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# SOCIALIST CALL

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Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States

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## Your World And Mine

By Norman Thomas

The New Deal has come to a complete standstill in its domestic policy. It has accepted a defensive role in the face of the complete failure of its type of reformed capitalism to conquer poverty and unemployment. Roosevelt has turned his attention to armament, economics and the effort to make America an armed messiah. The end of that effort will be tragedy.

It is increasingly probable that the Democrats will nominate some middle-of-the-road candidate, scarcely to be distinguished from the Republican candidate in 1940. There is, therefore, a revival of speculation about a third party, primarily farmer and labor in composition. But all such talk as I have heard ends with the discouraging note, "the fight in labor's own ranks dooms any effort for a labor party." [This is part of the price we pay for labor's civil war.]

### Coal Struggle

Nothing that I have written in the foregoing paragraph is meant to detract from the importance of the union ship agreement which has finally reached with the operators.

### Streit's Proposal

Clarence Streit's proposal for a world-wide federation of democracies has value in again challenging attention to the importance of constructive co-operation between nations. But Mr. Streit's proposal is no substitute for the Socialist idea for a federation of co-operative commonwealths.

### British Socialists

A letter from England tells me that some British Socialists, keenly aware of what conscription and war will mean to Socialism, are saying "but we must go through with it in order to stop the dictators and then have a simultaneous European revolt against war and capitalism."

### Travers Clement

I should like to extend greetings to Travers Clement, who begins his national secretary of the party. He has a hard job ahead and needs the support of all of us.



NORMAN THOMAS

### F. D. R.'s Letter

European politics become more and more complicated and have less and less to do with democracy. Roosevelt's letter to the dictators was admirable in substance, but unfortunate in tone and timing.

### Arms Traffic

Under these circumstances it is sheer madness to talk about collective security for democracy, or to assume that American trade in arms can be confined only to the victorious nations.

### Raps Return of Relief to States

NEW YORK—Rapping congressional proposals to place relief administration in the hands of the various states, Secretary Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has sent a vigorous protest to Chairman Taylor of the House Appropriations Committee.

### Tragic Incident

The 29 victims who were denied probation were summarily assigned to federal prisons at Milan, Mich., Atlanta, Ga., Leavenworth, Kan., Sandstone, Minn., Lewisburg, Pa., and Terminal Island, Calif.

# Harlan Miners Are Firm In Stand Against Military Dictatorship

## Troops vs. Miners



Kentucky state troops, a wall of khaki, are pictured breaking up a picket line at the Potz mine near Harlan, Ky. The miners are licking both the companies and Governor Chandler's attempt to crush their union.

## Union's Organized Power Breaks Ranks of Coal Companies; 3 Sign Contracts

HARLAN, Ky.—This part of America has been under military rule for more than a week. More than 1,400 National Guardsmen, many of Boy Scout age, have been patrolling Harlan county on orders of the government of Kentucky which seeks to destroy the miner's union and restore the terroristic rule of coal companies over 80,000 people who directly depend on the coal industry for their livelihood.

### Gov. Chandler on the Frying Pan

"Soldiers and guns and troops will not mine coal in America," Gov. Chandler is a madman who is unable to restrain his lust for vengeance against the miners.

### Harlan Officials Exposed by Senate Group

Excerpts from "Violations of Free Speech and Rights of Labor," the report of the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee of the U. S. Senate.

## Mr. Metz Pitches Fruit In the Scarcity League

By GERRY ALLARD

SPARTA, Ill.—H. H. Metz, Randolph county superintendent of a federal surplus commodities depot, must also have read Neal O'Hara's column in the New York Post about prunes.

in utter futility over our cursed fruit problem, the energetic Mr. Metz was doing something about it. Metz's doing something about it, however, caused a shock among sensitive members of the Illinois Workers' Alliance in Randolph county and they let out a yell.

We were directed to the scene of a more recent dumping by an alert local leader of the IWA. It was located a quarter of a mile east of William J. Montgomery's farm house. The writer's private conclusion that the evidence had been destroyed proved to be more than a conjecture.

### Mr. Metz a Doer

Whereas O'Hara wrung his hands

### Seeing Is Believing

The writer heard part of the report made to an official of the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission in the office of the miners' union: Accepting the challenge of "seeing is believing," the writer went to Randolph county accompanied by a photographer and a reporter of a large daily newspaper.

## 34 Illinois Miners Sentenced to Prison

By a Special Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—The Sherman anti-trust law was enforced by the federal district court here May 10 to imprison 34 officers, members and sympathizers of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, an American Federation of Labor affiliate.

in the Illinois coal fields. Bitterness was further engendered and many sympathizers of the Progressive organization expressed the belief that the men were framed.

### Official Comment

The "Progressive Miner" official organ of the union, caustically rebuked the court by charging that "witnesses of ill repute, plump of the berth, thieves, murderers, stock-pigeons, grafters and payrollers offered testimony against the defendants."

Legal criticisms of the case were voiced by union attorneys who pointed out that a blanket indictment against 34 men residing in various parts of the state made it impossible to treat such individual cases on actual circumstances.

### Hitler Rule

"Who issued this order, Hitler or Mussolini?" was the wry comment of a union spokesman.

### Trace Evidence

They had moved the essential evidence, all right, but on the spot lay 25 pasteboard boxes familiar around relief offices. Contract numbers had been carefully cut out of the boxes.

### Fruit Is Good

To make certain the appearance of the fruit was not deceptive we sampled the contents. They were good.

### Merchandise Buried

We found the canned goods, buried in a ravine surrounded by a heavy thicket a quarter of a mile south of the Montgomery farm.

### Question Official

The writer reasoned the logical place to ask that question was at the local office of the county, state, and relief commissions. We asked for T. W. Simonds, a former member of the IWA.

### Independent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Independent unemployed and WPA workers' unions and groups of unemployed and project workers will hold a national conference in Washington on Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and 25, at the Pythian Temple, 1012 Ninth St.

### Jobless to Meet Sept. 24

The conference is called for the purpose of federating existing independent organizations under a loose national committee which will help coordinate the national work and agitation of existing groups and give a national affiliation for the increasing number of organizations of unemployed workers who can secure fulfillment of their needs through existing organizations.

### An Old Story

The story has been repeated in every crisis since the American republic was formed. It has happened in recent years in Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

### Three Companies Sign

Three coal companies have already followed the president set by the great majority of the nation's coal mine owners to sign a union contract with the United Mine Workers of America.

### Chandler's Latest

Chandler is the latest of the growing list of Democratic politicians who have given the laborites of this and other states the great double cross.

### Chandler's Platform

Chandler in 1936 shared the speakers' platform with John L. Lewis and other union representatives. He was running for governor then and got them.

### Chandler's Platform

After he was inaugurated as governor of Kentucky the mine workers had to do their own fighting, naturally. The companies' reign of terror against the miners was exposed to the hilt.

### Chandler's Platform

Through it all Chandler was unusually discreet by his silence or apparent neutrality. He had bigger ambitions. He wanted to be a U. S. Senator and there is even talk now that he has his eyes set on the White House for 1940.

