of his descendants. Otherwise, it is hard to account for their amazingly fresh condition, the completeness of the sets and the fact that many of them are found in the original paper covers just as they were issued." From *The Princeton Alumni Weekly*, April 15, 1938.

More Afterthoughts

In my role of unofficial critic and reviewer of S.W.P. demonstrations, I found myself the other night on the campus of the City College of New York, taking in the Yipsels' anti-war strike. The meeting was held outside one of the college buildings, and attracted perhaps two hundred people. The Stalinized American Students Union, which for good reasons the college authorities "recognize" as the official anti-war student group, held its meeting at the same time, in the Great Hall of the college, with Joseph P. Lash and Heywood Brown as the chief speakers. I poked my nose into the Great Hall long enough to estimate the attendance there at about 1,000. The contrast between these figures is sad, but it reflects no discredit on the Yipsels. They had plenty of banners, red flare lights, and slogans chanted in unison, as well as some excellent speakers. The smallness of the crowd they drew simply reflects the great strides the war spirit has made on our campuses.

There is, however, one criticism I would like to make. In the early part of the meeting, a number of Stalinists stood on the fringes of the crowd and shouted appeals to passing students to go to their meeting. These cries were so loud as to make it hard to hear the speakers. Finally, a few stalwart comrades presented themselves before the disrupters and, without having to actually use force, were able to convince them their place was elsewhere. After that, the meeting went on peacefully. I should say that this should have been done much sooner, and that only such a show of force—however much the danger of breaking up the meeting entirely—will silence such disrupters. I say this realizing quite well, of course, that force—or even the threat of it—is a two-edged weapon at radical meetings.

MEN AND WOMEN OF LABOR

OUT OF THE PAST

By EMANUEL GARRETT

AUGUST SPIES

(Dec. 10, 1855—Hanged, Nov. 11, 1887)
"Barbarians, savages, illiterate, ignorant Anarchists from Central Europe, men who cannot comprehend the spirit of our free American institutions"—of these August Spies, was proud to acknowledge himself one.

To his prosecutors and defamers Spies admitted his "mistake"—he had chosen his place of birth unwisely. Born in Landeck, Germany (hence, a "foreigner") he did not emigrate to the United States until after his father's death, when he was already 17 years old. That disqualified him, said patriots, from advocating human liberty.

The Spies family was not exactly a wealthy one, but it lived in comfortable circumstances. His father, a forester, was able to provide his sons with private tutors, and other luxuries denied the usual working man. This it was that Spies had no contact with the proletariat, that is with the misery that is the proletariat's, until after he had arrived in America.

A Worker Among Workers

Settling at first in New York, he learned the furniture business. Within a year he moved to Chicago where, working in a factory he became fully conscious of the shocking conditions under which men lived and worked. Work, he discovered, was a privilege meted out by idlers to those whom it wished to employ when profits were to be gained.

In 1875 a friend invited him to attend a lecture on Socialism given by the Workingmen's Party of Illinois. Of a sudden he realized that here was the answer to the questions he had been asking. Studying what socialist literature was available, he became a convinced socialist and joined the Socialist Labor Party in 1877. At the same time he joined the "Lehr und Wehr Verein", an armed body of 1,500 well-drilled workers organized in reaction to the many vicious assaults on workers by police and militia-men during that year. The patriots, themselves protected by their armed state services, placed a ban on the bearing of arms, and the Verein was disbanded.

Several times Spies ran for office on the socialist ticket. But like a good many of his comrades at the time who became disillusioned with the uses of the ballot box, the key to which lay in the bosses' pocket, he turned against political action completely, adhering to the anarchist wing of the workers' movement. Thus, failing to understand the limited, yet important, value of the ballot box in working class agitation, he gave up that field of action completely after a few sorry experiences and thereby cut himself off from a vital means of propaganda.

The S.L.P. began in 1880 the publication of the "Arbeiter Zeitung" as a daily. Spies began with the "Zeitung" as business manager and then became editor, working interminable hours each day, until his arrest on May 5, 1886.

Active in building revolutionary workers' clubs in Chicago, a leading agitator for the

eight-hour day like his fellow martyr, Albert Parsons, Spies was a popular figure among worker militants. His brilliant oratory endeared him to thousands upon thousands of workers. As a speaker he was known in virtually every industrial city in the country. Travelling around, he joined in many battles of the workers exposing their plight, publicizing their struggles.

Spies was present when on May 3, 1886 the Pinkertons and the police swooped down on the strikers at the McCormick Reaper plant who were "educating" the scabs in their own way. Many strikers fell under the Pinkerton and police gunfire. Spies left for his newspaper office immediately. Here he wrote a proclamation to the workmen of Chicago. One of the type-setters added the slogan "Revenge!" which Spies later had removed, though it has come to be known as the "Revenge Circular." A call for a protest meeting in Haymarket Square was published in his paper.

Spies arrived late at the meeting, as a German speaker he had expected to speak last. The meeting having not yet been opened he called it to order in a smaller location. Parsons, Fielden and others spoke. Detectives ordered the meeting stopped. The speakers refused. A bomb was thrown. Police were injured and eight men were arrested. The great Haymarket Case had begun.

