

# Socialist Call

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## Franchise Must Be Saved

An Editorial

Clever politicians can deprive minorities of their democratic rights while formally adhering to the letter of constitutional democracy.

For years, Negroes have been deprived of their franchise—one of the most elementary democratic rights—by politicians who pledged allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, including its Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Amendments. They did not discriminate against the Negroes because of "race, color, or creed." They merely discriminated against them because of their grandfather's race, color or creed. (If your grandfather was a slave, you could not vote.) They merely discriminated against them because of their poverty. (If you could not pay the poll tax, you could not vote.) They preserved (or should we say, pickled) the letter of the law and killed off its spirit.

### PENNSYLVANIA

This violation of the universal franchise has taken long strides across the Mason-Dixon line during the last year and is trampling upon minority political rights in one "free" state after another.

The latest outrage is in the State of Pennsylvania. Candidates for public office will either have to be millionaires or be backed by the parties of millionaires. They will have to deposit prohibitive sums as a guarantee that they will poll a certain percentage of the vote. And if they fail to get a sizeable vote, their money is forfeited. (That'll teach them not to be a principled minority!)

### DEMOCRATS

This bill, just as the Berg Bills so recently introduced in New York State to accomplish the same purpose, has been moved by the Democratic Party forces of the state. In Pennsylvania, the Democrats are in power now for the first time in many years. It appears that the Southern Bourbon wing of the party is teaching its northern half some new tricks.

Unless this rather speedy whittling away of the rights of minority parties is halted, political action by the ballot will soon become the private sport of the two major parties—and then maybe of only one self appointed and self appointed party.

### ROOSEVELT

The broadest united front of all minority and liberal elements must be organized around this concrete issue, this attack upon the franchise. Trade unions must be reminded that these electoral restrictions hit any future labor party they may hope to build just as hard as it hits present minority parties. They must act immediately!

And by the way, where does Roosevelt stand on these latest reactionary moves of his party compatriots?

Is this the way in which the "liberal" Democrats hope to hold on to the "left-wing" voters? By disfranchising all "left" parties?

## So Much For Jobless



Here is FDR returning from his fishing trip. Newspaper men have been puzzled by the hand gesture of the president. Since the tarpon he landed off Port Aransas, Texas, weighed 77 pounds, the hand gesture could not signify the size of the fish. Newspaper men have decided to call this photo "President's Joke." We also think it is a joke—on the unemployed. Compare the demand of the jobless for a minimum of four-billion with the president's offer of one-and-a-half billion, and you will perhaps understand the cryptic gesture.

## Fight F.D.R. and Reaction

By Roy Burt

CHICAGO, Ill.—Roosevelt's return to Congress with a resolve to balance the budget at the expense of the unemployed is a challenge to the American workers to join with the Socialist Party in its Five-Point program, to protect the rights and standards of the masses against reaction, as adopted in Philadelphia last week by the National Executive Committee of the party.

If it is only a matter of balancing the budget, why does not the president fight to divert the war funds to the unemployed?

Both employed and unemployed workers are in direct danger of losing whatever ground they have gained during the last few years as a result of the war plans of the government.

War appropriations are made at the expense of the jobless. Plans for war time dictatorship, such as the M-Day plans of the war department and the Sheppard-Hill of the administration, are made at the expense of free trade unionism.

### War Danger Uppermost

The oncoming war casts its shadow over the policies of every capitalist government in the world, including that in the U. S. The Socialist Party calls upon labor to begin the fight against war now.

The unemployed must join this united struggle by demanding relief to sustain life and not a penny to destroy life.

The unions must join this fight by opposing all plans for a war time dictatorship over the unions, by defeating the Sheppard-Hill Bill, by maintaining the right to strike and to sit-down, by halting the move toward the incorporation of trade unions.

The Roosevelt blockade against Spain must be broken. The defeat of Fascism in Spain and the victory of a workers' Spain would be the first step in winning a Socialist world, free of all war.

### The 5-Point Program

The National Action Committee of the Socialist Party has been entrusted with the task of drawing up detailed plans for:

1. a vigorous anti-war campaign.
2. a determined drive for relief and against the Roosevelt budget program.
3. a militant and aggressive fight for civil liberties.
4. an aroused effort to oppose the dangerous repressive labor legislation which is being promoted both nationally and in various states, and
5. an enlarged program of whole-hearted support of the Loyalist Government and the Workers and Peasants of Spain in their fight against Fascism and its supporters.

## Labor Boycotts Maine in Fight To Free Hapgood

LEWISTON, Me.—A national boycott against Maine's summer resort business is planned by organized labor in retaliation against the action of Judge Harry Manser in sentencing Powers Hapgood, New England Organizer of the CIO, and five others, for their activities in the Lewiston-Auburn shoe strike.

At a meeting attended by the Massachusetts Federation of Labor, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Lawyers' Guild, and other groups, a resolution was adopted calling upon organized labor and its sympathizers not to "patronize the resorting, vacation and industrial resources of the State in any way."

As a first action, the Boston

## DEBS' JAIL MATE GREETES HAPGOOD

Joseph Coldwell, prison mate of Eugene Victor Debs (jailed labor leader who opposed the last war as head of the Socialist Party), sent the following message, of greetings to Powers Hapgood.

My dear Powers:

I have just heard over the radio of the impertinent proposition of a so-called American judge. If you and your fellow workers should accept the conditions demanded by that pocket edition of an American Hitler I would hold you in greater contempt than I hold him.

But I think I know you well enough to know that you will never surrender your spirit of real Americanism. You will be freer in jail with a clear conscience than you would be on the outside with guilty knowledge that you cringed like an arrant coward before a reactionary judge.

### Un-American

If this letter reaches you, of which I am in doubt, I want you and your fellow workers to know that we who believe in real Americanism will do all in our power to help you. You and your fellow workers are only the vanguard who are feeling the power of an arrogant judiciary, who labor under the delusion that property rights are superior to human rights.

If this un-American judge succeeds in breaking your spirit others will follow his example. Keep a stiff upper lip, look him square in the eyes, and tell him that the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill were fought to throw off the yoke of a foreign government in order that Americans might be free.

### Real Freedom

Freedom means more than political and religious freedom. If it means anything it also means economic freedom. It is to bring to American workers a measure of economic freedom that the Committee for Industrial Organization was formed. You have been honored with a position of responsibility and leadership, and it is through you and your fellow workers that bigoted and reactionary judge hopes to strike at the C.I.O.

If these sentiments are construed as being in contempt of court then I stand convicted with you. With fraternal greetings to you and your fellow workers, prisoners of the class war now held by the enemy, I remain,  
JOSEPH M. COLDWELL.



Powers Hapgood

Typographical Union which was to hold a convention in Poland, Me. has resolved to remove it to some other spot outside the state.

Pickets may be placed on all roads and bridges leading into Maine.

The shoe strike is the CIO salient into rock-bound Maine. For that reason the organized labor movement is throwing its full strength behind the campaign arising from six-month jail sentence of the six men involved in the strike.