### Ben Unthank, "Field Man" of Harlan County Coal Operators' Association, had at his disposal the association's large slush fund, with which to reward deputy sheriffs who followed his leadership "in connection with resisting the efforts to organize the county."

When miners in the county attempted to organize themselves into a union, the association doubled the assessment on its members to raise funds in order to resist the organization drive.

Many Harlan county deputy sheriffs on the pay rolls of coal operators and their association had lengthy criminal records. Forty-three had been convicted of felonies and 64 had been indicted on one or more charges of murder, assault with intent to kill, and robbery.

The Harlan county coal operators, through their deputy sheriffs and "thug gangs," continually harassed miners and prevented them from attending union meetings, from speaking at union meetings and from distributing union literature. They even forced out of Harlan county the minister of the Cornett Memorial Methodist church, of Harlan town, because he had protested in his sermons against violations of civil liberties in Harlan county.

In Harlan county, the deputy sheriffs and members of the "thug gangs" repeatedly fired on union organizers, from ambush on public highways, in open country, and even in their own homes. They kidnaped and assaulted union officers and dynamited the homes of union organizers. They discharged tear gas bombs in a public hotel where union men were guests, endangering not only their lives but also the lives of the other guests in the hotel, including women, cripples and small children. In numerous instances they seriously injured union men by shooting them with dum-dum bullets. Their terroristic acts culminated in the murder on Feb. 9, 1937, of Bennett Musick, 17-year-old son of Marshall A. Musick, union organizer and resident of Harlan county for 14 years.

The Harlan county coal operators subverted and corrupted the office of free sheriff, in the years 1934-1937, through many extraordinary financial favors rendered to High Sheriff Theodore R. Middleton, who was in office from January, 1934, through December, 1938.

After he was inaugurated upon his term of public office as a man of small means and in three years amassed a fortune of over \$100,000. The coal operators also extended financial favors to the commonwealth attorney, Daniel Bodine Smith, and to County Judge Morris Saylor.

watching with intense interest. It is a challenge to the thinking of the labor movement. Will it persist in the suicidal policy of courting the favors of capitalist politicians? Or will it embark boldly on a drastic program of political independence?

The embattled Kentucky miners in their fight to preserve their union against military dictatorship and coal company terror pose these questions powerfully to the whole American working class.

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# The Workmen's Circle Convention

**BY S. WEISS**

A convention of the Workmen's Circle is in a broad sense a Socialist meeting. Its problems, just as well as its goals, are closely related with the Socialist movement. That is why the 1939 convention of the Workmen's Circle, which took place between the first and seventh day of May in Baltimore, Md., discussed so often the question of Socialist unity in America.

Being the largest fraternal organization of Jewish workers and Socialists, it has been directly affected by the split in the Socialist movement. In order to preserve unity in the Workmen's Circle ranks many branches have often decided to be neutral in the conflict between Socialist factions. This policy of "neutrality" in an essential Socialist conflict, has greatly isolated a large portion of the rank and file from the daily problems and battles of the Socialist movement.

This policy paralyzed the Socialist activities of many branches, which meant less Socialist lectures, and less Socialist propaganda, which ultimately meant less propaganda for the Workmen's Circle itself, since that organization is always keeping up a high degree of Socialist idealism and Socialist activities.

The only way to bring the Workmen's Circle closer to the actual Socialist movement was to unite that movement. The Workmen's Circle, therefore, had to become the torchbearer of Socialist unity in America. This convention demonstrated its deep interest in Socialist unity.

**Thomas Speaks**

The appearance of Comrade Norman Thomas on the floor of the convention has been the occasion of an enthusiastic demonstration. In spite of a vicious propaganda that has been conducted against him, he is still the most beloved personality in Workmen's Circle ranks. His remarks on the general political and social outlook in America and especially his analysis of our stand on the question of war was greeted with general applause.

The convention unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the organization to use its influence and authority to bring about unity in the family of Socialists. This resolution has been previously adopted at a conference in New York at which 83 branches were represented by 133 delegates.

In the same spirit of harmony and unity to pursue the convention greeted Comrade Harry Laidler and other Socialist speakers.

**Communist "Side-Show"**

At almost every Workmen's Circle convention, the Communist appeal for "united action" offers a sort of "side-show" to the delegates. Every member of the Workmen's Circle knows that the International Workers' Order, a Communist dominated organization, was born in direct opposition to the Workmen's Circle. Every now and then the leadership in the Workmen's Circle is viciously attacked in the Communist press as "ultra-reactionaries." In the past the officials have tried their utmost to destroy the very existence of the Workmen's Circle.

Those appeals for unity, which are automatically defeated at conventions, are not taken seriously at all since everybody feels that they are not made for the purpose of creating united action, but with the aim of bringing a confusion in the Workmen's Circle ranks.

These appeals just give an opportunity to revive an old hostile feeling to freshen up the memory of the older members about Communist tactics in the past.

**Weinberg's Speech**

This time, the general secretary of the International Workers' Order, in his appeal for unity that was published in the Morning Freiheit, an official Communist daily, before it reached the convention, demanded that the order is a Communist dominated organization.

It was this denial that drew most of the fire in the speech of Joseph Weinberg, chairman of the Workmen's Circle. "You can readily see the difference," said Weinberg, "we are Socialists and we are not ashamed of it, on the contrary, we are proud of it."

"We have spent quite some time here discussing the question of Socialist unity, which we consider our problem. But here is the International Workers' Order, an organization which is giving weekly full pages of advertisements in the Communist press, an organization which never fails to participate in any action of the Communist party, an organization which does not employ anybody but Communist party members. It denies that it has any Communist party connection. What an hypocrisy!"

That finished the entire "side-show."

The youth division of the Workmen's Circle, under the able leadership of Dr. Israel Knox, presented a fine report of its achievement in organizing new branches of the Young Circle League and of the English speaking division.

I shall not try to give here a detailed account of the useful and important work of the youth division, in which there is quite a strong Socialist following. My article has grown too large as it is. May I just say that here is growing a movement of which the old generation of Jewish Socialists will be proud of, a youth division that will carry the Socialist tradition and the banner of the Workmen's Circle in America.

**Demand Billings' Freedom**

The convention adopted resolutions demanding the release of Warren K. Billings and the Scottsboro Negro boys, bigger appropriations for WPA workers, to support campaign of the Jewish workers delegation of Poland and the work of the "Orit," an organization that works for the reconstruction of the Jewish economic life along productive lines. The convention distributed \$35,000 in support of labor and Socialist organizations, sanitariums, Socialists and other organizations and institutions. The convention also adopted a

resolution calling for trade union unity between the CIO and AFL. President Roosevelt was thanked for his efforts in behalf of labor unity.

Resolutions calling for the strengthening of the boycott of goods imported from Fascist countries, and help to the activities of the Jewish labor committee and its support to the victims of Fascism and Nazism were enthusiastically adopted.