Spies along with others of his comrades was sentenced to be hanged. When sentence was pronounced the court asked him if he had anything to say. He spoke for two hours. "In addressing this court I speak as the representative of one class to the representatives of another. . . . My defense is your accusation, the causes of my alleged crime your history."

While in jail, waiting for sentence to be executed, Spies was visited by a young woman who had come to the trial to see "beasts" and saw instead men who were sacrificing their lives for humanity. She thereafter devoted all her efforts to the freeing of the men. Her friendship with Spies having grown she became his wife so that there would be less obstacles put before her in her work for the Haymarket Martyrs. The bourgeois press seethed with fury and slime. She had married, not a fat, old money-bag, but a fighter in freedom's cause.

A Voice Pierces the Silence

As the day of execution approached and the appeals for pardon were ignored, Spies prevailed upon, together with two other defendants, to submit a petition for clemency. But he soon repudiated the petition of which he was ashamed in a letter in which he proposed that he be hanged and the others freed. The others were not freed. Two were sent to jail; five to the gallows; one had committed suicide.

The hangman placed the black hood over Spies' head. In that silent moment before the rope was cut, Spies' piercing voice shattered the silence: "There will come a time when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today."

Hitler Swaps Demagoguery with Roosevelt

FDR SIGNS HUGE PLANES BILL, ASKS FOR MORE

Generals Spend Fifty Millions for War Machines

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
WASHINGTON, April 26.—Within an hour after President Roosevelt signed into law today the \$549,000,000 War Department appropriation bill, the War Department shovelled out \$50,000,000 of it in one single record-breaking order for 571 bombing, pursuit, interceptor, and photographic war planes.

This purchase is but the first step in a landslide of orders which will presently be forthcoming, according to Louis Johnson, Assistant Secretary of War, to treble the army's air strength by increasing it to more than 6,000 planes. The order calls for planes of the latest super-designs, killing planes built to travel 400 miles an hour, to destroy planes of other capitalist bandits at vast distances, and carry enormous loads of bombs.

More Funds for Navy
Still another development in Roosevelt's war preparations was a request from the President that Congress appropriate \$31,621,000 to begin the immediate construction of a chain of naval bases in the Pacific, Alaska, Puerto Rico and continental United States.

The largest appropriation for war since the demobilization of the American Expeditionary Force, \$549,000,000 was rushed to completion in record haste following its passage by Congress only yesterday. Generally a few days elapse between the passage of a bill and its signing by the President.

Congressmen who have been posing as "economy-minded" in their drive to slash funds for the relief of the unemployed were gleeful at the swiftness with which they were able to dump more than half a billion dollars in one bill into Roosevelt's war machine.

Reorganizing Army
As a further war measure, Secretary of War Woodring, announced that he will ask Congress within the next few days for authorization to trim the deadwood out of the officer corps of the United States army. He wishes immediately to subject 7,890 officers of the army to rigid examinations that would eliminate most of them in favor of younger, more vigorous blood.

BENDIX CO. COUPON CLIPPERS GET ALONG

Stockholders of the Bendix Aviation corporation were informed a few days ago that the net profit for the first quarter of the year will total \$1,000,000.

The improvement in profits, said Vincent Bendix, president, came from a "combination of favorable factors," largely the result of the "national defense program" which "will tax to the limit the increased capacity of our aircraft divisions during the last half of the year."

Mr. Bendix did not announce an increase in wages to go with the increase in dividends.

Wants Share of Spoils; Omits Mention of USSR

(Continued from Page 1)

ing in the name of the different groups of capitalists whom they represent, they are talking about markets, colonies, profits, and super-profits, for which they are all ready to fight to the last drop of blood of the workers of all countries. That is why this threatening war has nothing in common with the interests of the workers of any land. It is nothing but the culmination on a vast international scale of the vile greed that motivates the bosses whose sole aim is to rob each other where and how they can while jointly keeping the workers ground down to a minimum standard of living and lower still.

Roosevelt's Motive

Roosevelt made his "peace" plea not because he really expected Hitler to take him up but because he wanted to "make the record" and able to



say later on to the American workers that he had done "everything possible" to maintain peace. In his reply Hitler sang the same tune, only from the opposite side of the fence. He too claimed to be an apostle of peace. He too averred that he hated war. Meanwhile he made plain that war was coming anyway.

Nevertheless, while speaking in his usual bellicose terms, the Fuehrer left the door wide open to any deal that he might be able to extract from his badly-frightened rivals. He offered new promises, new pledges, of various kinds, and said that if Germany's demands were satisfied he was willing to talk things over.

Passing the Buck

In this way he has succeeded in throwing the ball back to his adversaries and placing upon them the onus of either offering Hitler a deal or pushing ahead for immediate war. It was obvious, in any case, that Danzig is the next item on the agenda. The British and French are trying to get Poland to agree to give up Danzig without a struggle in order to avoid having the war issue forced over the question of returning to the Reich a city that is not only overwhelmingly German but which is already under Nazi control. Whether the Poles will give in remains to be seen in the immediate future.