## Socialists Hit Mayor McLevy In City Strike

Bridgeport Conn. — Declaring that the striking ash and garbage collectors were "just a lot of ruffians and bums," Mayor Jasper McLevy attempted to remove Bridgeport's garbage with a crew of strike-breakers recruited largely from out of town, after the refusal of the local A.F. of L. organization to supply workers to replace the 55 strikers, members of the Municipal Workers Industrial Union, a C.I.O. affiliate. Disgusted policemen, largely sympathetic with their striking fellow city employees, were today riding with the strike-breakers operating the garbage trucks.

Socialists of Bridgeport quickly coming to the aid of the strikers are helping to organize picket lines and aiding in the distribution of placards reading SCAB COLLECTORS KEEP OUT for posting beside the garbage cans of Bridgeport homes.

## Young Socialists Strike In Milan

Even in Fascist Italy the students strike. Under the leadership of the young Italian Socialists, a student anti-war strike was staged at the largest military academy in Italy at Milan.

The publication of the young Socialists of Italy, SOCIALISMO, is now appearing monthly, carrying articles both in French and Italian. They are appealing for funds to carry on their work. All aid should be sent to the Matteotti League, 107 MacDougal Street.

# Ed Parker Released Under \$4,500 Bond In Cairo Frame-up

Ed Parker, general organizer for Illinois Workers' Alliance, was released from jail April 15 after more than a month of imprisonment, under a bond of \$4500 raised by the Workers' Defense League, covering five grand jury indictments. Parker was jailed after a demonstration of members of the Illinois Workers' Alliance protesting non-payment of relief checks.

Jeff Summage, Negro member of the Workers' Alliance, is in jail under six indictments with bail set at \$6250. Warrants are out for the arrest of four other members of the Workers' Alliance: Homer Kelly, Willie Jones, Isaac Horn and Alberta Parker. Total bail for the six is set at \$26,500.

### The Reason

The story in back of these arrests and indictments is this: On April 8, the Illinois Workers Alliance held a meeting in the Court House where grievances were discussed and facts presented on the relief situation in Cairo.

Grievances were these: the safety of Cairo from the recent flood was due in great part to the loyal work of WPA men who worked from 14 to 79 hours at a stretch (some as many as 23 hours without rest) on the levees. For this reason they were promised 50 cents an hour.

Local relief authorities immediately stopped all other relief on the assumption that these payments would care for needs for a while. However, at the time of the meeting only one man reported having been paid and he received \$47.90 for 205 hours work.

It was also reported that the \$44 maximum WPA wage a month needed supplementation to care for the needs of large families. Another need as reported was for an increase in the amount of help given families in which there was no one who could work. (The present schedule is \$1.00 a week per person.)

Their demands were: payment of the money due them for work on the levees; \$3.00 a week cash per capita plus rent and medical care.

### Call Sit-Down

At this meeting it was agreed to present the situation to the relief station the following morning. When the Workers Alliance men arrived at 10 A. M. with Ed Parker they found that the relief station had been evacuated. All equipment had been moved and no personnel was there. However, they decided to remain in the building on a sit-down strike until some satisfaction could be obtained.

At noon some 20 men went to the storehouse where surplus commodities were kept and were given food.

In the meantime, the sheriff called Governor Horner and asked for the militia. Vigilantes were also assembling and scores of them were deputized. While the militia was assembling, four city and four state police went into the relief station and arrested Parker.

### Use Firearms

When several of the police had Parker outside the building and on the sidewalk, the police who remained in the building fired several shots into the crowd, wounding several Workers Alliance men, among them L. N. Dow, negro minister who was shot in the leg. Parker was arrested without warrant or charges and taken away to an unknown destination.

Parker heard the shots, he shouted to the men to keep their heads. They were unarmed. In spite of this episode the workers remained quiet inside the building.

At about 2 A. M. on the morning of Saturday, April 10, the militia (local boys, about 30 of them), 300 to 500 vigilantes including a number of men who had been deputized for the occasion, surrounded the building fired into it and demanded that all of the workers come out in order to avoid further bloodshed.

They complied with this request and fled out to Le thoroughly

searched by the deputies. Four men were arrested. All but one of these men were released. Curley Jones, a negro, was held incommunicado.

J. Clark Waldron of St. Louis and Francis Heisler of Chicago, attorneys for the Workers Defense League, official defense organization for the Alliance in that part of the state, were called in to give legal aid.

### \$6,500 Bail

Parker was held under bail of \$6,500. Writs of habeas corpus were filed for both Parker and Jones. Parker was taken out of the county. For two days it was impossible to determine his whereabouts. He was moved several times within 10 days and was finally located in Murphysboro and then returned to Cairo.

The sheriff at first refused to make a return on the writ of habeas corpus, but later produced Parker for a hearing on Saturday, April 24. The state's attorney presented four charges: one of inciting to riot and three of assault with intent to kill. Real estate to the value of \$26,000 was put up for bail, but refused.

### Drives Negroes From Town

Since this event, numbers of negro members of the Workers Alliance have been arrested, released, then warned to leave town within 24 hours. Numbers have left town. They live in a constant state of terror. The mayor and chief of police have stated that there will be no meeting of the Illinois Workers Alliance in Cairo again. From the Washington office of the Workers Alliance of America comes word that the LaFollette committee has promised an investigation.

Twenty-two thousand dollars in loans or cash contributions are needed immediately for bail for the other workers under indictment. Rush contributions immediately to Workers Defense League, 20 W. Jackson, Room 1008, Chicago, Ill.

# KIDNAP CHARGES FLOP IN CHICAGO LEATHER STRIKE

Chicago, Ill.—Two thousand leathergoods workers returned to work after a three week strike, with a forty-hour week, extra pay for overtime, exclusive union recognition, and a flat wage increase.

Charges of kidnapping trumped up against the union organizer by anti-union elements, in connivance with the police department of Chicago, fell flat, when the foremen of one of the concerns refused to act as stool pigeons.

The strike was led by Samuel Laderman, Vice-President of the International Leathergoods Workers' Union, and Murray Baron, General Manager of the Luggage Workers in the Eastern States. Clarence Senior assisted as publicity director in the strike.

# Britain and Hitler Join Against Soviet

The conclusion of an Anglo-German agreement, giving Hitler a free hand to launch a war against the Soviet Union, is entering the stage of more open negotiations than in the past, according to the British papers.

Ever since Hitler invaded the Ruhr, British diplomacy has been



the godfather of a German proposal to guarantee peace in Western Europe by a Four-Power Pact. This agreement would apply to Germany, Italy and France and Britain. In the event of a war between Hitler and Russia the other signatories would be virtually immobilized should they seek to aid the Soviets.

Blomberg is reported in the People as having said: "While insisting on her rights to colonies, Germany does not want at present to press the demand for return of those handed over to Britain."

The constant omission of Russia from these plans, coupled with Hitler's repetition of a desire to expend, makes it clear what the intent of the new "Locarno" is.

Once more, these capitalist nations are demonstrating their unity as opposed to the working class.

# FURRIERS' UNION TO DETERMINE STATUS OF CIO

The twelfth biennial convention of the International Fur Workers Union of the United States and Canada will be opened at the Morrison Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, on Sunday evening May 17th, and will last during the entire week, up to May 22nd.

One hundred and ten delegates from forty-three local unions in twenty-three cities out of ten states and three provinces in the United States and Canada will be assembled at this convention which is the largest ever held by the International Fur Workers Union.