**Trade Union Work**

A remarkable feature at this convention was the presence of a number of delegates from trade union W. C. branches. The W. C. has always been closely connected with the trade union movement. In many instances it has actually helped to form unions but it never tried to establish W. C. branches in the trade unions. This new program was started two years ago. This year such branches have recently been organized.

The organization work in this field is directed with the close assistance of the trade union leadership who feel that a close ideological and organizational tie between the W. C. workers would be beneficial to both the unions and the W. C.

Charles Zimmerman, manager of Local 22, and Max Cohen, manager of Local 80, both vice presidents of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, greeted the convention as delegates from the newly organized trade union branches.

Comrades J. Dorfman, Elinore Stachner, Fisher, Adler Siegel and others contributed very much to the discussions and committee work at this convention.

# U. M. W. Miner Shot



Eugene McGlothlin, 24, seen in hospital with wife and mother. A member of the United Mine Workers, he was shot while on a picket line in Harlan county, Kentucky.

# Tories Pass State Laws Designed to Cripple Unionism

## Lantz Bill Irks Labor In Illinois

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill.**—Legislative representatives of the American Federation of Labor, Congress of Industrial Organizations and other labor and liberal bodies have brought the full pressure of their organized forces to check passage of the anti-labor Lantz bill.

The bill is similar in structure to the Peterson law passed in the Wisconsin legislature and signed two weeks ago by Governor Heil. The Peterson law bans secondary picketing and secondary boycotts, restricts the closed shop, limits the checkoff system of dues collection, etc.

The Lantz bill, obviously a part of a well centralized network of legislative proposals now sweeping several states, was referred to the committee on agriculture, instead of the committee on labor.

It is backed by the reactionary Illinois Agricultural Association. Spokesmen for the association admitted they had not written the bill but refused to divulge information as to its source. It is the opinion of laborites here that powerful anti-labor forces have secretly organized nationally to effect such legislation.

Victor A. Olander, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois Federation of Labor, said labor forces believed they could muster sufficient strength to prevent the bill from becoming law in Illinois.

## Workers Aroused Against Measures Which Aid Bosses

Hitting effectively at the labor movement in Wisconsin and Minnesota, states which up to last election were the most progressive in the country, the same behind-the-scenes forces which crippled Oregon unions, actually outlawed strikes and picketing in the former states.

Referring to the new anti-labor laws, Wisconsin's G. O. P. governor, Julius Heil, a wealthy industrialist, told the Appleton Chamber of Commerce that "we have seen both barrels" . . . meaning, of course, the labor leaders who came to the legislature to protest.

Asked why more Republicans were not given places in the state service, Heil added that "we haven't got any jobs because there still are 2,000 to 3,000 to get rid of."

The Wisconsin bill was sponsored by the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture and closely follows the wording of the union-busting laws in Minnesota and Oregon, and those now pending in Michigan, Illinois and Pennsylvania legislatures.

**A Spurious Front**

The Council of Agriculture is a take-off on the Associated Farmers—a spurious front for owners of the 10,000 acre-ownership farms and the local industrialists. For a while the council even had the Midland Co-operative Wholesale Milk Pool fooled, but these organizations withdrew when they discovered with whom they were aligned.

Described by labor leaders as a semi-Fascist "strait-jacket," the bill passed by Heil's lieutenants abolishes the state "little NLRB" and establishes a three-man "employment peace board" to be named by Heil; strikes are outlawed unless voted by a majority of the employees in a collective bargaining unit—the unit to be determined by Heil's new board; closed shop contracts are outlawed unless approved by three-fourths of the employees in a designated bargaining unit; sit-down strikes are illegal; secondary boycotts are declared illegal; dues checkoffs are forbidden unless unanimously requested; only employees on strike may picket and then only if a majority in a designated bargaining unit are on strike.

**Tory Coalition Passed Law**

Strikes affecting perishable commodities may be called only after 10 days' notice. Unions are required to furnish detailed financial statements to their members and employers are given wide authority to file charges of unfair labor practices against their help. Coercion, which may be construed as any form of persuasion by an unfriendly board, is defined as an unfair labor practice.

Labor fought hard to beat the bill but stood no chance against a Democrat-Republican fusion on the proposals. Senate Democrats, holding the balance of power, could have defeated the law. These men are typical of both old parties, revealing the futility of placing any hope in either of them in 1940.

**Identical Dose**

Minnesota's Republicans are giving the former Farmer-Labor state the same dose: Heil's crowd is handing the Badger state. New laws in Minnesota draw the teeth of the original anti-injunction act, permit courts to interfere in strikes, and prevents any union organizer "from attempting to compel any one to join or refrain from joining any organization against his will."

G. O. P. Governor Stassen of Minnesota beat the Farmer-Labor ticket by corraling the support of the local axhandle Fascist crowds, the big farmers, the large industrialists, and Nazi units. Now he's paying off by chipping away all social legislation such as aid to the aged and blind, youth studies and relief. Stassen has shoved through a \$3,000,000 slash in relief funds, cut \$3,500 from a \$5,000 appropriation to study the problem of jobs for young people, forced the aged to mortgage their homes to the state in exchange for pensions, and deprived the blind of \$3 a month.

The Minnesota labor movement, angered by Stassen's flagrant violations of the political decency towards the economically helpless, last week began to plan for a unified defense against the industrialists. They hope to begin their fight by electing a mayor in Minneapolis.

**HARVEST JOBS DROP**

WASHINGTON—From 200,000 to 200,000 workers who formerly followed the harvest season from Texas up through the Dakotas have been displaced by machinery, a WPA report, "Wheat and Oats," reveals.

acute appendicitis in this country is now approximately 22,000. This is amazing when it is realized that deaths from this disease when surgically treated in the first 12 to 24 hours, are relatively insignificant.

While there might be other reasons for the increase in mortality in the second 1,000 cases studied (1931-1936), if the economic barrier which the fee for service system too often sets up between doctor and patient played any part at all, it should be removed. Sutured arrangements for no reason except that they are traditional, must not be permitted to jeopardize the lives and well-being of people in this country.—Bureau of Co-operative Medicine.

# An Unsung Hero Fights Hagueism

**HOBOKEN, N. J.**—In northern New Jersey, Frank Hague moves in mysterious ways his wonders to perform. And Herman Matson, Hoboken Socialist leader, can page and verse on how to land in jail charged with assault.

The formula is simple. Try to distribute labor or political literature against the Hague machine. Hague thugs will jump you, beat you up. A cop will happen along, drag everybody to the police station.

Then you will be booked on assault, even though you didn't raise a finger to defend yourself. And when you want to prefer assault charges against your assailants—forget about it. Because that's only justice, and the work is unknown in Hagueland.

Matson is one of the stormy petrels of Hoboken where Democratic Mayor Bernard J. McFey (who contributes to the Republican campaign fund), rules as the personal appointee of Hague.

Matson Lone Fighter

As chairman of the Hoboken branch of the Workers Defense League and an active figure among the unemployed, Matson has been waging a lone fight against the powerful McFey machine. Last September, when Matson tried to hold a public meeting to protect relief conditions, he was assaulted by a mob, and afterwards arrested, charged with "inciting to riot."