Meanwhile the British diplomatic offensive to form an encircling bloc of powers made little headway against the counter-offensive of the Rome-

Berlin axis. Despite inspired reports to the contrary, the role of Russia in this set-up remained as unclear as ever.

Maisky "Explains"

Passing through Copenhagen on his way back to London, Soviet Ambassador Ivan Maisky said Moscow's position was "perfectly clear." This meant, he added, that in case of aggression, the Soviet Union would "come to the aid of Europe." Europe at present being divided into two camps getting ready for war, the ambassador's statement really came as something of a new record in ambiguity. Rumania, on its part, was still agobblingly uncertain about which bed to jump into, and Turkey still stood cautiously on the outside, waiting to see what Russia would do.

In Great Britain the conscription measure was rushed through a compliant House of Commons. The Chamberlain government addressed itself to the task of flicking over the feeble "opposition" to the measure registered by the official Labor Party and trades union leadership. This did not involve preparations for crushing strikes, for the labor bureaucrats have no intention of really waging any militant struggle against the attempt to yoke the British workers to the war machine.

Cabinet Re-Shuffle

No, it merely meant plans to re-shuffle the cabinet to make its personnel a little more personally pleasing to the Laborites—who, after all, have been louder than any during the past year, in demanding an aggressive war policy.

The other means being used to make conscription palatable is a promise later on to limit war profits and prevent profiteering—although as Chamberlain himself admitted in Commons, the government has been finding it extremely difficult to do this, and anyway, does not wish to discourage the munitions makers!



MARIE RUBENS

L.N.P.L. Conventio Surprised by Stand For Workers Politics

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
BOSTON, Mass.—Over 230 delegates claiming to represent 85,000 workers recently met at the second annual convention of this state's Labor's Non-Partisan League. A definite sentiment for independent class politics emerged, but got little encouragement.

Many large unions sent only observers to the convention because disgust with the League policy of playing ball with the notoriously reactionary Democratic machine in this state still prevailed among many unionists.

Eli P. Oliver, national executive vice president of the League, mentioned the possibility that if the Democratic Party did not nominate a "friend of labor" the L.N.P.L. would run an independent candidate. The storm of applause that greeted this hint of independent class politics greatly surprised Oliver.

SOCIETY NOTES

If You Can't Make It By Hitchhiking Charter a Plane

James Roosevelt, son of President Franklin D., received an invitation while vacationing in London to dine with King George and Queen Elizabeth. But he delayed departing for the appointment until it was too late to go by regular transportation.

This, however, did not daunt James, in whose veins flows the resourceful blood of the Roosevelts. He chartered a private plane and flew to Windsor.

It cost him approximately \$315 for transportation alone to fulfill his engagement with the royal George and Lowie—but after all he arrived in time for the eats and that's just as important to the blue-blooded Roosevelt clan as taking another slash at the relief funds of the unemployed.

Tired of No Job? You Can Always Hang Yourself

When dawn came over the Bronx, New York, the other morning, the body of David Manaker, twenty-seven years old, was discovered swinging by the neck from the branch of a tree in Crotona Park between Crotona Avenue and Fulton Street.

Police arrived in response to calls and cut the body down. After searching his pockets and discovering a card of the Bronx Eye and Ear Hospital and a card issued by the National Ship Workers Union, police finally got down to the bottom of his worldly possessions—a single five cent piece and . . . a social security card.

Police decided that apparently Manaker was without work and had no home. They called it a case of suicide and sent the body to the morgue.

DEFENSE AVOIDS WITNESS STAND IN RUBENS CASE

Fear Exposing G.P.U. Connections at N.Y. Passport Trial

By NAT LEVINE

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
NEW YORK—Immediately after the government rested its case on Friday, April 28, in the conspiracy trial involving the issuance of forged passports to eighteen men and women, among them the Moscow imprisoned Robinson-Rubens couple, counsel for the defense announced to the press that it would not place the defendants Ossip Garber, Edward Blatt and Aaron Sharfin on the witness stand.

This procedure is tantamount to throwing in the sponge. From the opening date of this case, the defendants would not plead guilty since a formal admission of guilt would, in effect, have meant to concede the machinations of the G.P.U. in this country. Furthermore, in order at this late date to prevent any possible slip up which might reveal a connection with the Soviet Secret Police, the defendants are being withheld from taking the witness stand in their own behalf. The last recourse in the strategy of suppressing the relations of the three men with the G.P.U. has been to put up a formal defense against the charge of criminal conspiracy.

Loy W. Henderson, one-time Secretary of the American Embassy at Moscow who saw Mrs. Rubens in her Lubianka cell early in 1938, added nothing to throw light on her arrest by the Soviet police.

Loy W. Henderson, attache to the American Embassy in Moscow, interviewed Mrs. Rubens in her Lubianka cell early in 1938. During the interview with Henderson, Mrs. Rubens refused the proffered intervention of Embassy officials on her behalf and would say nothing to throw light on her arrest.