This convention is the first International gathering since unity was again established in the ranks of the fur workers. Up to June 1935 the fur workers in the United States and Canada were engaged in a "civil-war" of ten years' duration, among the right and left wings, with two separate unions in the trade. Neither one of the two existing unions had any influential control in the trade and both were almost nil as to membership and power.

### Progress In Unity

During the past two years since the warring factions reunited into one union, the International Fur Workers Union made remarkable headway in establishing union conditions and union control over the fur industry in the United States and Canada. The International came to this convention with a paid up membership far above thirty thousand with eighty percent of an

# "J & L Boss No More" Sings Steel Labor After Quick Strike

By Rose M. Stein

Some three months ago the country was startled by the display of sound judgment on the part of America's largest and most powerful industrial enterprise—the United States Steel Corporation. This corporation was smart enough to see that it was to its own best interest to sign a contract with the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee, and the country said: "Isn't it marvelous! How come? Is there a catch to it?"

There was no catch to it, of course, there was only the common sense realization that the union was strong enough to command recognition, in which case it was less costly by far to grant such recognition without a fight and go on reaping the profits which present high rate production makes possible.

It was too much, however, to expect such sound judgment from all of America's steel industry. Bethlehem, Republic, Youngstown Sheet & Tube, E. T. Weir's National Steel, and Jones & Laughlin, to mention only the larger of the independents, formed what Phil Murray calls "an unholy alliance" and proceeded to resist unionization of their plants.

The first blow to this alliance came on April 12 when the National Labor Relations Act was validated. But the alliance promptly recovered and thought up a new argument. The NLRA, they said, forbids employer interference with labor organization, it does not make it mandatory for employers to sign a contract.

### J. and L. Strikes

The first answer to this argument came from J & L employees. Perhaps the law cannot compel you to sign a contract, said this corporation's 25,000 employees, but we can. The company did not believe it.

For some 30 years its employees in the Aliquippa, Penna. plant, no numbering 12,000 were ruled with an iron hand, it was inconceivable that these serfs would have the courage to declare themselves free. The South Side plant, located within the limits of the city of Pittsburgh, and employing some 13,000 men, could not exercise quite the same degree of pressure over its employes, but the hiring of men who live in remote and scattered neighborhoods, the mixing up of nationalities so that no more than one person in any given crew would speak the same language, the maintenance of a parasitic company union, the repeated emphasis within the plant that no outside union would be tolerated, all these were designed, and counted upon, to keep the workers from banding together.

### Smashed

By 11:00 P. M. Wednesday, May 12, J & L believed that its system of suppression which worked these many years, which resisted the 1919 steel strike, and which stemmed the tide of the 1933-34 organization drive, would serve them once more. Within 37 hours—by

branches of the industry under strict union control.

### CIO Affiliation

A problem that is expected to create some stir at the convention is the relationship of the International Fur Workers' Union to the C.I.O. The International is the only needle trade International that is not affiliated with the C.I.O. A strong movement is being developed among certain elements of the fur workers to force affiliation with the C.I.O. at this convention. It is more than likely, however, that regardless of the strong sentiment for such affiliation among the New York fur workers the International will remain in the American Federation of Labor.

Ten local unions of New York will be represented at the twelfth biennial convention of the International Fur Workers' Union.

noon Friday, May 14—its management was much wiser. It learned that the fortifications built up through 30 years of brute force tumbled and were swept away very much like the rotten wooden shanties on the river fronts were swept away by last January's flood. The sweep was so clean and so emphatic that it brought not only J & L to its senses but gave the other independents food for thought.

The process was amazingly simple. There was, as a matter of fact, very little actual preparation for the strike. It was thought up to the last minute that the company would sign a contract and make a walk-out unnecessary. But when the zero hour arrived, 25,000 workers, their wives, daughters, sweethearts and friends, swept down to the various gates with but one thought in mind: NO ONE SHALL PASS THOSE GATES, and no one did; THERE SHALL BE NO STEEL MADE IN J & L'S PLANTS, and no steel was made. The jobs belonged to the J & L workers, they alone were going to protect them.

### Complete Victory

At the end of 37 hours the company more than gave in to the original demand. The contract the management was asked to sign before the strike was similar to that signed by the various U. S. Steel subsidiaries providing that SWOC should bargain for its own members only. The agreement signed in order to call off the strike provided for exclusive bargaining.

The actual result would have been the same since the union has enrolled an overwhelming majority of the workers but the effect of the new type of contract is significant. It eliminates from the field all attempts to organize "two-bit unions" which in less prosperous times might do a good deal of mischief.

### Boss No More

The 37-hour strike has done one more thing, it has liberated Aliquippa. A thousand times workers repeated the words, as if there was magic in them, J & L BOSS NO MORE, J & L BOSS NO MORE. On the picket line, in the street, at the restaurant, beer garden, barber shop, grocery store, everywhere one hears the same refrain J & L BOSS NO MORE, J & L BOSS NO MORE. The words were repeated with a doggedness and conviction which carved them deep into the soul and flesh of every man and woman who for thirty years was trampled under the heel of agents and flunkies of the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation. J & L boss no more, J & L boss no more.

### WATCH THE WRAPPER

on your copy of the Socialist Call. If the number on the lower left of this notice, or any number less than this number appears on your wrapper it means that your subscription has expired. Renew immediately.

113 EXPIRED! RENEW NOW!

# ILGWU Unanimous For CIO; Aid Spain; Bans Inner Groups

The convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union held in Atlantic City from May 3rd to May 15th went on record unanimously in favor of support and affiliation with the CIO.

President Dubinsky's activities within the CIO were approved and the General Executive Board was authorized to continue affiliation.

The Convention also voted to authorize the General Executive Board to continue its efforts at "reconciliation" of the warring factions within the Labor Movement.

During the two weeks of the Convention, the delegates heard John L. Lewis, chairman of the CIO, and President Hillman of the Amalgamated, one of the chief supporters of the CIO, as well as Matthew Woll, Vice-President of the A. F. of L.

The CIO was one of the main issues which faced the delegates. There was a great deal of speculation prior to and during the Con-



David Dubinsky

vention as to where the International stands on this important question. The decisive action taken by this Convention, finally removes any doubt in anyone's mind as to the position of the ILGWU. There are two minor incidents which occurred when the chief spokesmen for both sides were introduced.

### Woll and Lewis

When Matthew Woll was presented to the Convention, about a dozen Communists marched out of the hall, and when Lewis was introduced some of the Conservatives began to organize a "We want peace" cheer, but they were immediately and overwhelmingly squelched by a ten-minute demonstration participated in by almost all the delegates, shouting, "CIO, CIO."

Lewis is his very calm and impressive manner stated the position of the CIO: "The time is short," he said, "we have a job to do; we have to organize, organize, organize, and when we have organized the American workers, then if somebody wants to talk peace, we shall talk peace."

### Review Strength

The Convention reviewed the growth and strength of the Union, with its present membership of a quarter of a million, as well as a fighting fund of about three million dollars available; strikes were authorized in many important centers, including the cloakmakers in New York, knit goods and cotton garments in the various fields.

The Convention heard reports of successful organization activities in Canada as well as in the South, and in cotton garment areas in New England and in the middle West.