After a trial with Arthur Garfield Hays, noted attorney who represented Matson and the Workers Defense League, Matson was found guilty given a suspended sentence. And such is the nature of the suspended sentence was hailed by Matson's friends as an outstanding victory for their cause.

**Electon Violence**

Since then, Matson has been interested in the political campaign to oust McFey and his gang. A Fusion ticket was formed by some Hoboken people who were tired of Hague's domination. A campaign got underway, directed especially at McFey and Recorder Frank Romano, the judge who round Matson guilty. The elections were scheduled for Tuesday, May 9.

Pre-election Sunday, Matson and his 14-year-old son, William, went out distributing anti-McFey literature. Passersby accepted them gladly, congratulating Matson on his courage in fighting Hague. Suddenly, with a precision that bespoke planning, an automobile swung up, screeched to a halt by Matson.

Three men jumped out and, before Matson even put up his hands in self defense, were upon him. Matson fell on the ground. Young Willie tried to help his dad; for his pains, he too received a blow from the men. They grabbed Matson's literature, rushed back into their car and sped off.

**Identifies Attackers**

But Matson knew them. Patrick Lisa was a brother of Joseph Lisa, a McFey lieutenant and leader of one of the powerful political clubs that runs Hoboken. Another was Fire Capt. Patrick Kongo; the third was Charles Sitare, both McFey ward-healers.

Matson returned home where his wife washed his bruises, then made his way to the police station to press assault charges against the thugs. But at the police station, they refused to accept his complaint; they told him to see Judge Romano, McFey's No. 1 man.

Two hours later, Matson was accosted by Joseph Lisa himself. Lisa was accompanied by another brother, Nicholas, and Frank "Lips" Cardinelli who's got a police record from Hoboken to Jersey City and back.

**Attacked Again**

"So you're going to press a complaint against my brother," Lisa told Matson. "We'll stop that right now." And Lisa swung. His brother swung. Cardinelli swung. But Matson didn't swing. Even he had wanted to, he couldn't have. Because just then a cop "happened" along. He stopped the fight, pulled all three into the police station.

There the cop preferred charges of assault and disorderly conduct against Matson. Matson wanted to prefer counter-charges against his assailants—but that would have meant justice and that word is

# Pa. Socialists To Hold State Meet Sept. 24

**PITTSBURGH, Pa.**—The Pennsylvania executive committee of the Socialist party met in Pittsburgh on Sunday, May 14, and plans for the state convention.

The convention will be held on Sunday, Sept. 24, at a location to be determined by the state committee. A constitution committee was set up to revise the Pennsylvania constitution in line with the model Illinois constitution, and present their report to the convention.

Members of the constitution committee are: Leon Shull of Philadelphia, Milton Weisberg of Pittsburgh and Bill Hollister, state secretary. The action committee was directed to set up other committees to bring in reports to the convention, in order to facilitate the work of the convention.

Present at the SBC meeting were Milton Weisberg, Ray Merle Eitzen, Leopold Sauer, Charles Musgrove, Walter Paschke, Leon Shull, Andrew Panchik, Samuel Slyman and Bill Hollister.

10,435 Signatures Needed

The committee voted to start a petition campaign in August to keep the party on the ballot. It will be necessary to obtain 10,435 signatures in a period of 30 days. This is several thousand less than were necessary last fall, when party obtained over 16,000 signatures. The petition campaign begins July 24, and ends August 1.

A report was given to the executive committee on the new local in Reading, stating that most of its members are still members of the Social Democratic Federation. A committee of Jesse Hobbs, Leon Shull and Bill Hollister was elected to work with Norman Thomas and David Felix of the NEC toward a solution of this matter.

**Support La Follette Amendment**

The committee voted to establish a monthly mimeographed bulletin to be issued to all branch secretaries, as an informational and educational publication, the first issue to come out in May if feasible. In addition, the committee voted to ask all branches in the state to take up the question of the La Follette war referendum amendment at their next meeting, so that on in the senate. A directive will be on ways of applying pressure for the war referendum will be sent out by the state office.

# Honor the Chicago Martyrs!

**BY HARRY FLEISCHMAN**

**LEST WE FORGET!** Two years ago Memorial Day 11 steel workers peacefully picketing Republic Steel in South Chicago were murdered in cold blood by Mayor Kelly's Chicago police. More than a hundred others were shot in the back or clubbed down by Kelly's cops after the outright killings.

Workers throughout the world were aroused at the vicious brutality and sadism of the police and pledged an unceasing struggle to vindicate their martyrs. The Steel Workers' Organizing Committee, in particular, vowed that it would never rest until Republican Steel, the power behind the murders, signed a contract with the union for which the steel workers had died.

So brutal was the massacre that the howling crowd of it was suppressed by Paramount as likely to provoke riots throughout the country and as too horrible to show to the public.

**Pictures Released**

Finally the newspaper was released due to the tremendous pressure from indignat labor and civil liberties groups. The picture showed scores of uniformed police firing pistols pointblank into a dense crowd of men, women and children, and then pursuing and clubbing the

survivors unmercifully as they made frantic efforts to escape.

To impress upon the workers the enormity of their crime in trying to strike and secure better working conditions, the capitalist politicians of Chicago followed up the massacre with wholesale arrests of union pickets.

A complaisant judiciary arraigned the bewildered steel workers, tried, found them guilty and fined them. A venal Chicago press, loyally supporting the profits of its masters, did its best to create a mob hysteria against the steel workers' union.

**Kelly Charged With Bribe**

After the murder, New Deal Mayor Kelly cynically issued a public statement upholding the brutality of the police on the ground that "outside mobs came to Chicago to make trouble." Van A. Bittner, S. W. O. C. director, will be the principal speaker. This meeting will honor the memory of labor's martyrs. That is all to the good. It is more important, however, to uphold the principles and perpetuate the ideals for which these men fell. It is important to return to the principles of class solidarity and labor independence and opposition to the capitalist class.

Honor the memory of the South Chicago martyrs by fighting for labor's rights and for a Workers' World!

**STRIKE AT BRIGGS**

**DETROIT**—Seven plants of the Briggs Manufacturing company here were struck by the United Automobile Workers of America when company officials gave union negotiators the roundabout in discussions of a new contract to replace the one which expired May 16.

# Mr. Metz Destroys Canned Relief Fruit

Continued From Page One

chaint, presently the administrator of relief of Randolph county.

After introducing ourselves as reporters, a welcome smile quickly changed to a grimace. He bluntly said he did not want to talk to us. With a wave of the hand he headed us for the door. He then slammed the door of the depot. H. H. Metz, S. W. O. C. impolitely slammed the office door in our faces.

Yes, he was employed by the IERC; no, the canned goods were spoiled, that's why they were discarded, was the gist of Metz's replies to our barrage of questions. Then he wouldn't answer further questions. We would have to question his higher ups. Sorry.

**Pressed for Answer**

We replied by saying we wanted both sides of the story and pressed our point. Finally the depot superintendent resolved to call his immediate superior, J. J. Dirks, district supervisor of the IERC. Dirks evidently instructed Metz to answer our questions.