Helped the G.P.U.

Her refusal to accept the intervention of Embassy officials indicated that she was cooperating with the G.P.U. in its efforts to hang the Trotskyist label on herself and her husband, after which they would be linked to German-Japanese spies.

Since the Henderson interview, a number of illuminating facts have come to light establishing that at every point in their American operations, the Rubens enjoyed the active collaboration of American Stalinists. As every day goes by, new facts come to light.

Most recent of these is that David Mankoff, for many years an associate of the defendant Edward Blatt, was or is a member of the Young Communist League whose activities have ranged from that of an organizer for the Stalinist-controlled International Labor Defense to a recruiter of American volunteers for the Stalinist-sponsored Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

Also of recent note is that Max Schulman was recently a proofreader for the Daily Worker. The name Max Schulman appears in the indictment as one to whom a passport was issued on October 10, 1935.

Prosecutor Ignores C.P. Tie-up

It was generally conceded among close observers of the trial that when Henderson took the stand, he would maintain complete silence concerning the obvious Stalinist tie-up of the ring. At no time has it been out of the realm of possibility that Henderson has a knowledge of the G.P.U. hand in the affair. If Henderson refused to air this tie-up, it can only mean that he is observing strict instructions from the State Department to remain silent.

In this connection, it has been previously observed that the State Department is not averse to allowing the G.P.U. to strike at the American revolutionary movement. This friendliness of the government towards the G.P.U. is based on the effort to bring the Soviet Union into the Anglo-French and American "Stop-Hitler" Alliance. The prosecution and the State Department are leaning backward in order not to offend a future partner in the war for "democracy."

S. W. P. CALLS ANTI-WAR CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 1)

mankind. The interests and needs of the masses, of the workers and poor farmers and colonial peoples, lie and lie only in unremitting struggle within every nation against the war and the war-makers.

The war presents mankind with an irrevocable alternative. If the imperialists have their way, if they fight their war unchecked by their respective peoples then, no matter which coalition emerges victorious, tens of millions will be killed, many more millions wounded, incalculable wealth destroyed, cities and countryside devastated beyond repair, a totalitarian tyranny fastened on the backs of every nation, and men throughout the world will face the prospect of a return for decades and even centuries to a literal and hideous barbarism. One perspective and only one offers a way out of this terrible prospect: If the workers and the masses of the people everywhere unite in opposition to the war of the imperialists against mankind, transform their war into a worldwide war of the oppressed against the oppressors, smash the whole rotten system of imperialism and build from its ruins a triumphant new socialist world of peace and abundance and freedom.

In the face of the new war, the peoples, who will bear the awful burden of the war, find themselves divided by the traitors within their own ranks. In advance of the war, the parties of the Second International again act within the work-

ing class as the agents of the imperialists of their own countries, and summon the people to die on the imperialist battlefields.

The Third International, founded in the struggle against the last war, has completed its degeneration. It is the rankest and most poisonous chauvinist force to be found in the world today.

Nevertheless, unlike 1914, when the betrayal of the Second International came as an unanticipated shock with no organized preparation against it, today the front line of the fighters against the war is already formed. The most conscious and determined of the workers struggling against the world war have joined ranks in the Fourth International, and on a world scale march forward with all the strength of an unimpeachable revolutionary program and a shining banner that will never be lowered.

The war crisis dominates and determines every other issue. The Socialist Workers Party, American section of the Fourth International, calls this convention as the ANTI-WAR CONVENTION and sets as its task the clarification and consolidation of its ranks for the supreme task now facing the workers of the United States and the world: the struggle against the war and the war-makers.

National Committee
Socialist Workers Party

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FIGHT WITH THE SOCIALIST
WORKERS PARTY FOR:

1. A job and a decent wage for every worker.
2. Open the idle factories—operate them under workers' control.
3. A Twenty-Billion dollar Federal public works and housing program.
4. Thirty-thirty! \$30-weekly minimum wage—30-hour weekly maximum for all workers on all jobs.
5. Thirty dollar weekly old-age and disability pension.
6. Expropriate the Sixty Families.
7. All war funds to the unemployed.
8. A people's referendum on any and all wars.
9. No secret diplomacy.
10. An independent Labor Party.
11. Workers Defense Guards against vigilante and Fascist attacks

Not Fit to Print

When Hoover's ex-Secretary of State lets out a yawp for war, or Wilson's chairman of the War Industries Board moves to get the same job again under Roosevelt, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee sets the stage properly and the newspapers blare the stuff out in headlines and reams of newsprint.

But when the Railway Labor Executives Association, constituted by the 21 principal railroad labor unions and representing over one million workers, sends J. G. Luhrs, executive secretary-treasurer of the association, to inform the Foreign Relations Committee that these unions stand firm for a popular referendum whereby the people shall have the right to vote before the United States can take part in a war—that's not news. The senatorial committee does NOT set the stage for the unions' statement, and the newspapers practically ignore it.

All the news that's fit to print—with the bosses and their political agents deciding what's fit.