The Convention also went on record to approve the work of President Dubinsky and the General Executive Board in behalf of Anti-Fascists throughout the world; and during the course of its

sessions listened to Martin Plettl, former president of the German Clothing Federation and also president of the World Garment Workers' Federation. The Convention heard H. Himmelfarb, representing the needle trades of Poland.

### De Los Rios Speaks

The convention rose to a high pitch when Ambassador Fernandez de los Rios addressed the Convention. Many delegates were actually crying during the course of the Ambassador's speech, when he related the hardships and cruelties that are inflicted upon innocent women and children in Spain.

The Convention decided to put a dollar tax on every member of the International for the support of all anti-Fascist activities and worthwhile institutions in the United States.

### Back Non-Partisan League

The Convention approved the ILGWU affiliation with the Non-Partisan League, and urged the General Executive Board to use the Non-Partisan League in the various forms assisting labor and Farmer Labor Parties and to use it as a basis for the formation of a National Farmer Labor Party.

Very impressive demonstrations were also staged by the delegates when delegations of colored workers presented flowers. In this connection resolutions against race discrimination, lynching and equal pay for all were adopted by the Convention. Frank Crosswaith in a stirring speech, greeted the Convention and was welcomed by thunderous applause and demonstration.

### Back AYA

Resolutions for the American Youth Act, for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys, for the freedom of Mooney and Billings were also passed. The Convention also voted to send \$1,000 to Tom Mooney and Billings, and to send a telegram of greetings to Powers Hapwood and his associates now in jail in Auburn, Maine.

It went on record unanimously boycotting all Maine industries because of the anti-union movement now started in Maine.

The Convention appropriated one hundred thousand dollars towards the organization of the Ray Donnelly dress firm in Missouri. The firm is owned by the wife of former Senator Reid of Missouri, an open shop stronghold for many years.

Other speakers who addressed this Convention were, George L. Berry, President of the Non-Partisan League, now appointed senator from the State of Tennessee; Mayor LaGuardia, of New York, Abe Cahan and B. C. Vladek of the Forward, U. S. Senator Smathers of New Jersey, Elinore M. Herwick of the American Labor Party, the Impartial Chairman of the cloak and dress industry, and other speakers associated with the industry.

### Union Groups

One of the most important discussions on a matter relating

to important internal problems in the Union, was the question of groups within the Unions.

A report of the Law Committee moved to strengthen and apply provisions in the Constitution which prohibit members from organizing any groups or clubs within the Union, unless they get special permission from the General Executive Board. Speaking against this provision was Chas. S. Zimmerman, manager of Local No. 22; speaking for the provision was M. Bialis, manager of the Chicago Joint Board.

As matters stand now, groups are outlawed and any member or group of members within the International who belong to or form such groups may be placed on charges and face the consequences.

The only exception to this rule will be for those who get permission from the General Executive Board. Otherwise during the period of pre-election activities, the Constitution provides that three months before an election in the Union, groups may be formed for the purpose of putting forward candidates or forming committees for such candidates.

The old General Executive Board was reelected, with the exception of one. Nicholas Kirzman of Local No. 9 was replaced by Max Cohen of Local No. 60, dress pressers.

Many important matters of internal Union affairs, including more equitable representation at its Conventions were referred to the new General Executive Board for study and action.

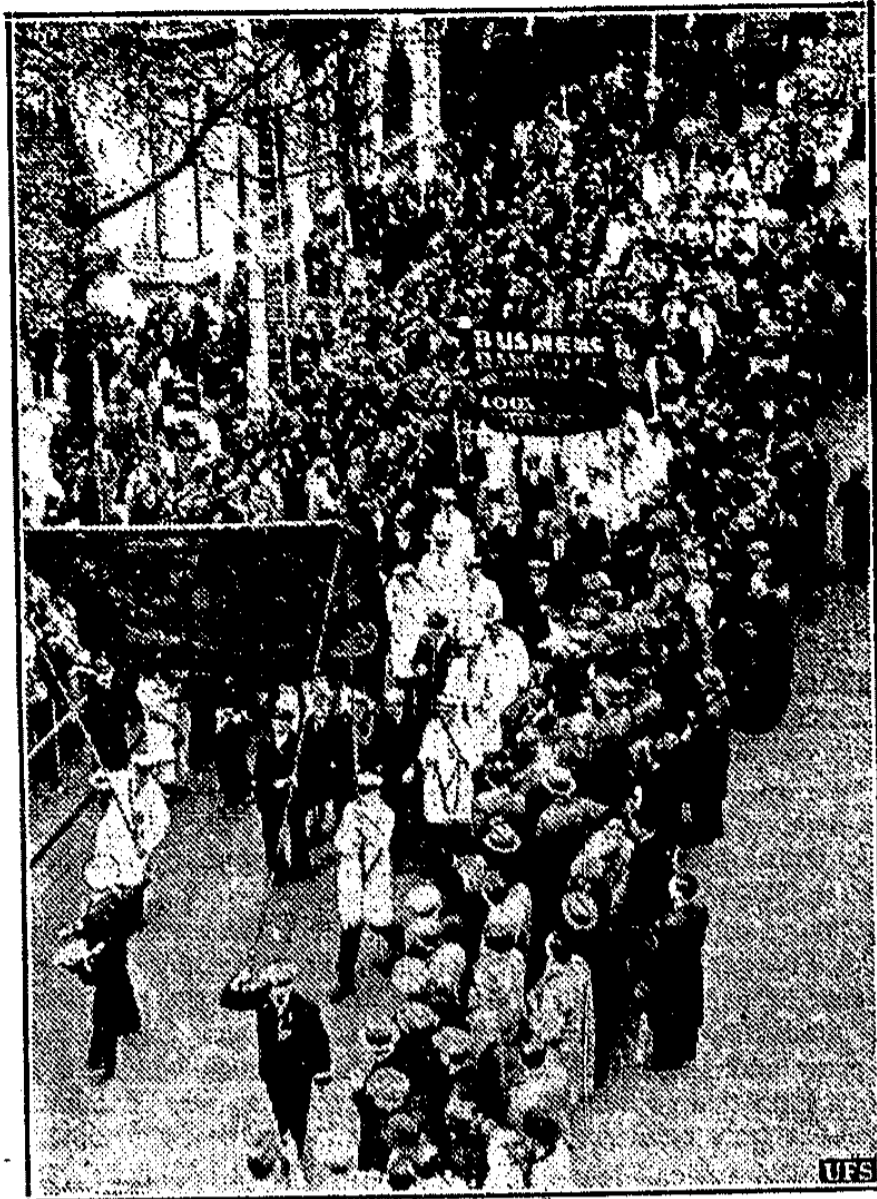
Telegrams and greetings were received from the front lines in Spain, from the Lincoln Battalion now fighting in Spain, and the Convention unanimously sent greetings to them.

## COMMITTEE TO AID SPAIN GOES ON WITH WORK

The North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy has been authorized to carry on relief activities for non-combatants in Spain under the terms of the recently adopted Neutrality Act, it was announced. The committee was granted Permit No. 2 on Friday in accordance with regulations drawn up by the State Department.

The North American Committee, which is headed by Bishop Francis J. McConnell of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has already shipped food and clothing valued at \$175,000 for the relief of non-combatants in the areas under control of the Spanish Republican Government. It has issued an appeal for \$25,000 to be devoted to the relief of the Basque Catholics in the area around Bilbao.