We were permitted to enter the warehouse; it was in excellent condition. We were shown written instructions on tainted and spoiled food issued by the federal and Illinois emergency relief offices.

Metz also volunteered to show us signed statements by five local merchants indicating that there was no conflict between them and emergency relief distribution with regard to one item—grapefruit. Fruit (in general) was mentioned repeatedly in the statements. The letters were signed May 11. On May 9 the Illinois Workers' Alliance had made its complaint on the troubled situation in Randolph county.

**Scarcity Program**

Metz said it was ridiculous to think that he or anyone connected with his office would destroy good, wholesome food. So did we, but we had seen the evidence, some of which had been mysteriously moved and buried; moreover, we had talked the contents and to date the writer has suffered no ill effects.

When one remembers that a national government controlled and administered by adults, supposedly normal and admittedly clever, had legally destroyed thousands of pigs, plowed under cotton, and reduced the acreage of corn and wheat, ridiculous lost significance in an America caloused by years of near famine should plenty.

**Questions to IERC**

Several questions are now in order in view of the facts disclosed by our investigation:

How much of the surplus commodities have been either willfully or negligently destroyed in Randolph county?

Was the dumping reported in regular order to the higher officials of the county, district, state and federal emergency relief commissions? Are copies of the reports available? In the IWA charge that relief officials in Randolph county are working in cahoots with local merchants valid?

Why did former merchant Stinson, relief administrator, refuse to talk to reporters?

Why did teamster Montgomery remove the canned goods from his farm and bury them?

What did Montgomery mean by "not wanting to get into trouble?" Was he instructed to destroy the evidence?

**Investigation Promised**

The Illinois Emergency Relief Commission has promised a thorough investigation of this Randolph county relief situation. This article is published to give positive proof of what is obviously an odorous situation. It is published so that the public may be informed as to what has transpired in one county and what can reasonably occur in others furthermore, this story is written to provoke action to assure hungry people in Randolph county of the things they rightfully deserve according to acts of congress, IERC rules, and by all ethics of humane decency.

**New Stamp Plan**

Since the investigation by the writer, D. E. Montgomery, consumer's counsel for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, report has been inaugurated to deal with surplus commodities purchased by the government and distributed to the needy.

The new system was inaugurated in Rochester last week and a memorandum released to the press states among the "distinct contributions to the public welfare" is listed: "It will increase the volume of merchandise moving through the normal channels of trade. That will help all business."

The plan obviously is aimed at reducing the opposition of business to the government's direct intervention in the contradiction between the farmers surplus problem and the unemployed's inability to purchase this surplus.

Whether or not this is a step toward elimination of the problems which have dogged the federal surplus commodities corporations remains to be seen.

In the meantime, the Randolph county situation demands a vigorous and complete investigation.

# Co-op Medicine

Recently we recommended to our readers James Rorty's new book, "Co-operative Medicine," which expounds the community of interest that has grown up between the American Medical Association and the drug, medicine, and the cigarette advertising businesses.

Six weeks after publication date (March 31) Mr. Rorty's book, one of the most comprehensive and valuable contributions to the progressive literature of the health movement that has yet appeared, had not been reviewed in a single metropolitan newspaper, from coast to coast.

It would seem in point to write your local editor and ask "How come?" We would be glad to have a look at any letters and editorial replies.

To those interested in books on the current medical economic scheme, we would like to call attention to a book published by Morrow company, entitled "Medicine at the Cross Roads," by Dr. Bertram Beinheim of Johns Hopkins. The Johns Hopkins professor is recommending at least a part of what we would like to see in effect, namely group medical practice as far as surgeons are concerned.

The Bureau of Co-operative Medicine, May 14, issued the following bulletin:

In the issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association for May 6, 1939 (Vol. 112, No. 18, page 1788), in an article by Drs. Kelly and Watkins of Cleveland on "Appendicitis in Adults," the following appears:

"We have analyzed another thousand cases of chronic, acute, simple and acute suppurative appendicitis in order of occurrence at Woman's hospital and have found no great variations from the first thousand cases except a sharp increase in the mortality rate (9 per cent to 23 per cent) for the acute suppurative type."

"We believe the increased mortality to be due to delay in operation and that in turn to (a) economic causes, (b) the tendency to use home remedies, including purgatives, for a protracted time, and (c) complicating factors in diagnosis causing delay in operation."

"In a few cases of suppurative appendicitis the operation should be deferred. In the greater number, however, surgical measures should be taken at once. A decrease in the mortality rate can be obtained by education of the public to avoid delay in seeking medical attention and by education of the physician to take prompt action when indicated."

This summary of a review of 2,000 consecutive cases of appendicitis in adults is worthy of comment. The study showed that the first 1,000 cases investigated occurred from about 1925 to 1930 and the second thousand from 1931 to 1936. In the first series, the patients were ill 3.8 days before operation and in the latter series 4.9 days. The article states:

"This means that during these depression years, patients delayed their case longer than in better times. This surely increased the mortality rate."

In the first series, 24 per cent of the patients reported the taking of laxatives before their attack whereas in the latter series, 42 per cent so reported.

In view of the high mortality rate in cases of acute appendicitis shown in this and other studies, complacent talk on the part of many spokesmen for the American Medical Association of the low death rates in the United States, is to say the least, disturbing. A report of the Michigan State Medical Society in 1934 contains the following noteworthy statement:

"The annual mortality from

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# Impressions of Italy

By RUTH SCHECK

A Special Correspondent of the Socialist Call

Italy is a beautiful country, God's country, but there are mistakes about His identity. Mussolini is manifest in every tree and flower. His Word is imprinted on every bridge and barrack, "Obbedire, Crederci, Combatterci."

Where on the mountain top, He cannot tack up His photo. He uses neon lights. You walk to the Sistine chapel and Adam that even there, God will have a lantern jaw and a black shirt.

Like God, the ways of Il Duce are inscrutable; particularly His foreign policy. It is impossible to travel in Italy without being aware of the intense uneasiness over the Rome-Berlin axis. Never was foreign policy less calculated to stir enthusiasm.

I spoke with Italians in the trains, in the cafes, in the hotels, in their homes; Italians who wore their fascist buttons and reiterated the stock phrases I heard up and down the country.

"We are a poor people, we need colonies. In 1919 we lived in a state of anarchy, now we have order. Before Mussolini, Italy was despised, now she is recognized as a world power."

But whenever the subject turned to the axis, they changed their tune. Germans were never popular in Italy, but now that Germany is on the Italian frontier, they are dangerous.

**Reactions to Paris, London**

To my question, "Do you think it is possible that Mussolini may join the London-Paris axis?" there were two reactions, and both were hostile to Germany.

1. "Yes, it is possible if France makes an appropriate gesture. It is the fault of the French that Mussolini turned to Hitler. They had no right to apply sanctions."

2. "No, it is too late. Germany is on our frontier and perhaps it is better to have her for a friend than for an enemy. Besides, Rome is swarming with German military forces."