A Berlin I.N.S. news item states that if war does not come this month, it may be delayed until June, since Hitler considers May his unlucky month. Lots of persons poo poo the idea of the science of astrology yet firmly believe that only the bourgeoisie know how to govern the world. This is in the face of the fact that the bourgeoisie can't govern without making life a hell for the majority of us.

Dictatorship in Bolivia

Bolivia is one of the "democratic" South American "republics" that Roosevelt wants to bring into a union of great American "democracies" in order to ward off the oncoming attack of the fascist countries. We should rather say that Bolivia was one of those chosen countries.

For now Bolivia has gone back on our President. She refused to continue pretending that she is a "democracy" and Colonel German Busch has openly declared a totalitarian regime. The Bolivian Legation in Washington, fearful of the adverse effect the proclamation of a dictatorship would have upon American public opinion, hastened to deny that the word "totalitarian" is applicable to the new Bolivian regime.

But what is a regime which openly prohibits opposition political parties, forbids trade unions to exist and destroys all forms of civil liberties? Call it by any name you please and it still remains a vicious fascist dictatorship.

What will our crusading democratic President do? Will he call upon the remaining "democracies" of the Western Hemisphere to ostracize Bolivia? Will he threaten Bolivia with sanctions unless the democratic regime is reinstated? We are certain that he will do nothing of the kind. For the simple reason that regardless of the nature of its regime, Bolivia remains a place where American capitalists can sell their products and invest their capital. The President will shut his eyes a little tighter and continue to prate about the American "democracies."

The rulers of Bolivia, not being competitors of United States capitalists are permitted to do anything they please to the Bolivian workers and peasants. Roosevelt or Ickes will make no squawk about Colonel Busch and his array of gangsters now crushing the life out of the Bolivian people.

Let those who believe that Roosevelt is sin-

cerely interested in protecting democracy in the Western Hemisphere rise to explain. What happened in Bolivia and President Roosevelt's silence furnishes more evidence that we are absolutely right in insisting that this business of defending democracy in the Western Hemisphere is nothing but a fraud. It means only defending the right of the capitalists of this country to exploit the Latin American peoples.

When Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt showed some women friends through the White House, she pointed to the absence of all small decorations. "We put away all the small things," the First Lady explained, because "we discovered visitors—sometimes even high-ranking diplomats, are not above pocketing a Ming vase as a souvenir." Well, these diplomats didn't get where they are by picking on such small stuff as Ming vases. They lift those to keep in practice.

Roosevelt Provides

If a pious speech could be served on a platter and eaten like a roast pig with an apple in its mouth, the children of the United States could expect to become rosy-cheeked and robust by just feasting on the speech that was served up by President Roosevelt last Wednesday.

For if ever there was a speech that dripped with pious gravy, it was the one Roosevelt read at the opening session of the fourth White House Conference on Children in a Democracy.

Unfortunately not even the discovery of vitamins or the Fireside Chat has made a speech edible, and if any of the children of the United States were hungry before Roosevelt started reading into the microphone, they were just as hungry when he finished and can be sure that they will remain just as hungry until they die, if Roosevelt determines their future.

Democracy is dependent upon children and they are dependent upon democracy, Roosevelt said; therefore it is necessary that children safeguard the democracy and the democracy safeguard the children. But, and this is a BUT as large as Roosevelt's war machine—in many parts of the United States, according to the President's own admission, children are "not provided enough to meet the minimum needs for food, shelter, and clothing, and the Federal government's contribution toward their care is less generous than its contribution to the care of the aged."

Since Roosevelt's government allows the aged to die like stray dogs without even the doubtful benefit of "mercy killing," what this government does for the children, by its own admission, is so small that not even Roosevelt can find anything good to say about it.

He pointed out that in the United States, children are starved, denied an education, denied clothing, denied warmth, denied homes, denied every minimum necessity of childhood, denied even jobs and the opportunity to marry when they grow up.

The President said that he was very much concerned about this, and concerned too about the lack of religious training given children. If what he says is true, that a democracy cannot survive without providing for the children born under its flag, then democracy in the United States is indeed doomed—it has not provided for even the most elementary needs of its children.

What does President Roosevelt intend to do about this condition which he deprecates with such beautiful words? Wait a whole year, he says, for "recommendations" from the small audience of rich people who assembled at the White House to applaud his pious speech—and then see. "Godspeed in your high endeavor," were the words Roosevelt used to end his speech.

Roosevelt of course is not so stupid as not to have some kind of solution to this problem, although he mentioned it only casually in his speech—that a democracy cannot measure its success even by its armaments unless it provides for its children. Roosevelt's solution is connected precisely with the armaments he is heaping up with the billions of dollars he has snatched from the unemployed and the children of the United States.

Every child in the country, when he gets big enough to shoulder arms, will be provided with a bright shiny rifle and shipped overseas to mow down the children of other countries and be mowed down himself by the bright shiny rifles with which the capitalists of other lands have provided their working class and farmer children.

This is what Roosevelt means when he explains that a capitalist democracy in order to endure must provide for its children.