## God Save the King



Busmen went on strike while Britain was crowning its king. English observers maintain that the busmen may be the beginning of a new general tie-up, similar to that of 1926 when England was on the brink of revolution. The busmen struck, despite a plea from Stanley Baldwin for industrial peace. Should the strike spread, then the British hymn of "God Save the King," may be ironically appropriate.

## Workmen's Circle Confab Reports Membership Gains; Aids Spain

By WILLIAM EDLIN

The Workmen's Circle, largest Jewish labor fraternal Order, held its 37th Convention in Philadelphia during the first week in May. Opening with a huge mass gathering in the Arena on Sunday, May 2, it closed on Saturday in the Workmen's Circle Centre after six days deliberation and election of national officers for the coming two years. J. Weinberg was chosen President, Dr. S. Silverberg-- Vice-President and Dr. A. Zeldin-- Treasurer. The Convention also ratified the popular election of the thirty new members of the National Executive Committee.

### Gain Members

Considerable progress was reported by the delegates both in financial stability and cultural attainments. The net gain in membership during the past two years was only 1150, the total now being close to 70,000 but the average age of the new members is 33 years as against 46 for the entire membership. The total assets of the Order, as reported by General-Secretary Joseph Baskin, is close to \$7,000,000.

Considering the difficult years of depression when so many workers were unemployed, the present condition of the Workmen's Circle is something to be proud of.

No wonder the Convention was, on the whole, in a happy frame of mind. Nevertheless, the officials got the approval of the delegates to a fifty per cent cut in donations to various Socialist, labor, cultural and charitable institutions. This was necessitated by the steadily climbing average age of the membership, resulting in a heavier drain on the different funds and consequent increase of quarterly dues.

### Donate To Call

This time the Convention distributed a total of \$24,875--the Socialist Call getting \$500, the Sozialistische Schtimme \$100 and the League for Industrial Democracy only \$50. On the other hand the New Leader got \$1,250, the Wecker \$1,000 and the Rand School \$750.

The Chairman of the Resolution Committee, reporting the amounts,

justified the unequal sums allotted the publications of the former right-wing Socialists and the Socialist Party by the explanation that the Socialist Call and the Sozialistische Schtimme are relatively new publications. More important than the amount of money involved was the fact that the CALL was not given official recognition because of its recency.

It was, however, gratifying to many delegates who are staunch Socialists that the Workmen's Circle, though controlled by former right wingers, has not forsaken its Socialist ideology. This was made clear not only by its contributions to Socialist publications but also by the adoption of the resolution on a multiplicity of subjects, such as Trade Unions, the 30 Hour Week, Supreme Court, anti-Semitism in Poland and the Struggle for Democracy in Spain.

### Aid Spain

The Workmen's Circle has already succeeded in collecting over \$20,000 for Spain and the Convention issued a ringing call to its hundreds of branches throughout the country to support the Loyalist cause in Spain.

All in all the Convention has proved again that workmen united for their mutual interest and inspired by the ideal of Socialism can achieve results of lasting benefit and glory to their class.

### RASMUSSEN, CIO

Chicago. Paul Rasmussen general organizer for the Workers Alliance of America, and member of the National Executive Board, has just been appointed general organizer for the Committee for Industrial Organization, to be stationed in Kansas City.

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### HALF A CRUMB

The president of the United States has returned from his fishing trip in the Gulf of Mexico. He has returned with his jaws clenched, all set to carry on that fight which he said he had just begun in Madison Square Garden in the last days of the presidential campaign.

Travelling through Forth Worth, speaking to 4,000 A. and M. Cadets, he wept bitter tears over how little the nation was spending on armaments:

"We are spending only 10 per cent to 11 per cent of the Government's income for the Army and Navy, including such cadet training as yours. The old world is spending up to 50 per cent for arms."

Leaving aside, for the moment, President Roosevelt's mathematics (10 per cent of a very big sum is much more than 50 per cent of a much smaller sum), we have it, on the president's own admission, that more than 10 per cent of our income goes for army and navy. The amount is probably much bigger if we include sums that go toward ship building, aviation, etc. But let us suppose it were only one-tenth of the total government income.

Is it not colossal nerve on the part of the president to enter Washington, with full knowledge of the size of the military costs, and speak about balancing the budget by pruning relief for the unemployed?

The president's offer of a billion and a half is as callous as it is unexecuted.

What is the basis for the president's offer of one and one half billions? He has offered no facts; no accurate count. He just hums: "Happy Days Are Here Again!"

But, according to The New York Times, Harry Hopkins, Federal Works' Progress Administrator, is reported as having said in New York:

"No matter what happens, we are going to have four or five million unemployed."

Harry Hopkins—who ought to know—sees four or five million jobless as an irreducible minimum toward which we are moving. Put plainly: even Hopkins must grant that there are at least—and most likely more than—five million out of work today.

Even if the president accepts Mr. Hopkin's irreducible minimum, he would be compelled to increase his appropriation—unless he thinks that the jobless can eat in proportion to their work.

What is most galling is to see the praise heaped upon the president from all kinds of high and—even low—places, because of his so-called courageous stand on relief.

Roosevelt has a way of looking good by surrounding himself with a couple of very ugly looking political hoppers.

Senator Byrnes (Democrat) gets up and draws out an argument for cutting relief to one billion.

Senator MacCarren (Democrat) rises on his hind legs and stamps about to cut relief to \$750,000,00 or thereabout.

Then—enter FDR. With the gusto of a Young Lochinvar, and the sublime tranquility of Izaak Walton returned from the fishy waters, Roosevelt proclaims his determination to stick by one-and-a-half billion.

A great congressional struggle! Byrnes and MacCarren offer a quarter of a crumb to the jobless and Roosevelt, boldly, selflessly, demands a half a crumb.