A few of my experiences may make this more vivid. In a Turin cafe, a young Italian ordered cafe espresso. Then with a sudden burst of indignation, "Another cafe espresso until Hitler says I cannot have any more."

**Hitler in Berlin**

In my hotel in Milan, a friend of the proprietor speaking quite openly in the lobby, "I am always happy when Hitler is in Berlin because once he begins to march, I am never sure where he'll be going." At Trieste, a fascist acquaintance, pointing to the Florentine panorama before us, "A beautiful view, but I should find it lovelier if there were fewer Germans around." It was Easter time, and droves of German tourists on Kraft durch Freude excursions were enjoying a brief Italian holiday. The natives properly called it an "invasion" and added, "These people look at us as though they owned the country already."

At Florence, the day Albania was taken, I was having tea with two university girls, both inscribed in the G.U.F., one because that formality is obligatory, the other because she is an ardent fascist. (Incidentally, one of the most striking aspects of the system is the close friendship of fascists and anti-fascists, surely indicative of a lack of fanatical attachment to the axis.) Both girls were equally distressed about the system and vociferous anti-Hitlerians. About Albania they were as unimpressed, as the rest of the population.

**Attitude to Tunis**

I was also impressed by the essential reasonableness of the average Italian on the question of Tunis. What they seem to want is a gesture, and while they believe current horror stories about how badly Italians are treated in French territory, they are neither anti-French nor eager for a Tunis adventure. It is true that among the university boys, there are some who are eager for a blow up so that they may use their rifles in earnest and not merely on Saturday afternoon parades. But the population in general has had enough in Venice put up. "We huddle up at the radio every day. First Abyssinia, and what good did that do us. Then Spain; we lost more men there than in Africa. I suppose it's important to keep the Communists out of Spain, but it costs so much. And now, mobilization. The proprietor has been called up; the porter has been called up, and the waiter is expecting to be called. We'll have to close the hotel. It's terrible."

It is not merely the strain of war, of mobilization, of daily uncertainty. The cost of empire is reflected in rising prices and relentless taxation. In Guallieri, a small village near Parma in the fertile valley of the Po, blessed with one of Mussolini's bonifacias, I was told that 800 adults in a population of 7,000 inhabitants were unemployed. Taxes are so heavy that a peasant who might formerly have employed agricultural labor can no longer afford to do so. Each day during my stay at the farmhouse, poor neighbors came to the door for local charity.

**Wage Standards**

A teacher in a village school earns 490 lire a month in a Milan lycée, he begins with 700 lire a month, a woman typist makes 300 lire a month. A highly skilled worker in the north may achieve as much as 500 lire a month. But the average worker and peasant can eat meat. He lives on grain bread, polenta, and citrus fruit.

Cultural life under fascism survives but does not flourish. The University of Rome has beautiful modern buildings and a flourishing campus. The contadini, innumerable subversive books. To the left, Lenin, Engels, Trotsky, Joseph Frerman's "The Workers' History of Europe," "Capitalism vs. Socialism," the works of Croce, and pin's "History of the Jews."

But the extra-curricular energies of the students are absorbed in political demonstrations, parades, target practice, while degrees are awarded with an eye to political merit.

Students are taught that Mussolini is always right, those who doubt it are given little exercise in thinking. There are coteries who have heated discussion about modern art and modern literature, but big names are still the pre-fascist giants: G. B. Piazzi, Pirandello. Even the most cultured Italians have never heard of Silone.

Now that American films no longer come to the cinema relies on the home product which is hopelessly poor. I was told by a Milanese professor, if the cinema continues to be so uninviting one can hope for a resurgence in the theater. But the necessary for a really vital literature is lacking. Opportunism and expediency are the passwords of fascist system.

## What Do They Mean—Democracy?

Everyone is talking about "democracy"! Should save it—on the battlefields of Europe if necessary. Earl Browder wants the workers to save it! (But not in Russia!) Fellow traveler Rockwell Kent has recently called on the artists to help save it! The politicians and the demagogues have all fallen in love with "democracy!"

But we want to know: "What kind of democracy are they talking about?"

Do they mean the kind of democracy which gives us the right to vote, but not to the right to work? Do they mean the kind of democracy that creates poverty and unemployment in the midst of potential plenty? The kind of democracy that has caused 12,000,000 of us to be unemployed? That breeds a new war every decade or two?

This is the kind of democracy which bred Fascism in Italy and in Germany, and which is breeding Fascism now throughout the rest of the world. This is the kind of democracy which made Austria and Czechoslovakia and Spain prey to the onward movement of Fascism, through tying the political order to the bonds of capitalism.

This is the kind of democracy we "saved" 21 years ago and which we are now asked to save again. If we try to save it by war, we will only insure getting Fascism in the rest of the world. Already France is being run by a dictator, Daladier. The day we go to war to save democracy, there will be dictatorships established for the duration of "the crisis" in England and in the U.S.A. too.

So long as the private ownership of the natural resources and the industrial machinery is unchallenged, political democracy is sure to lead to Fascism. The ruling class in the democracies have more in common with Hitler than with labor in their own lands.

We must have a real democracy!

There can be no real democracy without industrial democracy. This is the kind of democracy for which the workers of the world must fight. It must be won by the international working class. The artists and the intellectuals can and must help in this fight. They cannot help by defending the present undemocratic status quo.

The workers of the world have no stake in the status quo. It is not their business to defend the property and the exploiting rights of their exploiters. It is not their business to defend the imperialist conquests of France and of England and of the U.S.A.

It is our business to fight for a workers' democracy at home, to help the workers in the Fascist countries to overthrow their Fascist masters, and to help the colonial peoples throw off the yoke of imperialist domination, whether it be democratic or fascist.

"Democracy" has become a shibboleth for demagogues!

Let's stop talking about it and fight at home to make it real!

Now you can understand the policy of the Workers' Alliance. Its president, David Lasser, told a Congressional Committee, "I believe in trying to make capitalism work." And Communist Herbert Benjamin, its secretary, told the same committee that the United States is not "capitalistic." That means that Lasser will first have to make the United States capitalist before he can make capitalism work.

Make capitalism work? The trouble is it don't let us work.

"Grandmother, 68, Accused by Amen As Racket Leader"—N. Y. Times.

What is the older generation coming to?

## The Wailing Wall

By AARON LEVENSTEIN

"Any Umbrellas to Fix Today?"

Nobody has commented on the fact that Haile Selassie also carried an umbrella. And look where he is now!

In spite of Klan threats of lynching directed at the whole community, Miami Negroes insisted on their right to vote.

Good! In a democracy nobody should be black-listed!

Pierre van Paassen, in his brilliant "Days of Our Years," tells some of the inside story of Allied shipments of war material to Germany and vice versa during the World War through neutral countries like Holland, Switzerland and Scandinavia. The slogan is: "Business going on as usual during inter-cations."

It is rumored that Heywood Bruhn has joined the Catholic church. We wouldn't be a bit surprised. Ever since the Communist party abandoned the clenched fist for the outstretched hand, we've been expecting something like this. A lot of innocents are in danger of imitating the wrong-way flight of Douglas Corrigan; in this case, they start out for Moscow and land in Rome.