Senator William E. Borah denounces the European democracies as treaty spoilsmen and advises youth that any war emanating from the current crisis would be "sordid and imperialistic," and would not involve the question of democracy or totalitarianism. "These European powers, whatever may be their idea or ideology or political views, pursue one and the same course when they come to deal with international affairs. They alike violate treaties, disregard the most fundamental principles of right, pursue methods which inevitably lead to war, and then call upon the United States, Canada, and other nations to save them from their own intolerable and vicious methods." They call upon the United States on the same theory as one calls upon a pupil who has outdone the teacher.

In Its Conquest of a World Empire
We See French Democracy at Work

While Playing Second-Fiddle in Total World Possessions
To Britain, France Has Aped Its Cross the Channel Ally
In Brutal Methods of Colonial Terror and Exploitation

By SHERMAN STANLEY
The French "Popular Front" government stabbed Spain's fighting Loyalists in the back by keeping an iron wall between them and war materials.

The "Popular Front" premier, Leon Blum, organized the Non-Intervention Committee which served as a double-barrelled lock between the Loyalists and the munitions they needed.

When the Catalan Loyalists and their women and children fled into France they were hurled into concentration camps, surrounded by electrified barbed wire.

Double-dealing, cynical, suave, ruthless, scheming, the French imperialists have developed these traits to a fine degree, in the process of carving an empire out of the world.

The French have had to play second fiddle to the British when it comes to reckoning up colonial spoils. Where the British Empire contains 500,000,000 odd people, that of France contains 100,477,000. Each Englishman has approximately 13 colonial slaves working for him, while for France the ratio is 2½ colonials to each Frenchman.

WORLD-WIDE EXTENT OF FRENCH EMPIRE

The French Empire is divided as follows:

- (1) The American and Australasian colonies: territory of 129,978 square miles—population of 1,112,000.
- (2) African and Syrian colonies: territory of 9,910,710 square miles—population of 36,890,000.
- (3) Asiatic colonies: territory of 900,842 square miles—population of 21,640,000.

This total world area of 11,000,000 square miles (excluding France) spreads over the entire globe and makes of France a world Empire, all of whose imperial possessions are

at stake in the present conflict.

It includes the Canadian coast islands, West Indies islands, French Guiana, East Indian Islands, Tahiti, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Jibuti, Madagascar, Indo-China, Somaliland, Equatorial Africa, Togoland, Dahomey, Ivory Coast, Niger, Camerouns and Syria. In addition, there are a host of small island groups dotting the Pacific, Indian Ocean, etc. which—as with the British—serve as naval bases, refueling stations, military centers, etc.

COLORED CANNON-FOODER FOR THE SLAUGHTER

The colonies supply an enormous manpower for the French imperialist army. Figures for 1935 show that (1) In the French Foreign Legion there were 16,500 colonials; (2) The African army had 103,500 soldiers and (3) The Colonial army had 87,500. There were 230,000 soldiers overseas in 1935 and the number has probably doubled by now. Forced enlistments and recruitment drives have been going on for over a year.

French imperialism has had a history as long and bloody as that of the British.

As early as 1830 they held possession of Algiers, the most valuable of their possessions. For over 100 years they have drained this Mohammedan country. It is the India of the French Empire. Next came Tunis, an area likewise of great value.

In the 1860's, the French took time off from their act of carving up China to take possession of the five provinces of Indo-China (Laos, Cambodia, Annam, Cochinchina, Tongking). All of them were subdued and occupied by a large military force. The English, incidentally, were the leading spirit in the London-Paris axis

that existed at that time. They grabbed up the Malay peninsula while the French took over Indo-China. London and Paris were the forerunners of Berlin and Rome in imperialist teamwork.

A sharp struggle took place over Morocco which France needed to protect its Algerian colony. It was finally given to France in 1911 after the Agadir crisis led Europe to the brink of war.

After the World War, France and England wrote their Versailles Treaty. In addition to exerting a commanding influence over the "Little Entente" countries of Central and Balkan Europe, the French divided Germany's African colonies with the British and also got a mandate for Syria.

COLONIAL REVOLTS PUT DOWN

The French have faced two major revolts on the part of the Arabian nationalist movement for freedom. In 1912 they put down a general Moroccan rising and in 1920 they put down the Rifis who were led by the famous nationalist leader, Abd-el Krim. French imperialism aped its English brothers in ferocity and cruelty.

In 1925 they subdued a nationalist insurrection in Syria. Their administration of this "protectorate" was so vicious that even their own creation—the League of Nations—was obliged to formally condemn French mal-administration.

The French Empire has consistently followed the British imperialist tactics of plunder and loot, military and dictatorial rule, suppression of all nationalist and democratic movements. The rulers of France—like their fellow imperialists across the Channel—can only have their tongues in their cheeks when they talk of fighting for "democracy" and "civilization."

C. P. Paint Brush Will Not Hide
The Truth On Spain's Betrayal

By FELIX MORROW

Heralded in announcements on preceding days as "the inside story on Spain's betrayal," the Daily Worker published on April 21 a "manifesto of the central committee of the Communist Party of Spain."