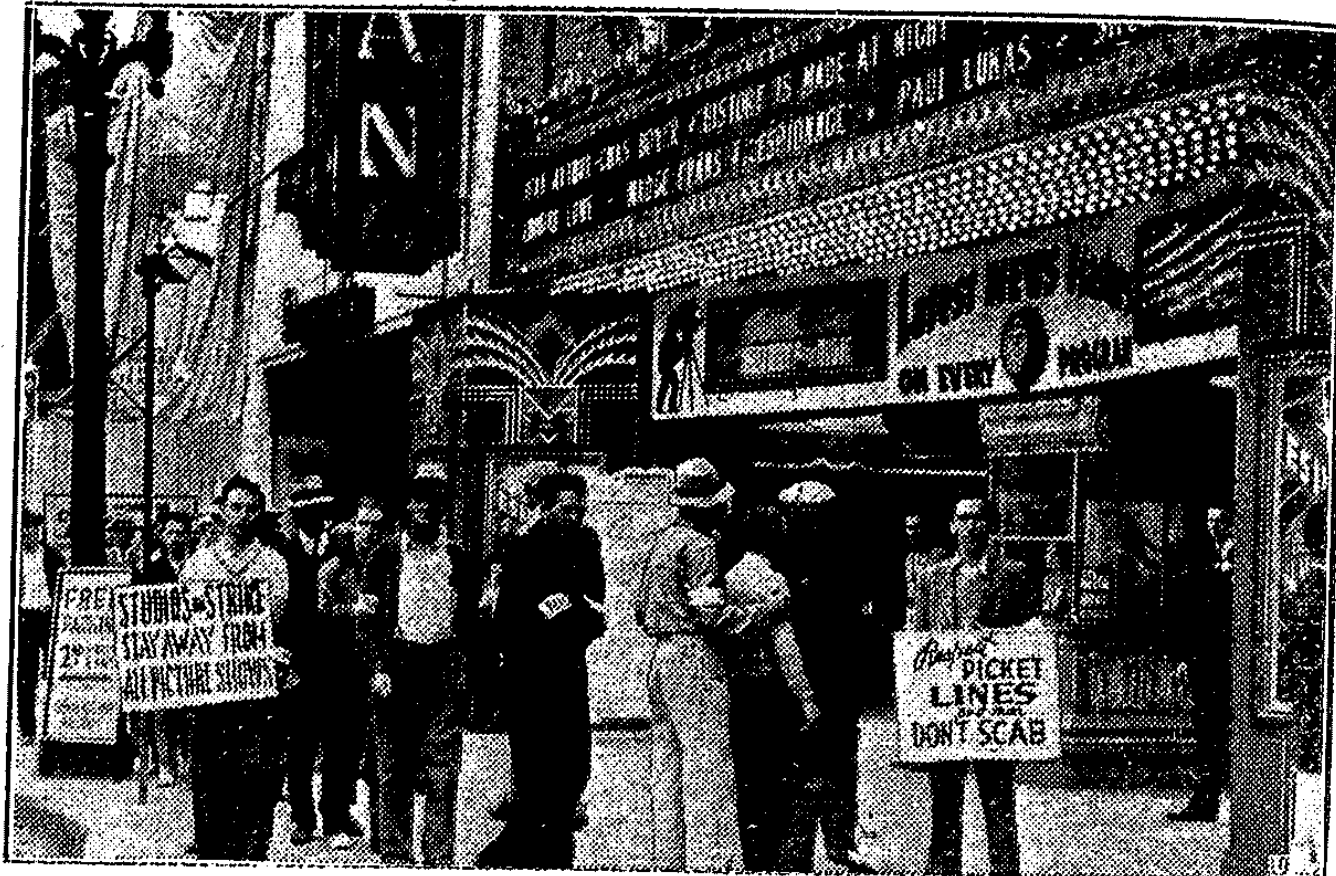
Have these men forgotten that the mayor's conference demanded two billion?

Have they forgotten the demand of the unemployed?

If they have forgotten, the unemployed can not—and the Socialist Party has not.

We, too, hold our ground—for the passage of the Boileau Bill. four billion to the needy jobless.

## Boycott The Movies



"Boycott the movies" is the plea of the striking Federated Motion Picture Crafts to the workers of the United States. In line with this demand picket lines can be found in front of all the big theatres in the larger industrial centers from coast to coast. While the strike of the technicians served as the impetus for the successful strike of the Screen Actors Guild, the latter after having won their demands have completely disregarded the picket lines of the technicians in Hollywood. A proposed truce offered by the producers which would involve a return to work before any discussion of union recognition, closed shop, and no discharges without justifiable reasons, has been emphatically turned down by the FMPC. The strikers are determined, to continue their fight until they have won their demands.

## A Delegate Leaves The YCL

The following letter of a convention delegate who resigned from the Young Communist League was also sent to the SOCIALIST CALL:

New York County Executive Committee, Y.C.L.

Dear Comrades:  
This letter is my resignation from the Young Communist League.

When it became necessary for a comrade to break the ties binding him to an organization in which he has worked for a number of years, common decency requires that the reasons for this step be given.

As a delegate to the recently concluded 8th national convention of the YCL I had an opportunity to see YCL "democracy" in action. I had hoped that the false policies followed by the CP and YCL would be corrected by the normal workings of internal democracy. Unfortunately, it appears that the leaders of the CP and YCL, intent upon following their present policy to the bitter end, find it necessary to suppress all opposition within the ranks. How else can one explain the recent wholesale expulsions in New York City, in the very midst of a pre-convention discussion? The convention, which was supposed to be an assembly which determines the line to be followed by the organization, was actually an arena in which the top leadership laid down the line, to be accepted unquestioningly by the membership. The only discussion permitted is on how to apply the line handed down, not on what the line itself should be. The atmosphere fostered by the leadership is one which outlaws any and every political criticism of their policy. Those who point out the disastrous results of this policy for the working class are called accomplices of Hitler and Franco.

### Forget Lenin

Instead of the working class united front against capitalism, the Communist Party, forgetting completely the teachings of Marx and Lenin on the nature of the State and modern capitalism, supports the people's front, a coalition with "liberal" capitalists for the preservation of capitalist "democracy." In France, the people's front government, supported by the Communist Party, carries through a devaluation which means a blanket wage cut for the toiling masses, so that the

capitalists may compete more easily on the world market.

Strikers are evicted by police, as the government, with the aid of the Communist Party's votes, adopt laws for compulsory arbitration. Volunteers to Loyalist Spain are banned, while the fascist organizations in France are permitted to function legally under new names, plotting a repetition of Spain on French soil. The police of the people's front government together with the fascists fire on workers who demonstrate against fascism (Clichy massacre)! This is how the people's front is a bulwark against fascism. In exactly the same way the coalition governments in Germany were barriers against fascism, with results which need not be described in detail.

In Spain, where the people's front government, before the outbreak of the reactionary revolt, gave the fascists full freedom, the CP leaders, heedless of the lessons of history, resist every move of the revolutionary workers to fight the source of fascism, the economic power of landlords and capitalists. Instead, following the example of Scheidemann and Noske, they employ terror against the best anti-fascist fighters, the revolutionary workers led by the Workers Party of Marxist Unity (P.O.U.M.) who wish to follow the road of Lenin, the road which led to the workers' victory in the Soviet Union.

### For Roosevelt

In the last elections in this country, the Communist Party conducted a disgraceful campaign, giving virtual support to Roosevelt. After he election Browder claimed a lot of credit for the Roosevelt landslide.

On the question of war, the Communist International has thrown overboard the principles for which Lenin fought against the social-chauvinists of the Second International, and in place has adopted the words and deeds of the latter. In the name of "Democracy against fascism" and "Defense of the Soviet Union" the CP leaders are trying to weaken the resistance of the workers to the imperialist war machine, thereby strengthening the capitalist class in the "democratic" countries, a force which is essentially hostile to the Soviet Union and which is the generator of fascism. At the same time the policy weakens the only true

ally of the Soviet Union, the working class in the capitalist countries.

The new program of the YCL, in addition to vague phrases about the benefits of Socialism, contains the sentence, "We are opposed to force and violence, means used by reactionaries." Period! Nothing more is said on the matter. Does this mean that the YCL is opposed to workers fighting in self defense? It does mean that the YCL accepts socialism to be achieved gradually and peacefully. As it stands it can have no other meaning. Not so long ago we were told that the YCL program should not contain any mention of how socialism is to be achieved, in order not to alienate certain elements! Now the YCL officially writes into its program an open declaration for reformism.