But knowing Heywood as we do, we anticipate that he'll soon be opening negotiations with Bishop Manning and Rabbi Wise. Soon there'll be nothing left for him to join.

"God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform." Can you imagine anything more wonderful than the spectacle of Heywood Bruhn bending that midriff of his and—yes—actually kneeling before the altar. We can visualize the equator, in our lack of imagination, only as an imaginary line running around Heywood Bruhn.

We know what has attracted Heywood Bruhn to the Catholic church. He's never had a chance to confess.

The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States went on record against the Wagner-Rogers bill providing for the admission of 20,000 child refugees into this country. At the same meeting the Rev. Dr. William H. Owen presented to the organization a bombshell taken from the banks of the Appomattox river near the site of Lee's surrender. What would have been a worse bombshell to present to that kind of meeting is the Biblical sentence: "Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

We notice that a lawyer in New York City has been held for contempt of court because he befuddled a jury, and the judge is recommending that he be disciplined by the bar. Punishing a lawyer for being a lawyer is a new policy.

Contempt of court proceedings always remind us of the classical story about Morris

## Little Essays In Socialism

BY JOHN M. WORK

Last time I quoted a 1926 editorial about a meeting of Methodist ministers, one of whom was Roy E. Burt who gave them advice to the effect that the church has no right to call men to follow Jesus and then send them out into a world where such an attempt is almost foredoomed to failure.

It was good advice and I think it reached receptive ears.

When a Socialist finds himself a member of a church that is cynically pagan and blasphemously hypocritical in assuming to speak in the name of the Lord, it is well to withdraw from it—but the church with which Comrade Burt is affiliated, in my opinion, tries to be really Christian. I am glad he is sticking to it and I haven't the slightest doubt that his ministry will be genuinely conducive to the brotherhood of man.

In a broad sense, it is the duty of all of us, in our personal philosophy of life, not to be ministered unto but to minister. That theory isn't original with me; it is in the Bible—Mark 10:45. The Bible also says—Revelation 21:5—"Behold, I make all things new." Likewise it says—1 Timothy 6:7—"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." It is still true that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Each person must be a receiver to some degree, but each can and live the creative life instead of the selfish and passive life and can make the world better for having lived in it.

This means taking an active part, in one way or another, in the struggle for a better world. But it does not stop there. It affects one's private life as well. For the good of the human race, it is obligatory for every forward-looking person to set a good example to others, especially to the rising generation, in his or her habits and actions. It is bad enough for the race to have to endure the degenerative conditions forced upon it by capitalism. It should not further deteriorate itself by voluntary degenerative practices.

Hillquit in a labor case. The Socialist was pressing the employers too hard and the judge tried to come to their rescue. Rebuffed by Hillquit, the learned court said: "Please remember, Mr. Hillquit, that you can be punished for contempt."

"But, your honor," said the attorney with a smile, "I have not showed my contempt for this court."

There was a great to-do in New York City the other week. The cat, named Tammany, who frequented the corridors of New York's city hall died and was succeeded by another cat named Fusion. The latter symbolizes LaGuardia's policy of pussy-footing.

I was in the Palace hotel in Vienna on the night of Hitler's Nuremberg speech. I sat down to have a meal. People turned towards the wireless, and when the speech had finished the music struck up the Horst Wessel song. Everybody stood to attention, but a number did not sing. I remained seated.

Everybody turned towards me but I made up my mind that I did not intend to stand or to salute or to do anything in recognition of the Hitler system. I felt that there might be trouble when the music died down, but 10 minutes later, when I went out into the lobby, people at nearly every table bade me goodnight, showing that they were glad that somebody had had the opportunity to remain seated.

If Hitler were to go to war, cracks would appear in the Hitler system. I know that a large number of people in this country are afraid that cracks might also appear here.

Let me say to those who propose to conscript the workers of this country that, though at the outset you will get a large mass of the people behind you, in three months they will be behind you in a different sense—they will be chasing

you because of the antagonisms which will develop.

You cannot send men to slaughter periodically. Old men from the British cabinet cannot tell them to go out periodically and die for freedom. Young men want to live.

If you are going to organize men on the basis of national service or conscription, I will give you a method of doing it. Record them as conscript. Then according to their income tax returns. The man who draws the most should go first.

Organize them into the Bankers' battalion, the Landlords' battalion, the Politicians' battalion.

When it comes to the turn of the ordinary proletarians who have been the victims of your vicious Means Test since 1931, they can take possession of the country and try to build a decent, stable civilization on the ruins that you have created.

It is the system which is crumbling. It is the greed of a few selfish people in every land, of those who own and control the means of life and exploit the slave labor of the masses.

They are the gangsters. Al Capone says to Jack Diamond: "You exploit this side and I will exploit the other," and then Dutch comes in and wants to take a share and a conflagration takes place. That is what is taking place in society.

Your system is going to chaos and disaster. If you support the people, if you state of emergency mobilization of the health of the community, you declare the communal ownership of the means of life, and you selfish interests.

Only then can you expect to people on a real basis—the sham which you have

Mr. Deputy-Speaker (one of Clifton-Brown) I warn Mr. McGovern that use of appropriations to about a ruling monarch allowed in the debate house.

Mr. McGovern: I recall that we can deal only human beings, and I restrain myself and leave money alone. When boy I was taught in about when kings and died, I used to think I learnt was that most of did not die soon enough.

## George and Elizabeth: Salesmen of Empire

By JOHN NEWTON THURBER

"I wish to insist on the need of a much greater effort in the sphere of British propaganda," the editor of a confidential English news letter wrote late in April. "We must spend millions where we now spend hundreds of thousands of pounds."

The propaganda machinery of the British Empire, recounting the lessons it learned during the first World War in selling the American people the idea of coming to the aid of the British pound, shillings and pence, is grinding today at an ever increasing pace. Recently a book was published in England analyzing the experience of English propaganda in the last war and suggesting corrections for this time. The propaganda which was conducted during the last war is being spread in advance of this one.

Project after project is being advanced. The recent trip of the debonair Anthony Eden, People's Front favorite of Britain, with his speech to the manufacturers' association, was such an effort to sell Americans with the idea that England expects every American to do his duty.

**Biggest Splurge**

Biggest and most unprecedented propaganda venture of all time along these lines is the month long trip through Canada and the United States of King George and Queen Elizabeth. The people of Canada and the United States are being sold the idea that a "London-Ottawa-Washington Triangle" is being forged in defense of "Democracy" and that King George and a couple of "Democrats," just like the rest of us.

"The visit of King George and Queen Elizabeth to Canada and the United States would at any time be a matter of world wide interest," the news letter editor writes, "but it is of special significance if considered in relation to the present state of international relations." Collective security (for democracy, the Versailles treaty and the British Empire) is being sold by these two "Salesmen of the Empire."

**Democrats**

Toughest job which the promoters of this royal American party is to sell George and Elizabeth to the American people as a couple of good old democrats after all.