The document reveals very little about the "inside story". The "manifesto" is, rather, an attempt to still misgivings.

Why did the Spanish Communist party remain silent during the crucial days when the Negrin government cleared out and the Miaja-Casado Popular Front Junta took over and surrendered to Franco?

The actual facts are damnably clear. On March 5 the Junta took power. The next day the Negrin cabinet, including the Communist ministers, Uribe and Hernandez, evacuated the country, and in the same planes or others also went La Pasionaria, Lister, Modesto, Hidalgo de Cisneros, Carlos Nunez Mazas, Antonio Cordón, etc.—in a word, the entire leadership of the Communist Party (the general secretary, Jose Diaz, was already out of the country).

We pointed out at the time the impelling motive which made it impossible for the Stalinists to resist the Popular Front Junta. The Stalinists dared not admit to the world that the Popular Front had ousted the Stalinists. Still less could the Stalinists in turn oust the Popular Front, and take over the helm. Stalin himself had already abandoned Spain—as Kriivitsky has since told in detail—and so the Stalinist leadership simply cleared out with Negrin.

FAKING DATES TO FAKE AN EXPLANATION

But how explain all this away? The "manifesto" which attempts to do so is dated March 18. This date, the most plausible which the Stalinists could attempt, is undoubtedly a fake. The central committee was not in Spain but in France, since March 6, and had they written the document on that date, it would have been published long ago, and not on April 21. The dateline in the Daily Worker, "Paris, April 3 (by mail)" is pure fakery, for the huge Stalinist apparatus cables immediately here tenthrate documents, let alone one of such significance, and why would the Spanish leadership hold the document in Paris from March 18 to April 3? Actually the document must have been written well after the

events. The "manifesto" is so written as to give the impression that it appeared in the midst of the events surrounding the establishment of the Miaja-Casado Junta. But the Junta took power on March 5, put down the protesting troops in the succeeding week, and on March 18 had radioed an appeal for peace to Franco and had ceased all pretense of resistance to the fascists! The Daily Worker's introduction to the "manifesto", as one which "warns the Spanish people that the Casado 'Junta' could only bring about the enslavement of the Spanish people", and the present-tense references in the "manifesto" to activities of the Junta, are pure fakery.

"MANIFESTO" DODGES THE KEY QUESTION

Why does not the "manifesto" denounce the death sentences against Barcelo and other Communist troop leaders? Why does it not accept responsibility for the revolt? On the contrary, it says that those "who speak about a 'Communist uprising' know very well, that if we had wanted to rise up in arms against the Government we could have done it, because we had the forces to do it and to win." Then why didn't the Communist Party overthrow the treacherous Junta and organize resistance to Franco? This key question is the one which above all is asked by those—International Brigades, Communist party workers in the various pro-Spain organizations, etc.—who sacrificed for Spain and want to know why their sacrifice was in vain. But the "manifesto" is designed, not to answer, but to avoid answering this fundamental question.

In order not to answer, the usual paint brush is employed. The "manifesto" is entitled the "Casado 'Trotskyite' treachery", and is strewn with references to "Trotskyites". The fact that our whole movement, in Spain and internationally, was the only one in the whole workers' movement which irreconcilably denounced the Miaja-Casado Junta and that we characterized its counter-revolutionary character while the Stalinist press remained silent—this established fact does not trouble the Stalinist fabricators. At all costs they must confuse the issue by the usual mountain of slander against the Fourth International.

They dare to link us with Casado— they whose party

led over the Casado Junta, and who, as the "manifesto" admits, tried to make peace with the Junta!

Negrin went because the rest of the Popular Front, in seeking to save their own hides, needed a scapegoat to offer Franco, and the Stalinists, who controlled Negrin, were the obvious scapegoats. But Negrin's whole policy differed not a whit from his successors: both sought conciliation with Franco.

The Stalinists have sought to conceal this. In line with their preposterous picture of Negrin as a bitter-ender, the "manifesto" pictures the result had he remained at the helm:

"... today we would have peace, independence and liberty without reprisals. And we even say that it could have been possible to save some of the social gains made by the Republic for the benefit of the workers and peasants. Today, the peasantry would not have the prospect of seeing the landowners come back as the victors nor the workers the prospect of a slavery regime."

Unfortunately for the Stalinists, however, even their own collaborators have divulged part of the truth. For example, Negrin's foreign minister, Alvarez del Vayo, wrote in the British weekly, the New Statesman, (reprinted in Left, April, 1939):

"Of the three conditions for making peace which Dr. Negrin had stipulated in that last meeting of the Cortes at Figueras on February 1—the independence of Spain, freedom for the Spanish people to determine its destiny, and the assurance that there would be no reprisals—we knew perfectly well that the only one still possessing practical meaning, the only one we must strive for, was the third. . . . It was a question of making possible the departure from Spain of some twenty thousand marked men and women. . . . It was for this that the Negrin government was still disposed to resist—and for nothing else."