### Frame-Ups

The only conclusion which can be reached is that the Communist International has completely abandoned the principles of Marxism-Leninism, upon which it was founded. The leaders of the Soviet Union, who control the Communist International, mistakenly believe that by surrendering the struggle against capitalism in its "democratic" forms the liberal capitalists can be gotten to defend the Soviet Union against a fascist attack. Old Bolsheviks, particularly the whole leadership of the Russian Revolution, who insist upon the Leninist principle that the best and only ally of the USSR is the international working class, are subjected to unbelievable frame-up trials whose purpose is to terrorize revolutionary Socialists throughout the world.

It is not easy for one who has worked in the YCL for four years, spending time and energy to build the organization, to be forced to conclude that all this work was in vain. However, reason permits no other decision. I will apply for membership in the Young Peoples Socialist League, the youth organization which is raising high the banner of Lenin, Liebknecht, and Luxemburg in the struggle against war, fascism, and capitalism, and for the greatest ideal of mankind, socialism. I am confident that if other comrades will seriously consider these questions, they will reach the same conclusion.

Fraternaly yours,  
MORRIS SANDEBURG

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# WORLD SOCIALISM

By Herbert Zam

Something of a sensation was created recently when George Lansbury carried out his intention to visit Hitler for the purpose of converting him to the ideas of pacifism and world peace. George Lansbury is former leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party, a lifelong pacifist and Socialist and is universally loved and respected throughout England. Because of his age and services to the movement, the workers generally tend to treat his systematic deviations from Socialism rather leniently, as they also do those of the brilliant but erratic Bernard Shaw. However the visit to Hitler, and the friendly tete-a-tete at a time when thousands of German workers are in concentration camps, have aroused considerable indignation among all concerned.

## Attack Lansbury

The Central Committee of the German Socialist Party issued a rather sharp statement in criticism of Lansbury's action:

"This step," declares the statement, "does not show any desire to help the opposition in Germany in its difficult struggle. . . . It is contrary to the decisions of the International Socialist movement regarding the attitude of Socialists toward Hitler Germany. Lansbury's visit creates the illusion that it is possible to go along with the Hitler system at a moment when Hitler's armament campaign is the main spur toward war."

The British "Daily Herald" organ of the Labor Party, was also sharply critical of Lansbury. "Arthur Henderson, when as President of the Disarmament Conference he visited the German Chancellor, was violently accused of 'shaking hands with murder'. And Lansbury cannot meet the criticism by pleading that such visits are part of an official job . . ."

Writing in the Paris "Populaire," organ of the French Socialist Party, Jean Longuet declared: "This news will make the gorge of the comrades of the International Socialist movement rise, and even those who regard the whole-hearted M. P. with the maximum of friendship and good will, will take the view that it was sentiment rather than reason which led him to undertake this doubtful attempt."

The editor of the L.S.I. Information service makes the following comment on the matter: "The pacifist Lansbury who sees the world in the light of his own ideas might imagine that he could convert the head of fascism to the love of peace. But how could the Socialist Lansbury forget that he was going to a man whose hands are red with the blood of thousands tortured and murdered German workers?"

As was anticipated, the Hitler publicity agencies made good use of the Lansbury visit for Nazi propaganda both in Germany and abroad. We wonder if Lansbury still believes he helped promote the cause of peace by his visit!

## French Discipline

The verbatim decision of the National Council of the French Socialist Party on discipline has just arrived, and it is possible to enlighten the many comrades who have been asking for information on this subject. The resolution, carried by a vote of 4,650 against 25 and 583 abstentions, reaffirms the confidence of the Party in its representatives in the government, and outlaws attacks by Party members on the Party representatives in the government if these attacks are of a public character.

On this basis, it declared the Revolutionary Left dissolved. After the passing of this resolution, Marceau Pivert, leader of the left wing in the French Socialist Party made the following declaration: "We note that the Party does not question our full liberty of judgment and expression of opinion within the Party. In consequence we bow to the decision of the National Council and publicly undertake to respect them."

Whether the decision will really be enforced as regards external criticism, or whether it will be used as a springboard to suppress also inner-party discussion and criticism remains to be seen. In an article in "Populaire," J. B. Severac, Acting Secretary of the Party, says:

"In our party we have not got that ideological 'monolithism' of which some parties boast. Rather are we proud of the multiplicity of ideas which distinguish us one from another, of the confrontation of our different views which we are constantly making and of the constant ferment and clarification which results from this, and which certainly helps not a little to enhance the power of attraction of our party. . . . But the moment we come to public action . . . then no more divergences, no more differences, no more antagonisms, no more tendencies. For we are all . . . at the service of the same policy; that policy laid down by the majority at our Congresses."

Another important matter handled by the Council was organic unity. In view of the campaign which the Communist Party has begun to have joint branch, local, district and regional meetings for the discussion of this question, the Council

(Continued on Bottom of Last Column)

# New Spain Cabinet Excludes Caballero

A new cabinet has been set up in Spain, headed by right-wing Socialists, Prieto and Negrin, and excluding the former left-wing Socialist leaders, Largo Caballero and Julio Alvarez del Vayo.

The more conservative elements were further strengthened in the cabinet by the substitution of Manuel de Irujo, Basque Nationalist, for Juan Garcia Oliver, Anarcho-Syndicalist.

The Anarchist elements are, at present, altogether excluded from participation in the cabinet and the strong C.N.T. (Anarchist trade unions) refuse support to the government.

The other important trade union movement, the U.G.T., declined participation in the government,



Largo Caballero

although many of its affiliated unions gave their wholehearted support to the new Negrin cabinet. Former premier Caballero is a dominant figure in the higher councils of the U.G.T.

The two Communist Party ministers in the cabinet, Jesus Hernandez, Minister of Education, and Vincente Urbie, Minister of Agriculture, retained their posts.

## Moved to Right

The political composition of the present cabinet is: three right-wing Socialists, two Communists, two Catalan Leftist Republicans, one Catalan Nationalist, and one Basque Nationalist. There is now a five-to-four division of posts as between outright working class and non-working class parties.

In an official declaration as to the reasons for the formation of the new government, President Manuel Azana declared:

"I have consulted his excellency in favor of the formation of a government of concentration to be presided over by a Socialist minister who would inspire the confidence of the republican opinion of the country and of the democracies abroad.

"A military orientation that would be efficient on the vanguard, which would direct the army and the navy, and would concentrate under one command the army.

"The laws in which order would not be disturbed by the uncontrollable elements, committees, or violence of any other sort.

"An austere economic policy adequate to the difficult moments through which the state is living.

"The Catalonian Republicans have preferred the effective intervention and support of the Generalidad from the outside in which the government of the republic assumes the direction of public order," he said.

"Furthermore, I understand by the direct trend of these assumptions that the unpostponable duty of the government to be formed will be the fundamental liquidation of these problems, which perturb the life of Catalonia."

## Anarchists Fear Strife

Anarchist leaders, especially in Catalonia where the tradition of autonomy movements is strong, fear that their exclusion from the cabinet is the first step in the di-

rection of their complete suppression. They have issued a statement to their following counseling them against provocation:

"The Negrin Cabinet was formed without our participation and we will not collaborate with it," the national committee of the Anarcho-Syndicalist National Confederation of Labor (CNT) declared.

"At the moment we only advise the CNT membership that now more than ever it must hold itself loyal to responsible (CNT) committees. Let nobody act on his own account!