With all the bigwigs of Washington society and the imperialists of the British Empire crowding around, with Hummingbird planes, special red and silver trains, with the Empress of Australia—chartered for them alone, a special train bringing up the Dionne quintuplets and with guest lists and the upper crust of Washington getting their undertakers suits out of mothballs to be uncomfortable in the Washington summer, American people generally aren't much impressed with the democratic aspects of the junket.

Even the prospective spectacle of George and Betty munching a hot dog lunch at Hyde park with Franklin and Eleanor (prescribed by the publicity wags Mrs. Roosevelt) seems so incongruous that it will fool few.

Their Imperial Majesties have not gotten a good press. The stuffy press conferences of the British

ambassador and the instructions given to Mrs. King to make her bed in the White house and the ing of the venerable Democratic wheelhorse, C. Roper as the new ambassador to Canada, contributed to make the venture a bit ludicrous.

**Flies In Ointment**

Numerous flies have appeared in their ointment, making their job tougher than ever. Why we fight and die for the Dollars and the Pounds? Canada, is showing disturbing signs of the "Isolationism" which is the joint anathema of George's and the FDR's who are co-operating in was preparation spectacle. Recently the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation unanimously adopted a motion opposing Canadian support of England's coming war. Prof. F. R. Scott of McGill cited similar sentiments in his book "Canada" while the leaders of both the Liberal and Conservative parties in Canada are on record opposing conscription.

Reports from Ottawa were that everyone could conceivably find an excuse was leaving the time of their Majesties' visit. The day of the fog which caused the cutting of two days their schedule was taken up by the authorities Ottawa from their schedule without severe loss. An article in the Nation recently cited this Canadian opinion and pointed out that half of this spectacle was to reattach Canada to the Empire.

**Palestine**

Much of the enthusiasm felt for the anti-Hitler among Jewish people has been dampened by the protests arising Ghetto program for Palestine. The protests are rising up among the Jews in Palestine throughout America. The program is a direct breach of the Balfour Agreement, which had done to secure Jewish support of Britain in the last war.

This cannot help but lessen the ardor of the department. Powerful influences are at work to get the not lay that protest before their Majesties while are here? Is a question which naturally arises.

**Ireland**

At the same time that their Majesties come their dressing for the holy war against Hitler, the meet in Chicago for an international confab. The keynote is that they aren't interested in fighting next war and they have already secured exemptions from the British conscription act for the countries of the north.

If there is a new war, Ireland will be the O'Kelly, deputy Prime Minister of Ireland, and on his arrival to Chicago.

It will take more than George and Betty's hot dogs to convince large blocks of American Canadian and Irish opinion that the war is for the people and not for the exploiting privileges of the aristocrats of Britain and the United States.

# British Labor Fights Conscription

The following are excerpts from a powerful speech delivered by John McGovern, parliamentary leader of the British Independent Labor party, in the house of commons when that body was deliberating on the question of conscription.—Editor.

I have watched the attacks which have been made on various countries by the totalitarian powers and the duplicity of Hitler and Mussolini. I have heard at close quarters in Germany tales of mass suffering and of individual brutality such as have not been experienced since the dark ages. I frankly confess that one's emotional reaction is to say: "Let us make an assault upon these dictators and make an end of the regions which support them."

But, on the other hand, there is the question whether, in smashing the dictators, you are not going to punish millions of human beings who have no desire for war or brutality, but who are engulfed by a few organized gangsters.

My mind goes back to the similar circumstances in 1914, and to the ideas held then with regard to the brutal dictatorship of the

kaiser. We were told that there could be no peace in Europe until the power of the kaiser had been destroyed. We were told during the war that the conduct of the kaiser's family (in particular, that of the crown prince) was the most immoral and brutal of which any royal family had been guilty. In the end we were told by Mr. Lloyd George that we must be prepared to hang the kaiser.

But the kaiser escaped to Holland, and only a few months ago the king and queen sent him a message of congratulation on his eightieth birthday, whilst the son of the crown prince came to Buckingham palace for a holiday to see his friends.

That is one side of the picture. There is another side. Periodically, I go to institutions where I see the blind men without limbs, men who have lost their reason. They went out to destroy the kaiser, and today their sons are being told the same story—that the brutal dictatorship of Hitler can only be destroyed by the mass slaughter of humanity throughout the world.

Because of this we are told that we must prepare for war. Both sides of the house of commons appear to accept the inevitability of the struggle. It is said that we

must mass the manpower of this country to fight on the battlefield. We are wonderfully generous with the lives of young men who have not yet begun to enjoy life! The old men generously decide that they must be organized for slaughter on the battlefields of Europe in order to protect a mythical freedom.

This different means a labor to free men from the yoke of the members of a certain messengers of popular freedom. But when liberal and Tory members talk of freedom they mean their right to exploit and rob the people of this country; they mean that no other gangsters are to cross their path and take from them the right to plunder the yellow, black and white races of the world.

Do not imagine that the German people have not some case to present. They went through their period of democratic government, they appealed to the people of this country to ease their burden and to lessen the stranghold of poverty and suffering that were rampant in Germany. But the soulless, brutal ruling class in France and Britain refused to relax their hold or to allow the German people a place in the sun. The democratic rulers of Germany were

Then came Hitler and said: "Away with these democratic politicians, they are treated with contempt. Let us defy the bondholders and bankers of Britain and France. Let us determine to wrest from them the things to which we have a right."

It is appalling to realize that the very gangsters which you are organizing as a capitalist-imperialist power are of your own creation. You created Hitler. You brushed democracy in Germany aside and established dictatorship in that country.

We are told that we are to fight for democracy. Where are the democracies for whom we are to fight?

Is it Poland? Is it Colonel Beck, the man you are fighting for going to ask my son to fight for Colonel Beck, who has imprisoned the Socialists of Poland? Are you going to ask British workers to fight for a country where a terror has taken place against millions of Jews with a brutality and ferocity never experienced in any part of the world except Germany? Is it General Metaxas for whom I am expected to be enthusiastic?

Is it King Carol? I am reminded of King Campbell Stephen that he has

try already by a Tory administration.

We are expected to mobilize the youth to fight. I say frankly that I am not going to ask any man to fight for the ruling class of this country.

If any boy leaves these shores, he does not leave to fight for Scotland or England or Wales, but to fight for your right to plunder India, Africa, Newfoundland and other parts of the world. Members of the government have been defending wages of 2s. 3d. a week in Newfoundland. The "Daily Express" tells us that there is tremendous poverty there and that people are being wiped out like flies. That is a British possession.

Do not think that it is all on one side. We cannot put on a moral, high falutin' attitude and talk about Hitler as if we were perfection ourselves. We have parts of this empire which would bring the blush of shame to the face of any decent-minded person.

Every boy who goes out does so to defend the bond-holding interests of the possessing class. He goes out to defend your right to loot in every corner of the earth.

I am not enthusiastic about Hitler, but remember that there are many people in Germany who are not impressed with Hitler.

By John McGovern  
 Member of the House of Commons