To save the hides of the Popular Front leaders—that was Negrin's sole program and that was the program of his successors. The "manifesto" cannot, any more than previous alibis, conceal this fact nor the indefinable fact that the Popular Front—whether headed by Caballero, Negrin or Miaja—crushed—the revolutionary masses and thereby made certain the victory of Franco.

IN THIS
CORNER!

By Max Shachtman

The conscription law proposed to the House of Commons by the Chamberlain crew is extremely enlightening, from at least two angles.

The first is the obvious contradiction between a law to conscript the young men of the nation into the army, and the loudly disseminated myth that the war which this army is to fight is overwhelmingly popular among the people. Anxious to maintain its carefully-acquired reputation for lying, the capitalist press, both here and in England, prominently displays reports that the youth of Britain is voluntarily flocking into the army. But if this is really the case, why is it necessary to resort to conscription? If there are so many volunteers, why must force be invoked to make them join the army?

The Labour Party's
Opposition

But as said, this aspect of the Chamberlain proposal is all too obvious. Less so is the alleged opposition to the conscription act on the part of the Labour Party spokesmen. Alleged—because it is not real, not consistent, not durable.

How easy it is for the Chamberlain group to dispose of such opposition by a contemptuous gesture or a cynical remark. In effect, this is all that the supporters of the Prime Minister have to, and do, say to their Labour Party critics:

"The Honorable Gentlemen of His Majesty's Ever So Loyal Opposition seem to us to be lacking in patriotism, love for democracy, or even respect for their own avowed position. In fact, objectively, they are aiding and abetting that very policy of appeasement to which, not so long ago, they took such vehement objection."

"When the Prime Minister, in his ardent attempts to preserve the peace, returned from Munich, he was assailed for not taking a firm stand against the German Chancellor and the totalitarian powers. The Honorable Gentlemen refused to take into consideration the fact that the Empire was not then in a position to implement by means of warfare the firmer stand which it might have been necessary to take at Munich. They showed their inconsistency then by insisting that a position should have been taken last September which could not but have meant war, and at the same time they recognized England's disadvantageous situation in the criticisms they made at the same time of our lack of military and aerial preparations. We were then the ones who best defended the interests of the British Empire and, consequently, of world democracy."

"Now, however, when the situation is ripe for a really firm stand by England, a stand which we must be ready to back up by armed strength, we again confront the inconsistency of the Opposition. Do they perhaps intend to fight Hitler's army with printed copies of their eloquent speeches? Or are they really so innocent as to imagine that we can wait until the Royal Army is built up to war strength by volunteers who are, alas, not forthcoming in sufficient numbers?"

"It was the Opposition that insisted upon an aggressive policy towards the totalitarian regimes. Now that such a policy is being practiced, the Opposition refuse to make possible its implementation. We are prepared to challenge them to bring the issue to a head, for we are certain that they will not pick up the gage of electoral battle."

Whoever Says A,
Must Say B

In their own way, the Tories would be entirely correct. The Labour Party patriots have a position which makes it impossible to oppose such measures as conscription. Whoever says A, according to the German proverb, must say B. Whoever demands so violently, as the Labour Party leaders have demanded for months past, that the country take steps in the conflict with Hitler which inevitably bring the war closer, cannot, at the last minute, pretend to balk at what, in the light of all that has happened, is a comparatively minor step in preparing for that war.

After all, the Labour Party politicians are just engaged in a game of pretense and petty factional warfare. A number of them have written in the quite recent past in favor of reconsidering the traditional English hostility towards conscription. The present official "opposition" to the law has nothing whatever in common with a principled stand. It is opportunistic from beginning to end. Tomorrow will prove to the hilt, when the Labour Party leaders come out openly, as they did in the last world war, as the most zealous and effective recruiting agents for the government.

But before they take on that role, they want a little more recognition than the Chamberlain government has condescended so far to give them. Not that Messrs. Atlee and Co. are ambitious or overbearing in their demands. Far from it. They would, in all likelihood, be satisfied with even less than Lloyd George gave them in his cabinet during the last world war. In other words, they would probably go along without so much as a murmur if the Chamberlain cabinet were reorganized to include a couple of such staid democrats as Winston Churchill, notorious friend of the Soviets, and Anthony Eden, notorious enemy of the Tories—and possibly to exclude Chamberlain himself.

Naturally, if a "genuine" National Government were established, one that would include in the cabinet a few regular Labour party wheelhorses, that would be so much the better. In that case, they would make the Chamberlain-Cliveden gang look like so many chicken-hearted pacifists by comparison with their own unrestrained military ardor.

If the whole record of the Labour Party leadership is anything to go by, it is a safe prediction that as the weeks go by, by their opposition to Chamberlain's present conscription law will not only be abandoned but that they will be in the forefront of the House of Commons mob howling for conscription for all able-bodied cannon-fodder up to the age of 35, with exceptions made only for those sterling patriots, the shilling-a-year men who must perform stay behind the lines in order to keep industry going at top speed and war profit rolling in accordingly.

And it is just as safe to add the prediction that the American equivalent of the Labour party leadership—the bureaucracy of the trade unions in this country—will, at the right moment, give its English brothers cards and spades and still beat them at the game.