"Only through unity of action shall we frustrate the counter-revolution and avoid an 'Embrace of Vergara.'

(This is an historic Spanish reference—meaning "peace without victory.")

"Comrades, obey your responsible committee's direction! Let nobody play into the hands of provocators! Calmness! Firmness! Unity!"

The new Cabinet is planning to revert to the old parliamentary system, which collapsed during the days of the civil war. The Government declared that it would "live in closest contact with the Cortes before which it will present itself at the earliest date."

# BACK LABORITE IN MINN. POLLS

By ARTHUR HOPKINS

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—Running fifth in a field of ten candidates for the Mayoralty, Vincent R. Dunne, nominee of the Minneapolis Local of the Socialist Party, received 910 votes in an election whose most surprising feature was the tremendous vote gathered by General George E. Leach, which totaled slightly more than the total amount of votes received by Mayor Thomas E. Latimer and Kenneth C. Haycraft, the Farmer-Labor Party nominees. Leach got slightly more than 50,000 votes, while Haycraft and Latimer each received a few hundred votes over 25,000, Haycraft winning over Latimer by a margin of some 300 votes.

## Unite Against Reaction

Local Socialists have given a statement to the press declaring for a united labor front as against the candidacy of General Leach, big army man, recent head of the national militia bureau, former mayor of Minneapolis from 1921 to 1929, who is backed by the most reactionary forces of the city.

Minneapolis Socialists will critically support the FLP Mayoralty candidate, Haycraft, pointing out the weaknesses, the contradictions, and the good points of the FLP (its susceptibility to labor pressure as compared to the old line parties).

The strong Leach vote may be attributed to the fact that many workers supported him at the polls. Having been mayor of Minneapolis three times in so-called prosperous times when labor was docile and satisfied, Leach was not called upon to use the police for their intended use—to suppress workers whenever they become "disobedient and disloyal."

# WORKERS' KIDS

By McAlister Coleman

Across the broad, green acres of the Dutchess County farm near Pawling, New York, bare-legged youngsters are feeding chickens, helping with the milking, painting barns, planting vegetables and flowers. They are the lucky ones who are attending the Manumit School. They are the sons and daughters of trade unionists, of veterans in the labor movement, of refugees from the scourge of Hitlerism, and of those who while holding no official connection with the movement still want something different for their children than the routine city school.

Longer ago than I like to think, when Manumit was begun under the gentle and courageous leadership of Bill Fink and his wife, I used to escape from New York to visit the school and write pieces about it.

We had our dreams of a full-rounded program of workers' education, beginning with Manumit as a sort of preparatory school for Brookwood down the line. A lot of water has run down the brook behind Manumit's lovely stone use since then.

Time and again those of us who were together in those first pioneering May Days have been close to despair and surrender. Repercussions of the strife and tumult that have torn the labor movement so cruelly since the Armistice have had their inevitable echoes across the quiet acres of the two schools. That the schools are still there, still giving the chance for a good life to the sons and daughters of workers is a tribute to the tenacity and indomitable spirit of the many heroic men and women in whose charge they have been.

## Not Snooty Kids

Manumit and Brookwood are both very much alive today. They have had their tragic failures; but they have also had their outstanding triumphs. Few who have been under their intelligent influence for any length of time but have benefited by this contact with the realities of the American scene.

Manumit youngsters are sturdy of limb and independent of spirit. But don't get me wrong, they are not the snootily bad-mannered little brats that some of our so-called "progressive" schools turn out.

They don't think that in order to show their emancipation from the routinization of the usual school discipline it is necessary to be insultingly personal to every adult they encounter. Nor do they manifest any symptoms of pernicious precocity. Most of them come from the city and there are many amusing stories going round Manumit of their reactions to their first sight of slipping young lambs, the magnificent old sow and her litter back of the cow-barn, the majestic march of the seasons across the peaceful valley. Amusing and touching too, if you believe that every child should grow up with intimate foot-to-soil knowledge of the fundamentals.

## A Rounded Education

I don't want to have you think that I am going lyrical about the delights of rural life. I am so incorrigibly city-bred that while I can sleep peacefully through the clamor of early morning on Amsterdam Avenue, the yelling of birds outside a farmhouse window gives me matutinal jitters. But just the same, though Marx once commented bitterly on the "idiocies" of rural life, I do feel that every child from a working-class family should have his or her schools as Manumit afford.

We are all excited about the "awakening of labor" and rightly so. Momentous days for those who have worked so long for its coming. Let's hope that when the first great organizational push to which the energies of the leaders must now be devoted has achieved its goal, the early educational programs will not be forgotten and that there will be understanding, among the leaders and the rank and file alike, that the labor movement is a lot more than the economics of hours and wages. That it encompasses ways of living and attitudes on the part of our youth that will give them the tools for the making of a lot better world than we old-heads ever dreamed of.

(Continued from Column One)

decided that only the Unification Commission, approved by the Mulhouse Congress, has the power to initiate any actions on this matter. All branches and other organizations are instructed to reject invitations for joint discussion meetings, and to await instructions from the Unification Commission instead. The Unification Commission is to continue work on the Draft Charter and the Constitution of the united party, which are then to be submitted to the organizations of the two parties for discussion.

The National Council had before it a report on the situation inside the Socialist Youth organization. It confirmed the decisions of the Executive of the Youth with regard to disciplinary measures (including the suppression of the "Jeune Garde" organ of the Paris Federation of the Socialist youth, which follow Marceau Pivert). The expulsion of several members from the Youth for breach of discipline was confirmed.

## LABOR AMERICA

Local 1 Keeps Alive  
PMA Progressivism

GERRY ALLARD

The present ferment in the organized labor movement has created a complexity of problems within the trade unions, whether they be AFL or CIO affiliates or independent. The Socialist Call, with activist correspondents, engaged in solving the problems of the workers in these various fields, shall from week to week devote this column to an analysis of these separate and vital situations.

Under the direction of the incumbents of the Progressive Miners, the rank and file was kept at work during the general strike of miners in the Spring of 1935. This policy was again repeated on April 1 of this year, although the strike lasted but one day. Thus, the Progressive Miners of America had the distinct honor of being the only organized section of miners that remained at work during the walkout. The Progressive (the word gets rather greasy) officialdom can claim equal glory along with Sheriff Middleton of Harlan County, Kentucky, who kept the miners at work with stronger things than deception. The method was different but the deed similarly repulsive.

Now the Progressive Miners' officials are consorting with the Green faction of the American

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Company at the tune of \$75,000 in 1926, as their ambassador plenipotentiary to the A. F. of L. convention at Miami, Florida. Mr. Farrington wrote long articles during the last political campaign supposedly exposing John L. Lewis and supporting the Republican Landon. It is reported, although not officially accounted that Farrington is today on the payroll of the P. M. A.

Frank Farrington is bad enough goods, even if some hard boiled people give no consideration to his shady past.

The idea of miners supporting craft unionism as against industrial unionism poses a fundamentally principled question. Since 1890 the miners have been organized in an industrial union. History proves beyond any questionable doubt that this form of organization is the only method through which large masses of unskilled and semi-skilled workers can be effectively unionized. Why then do the Progressive Miners' officials tend to give aid to a form of organization that was born in the period of the handicraft and died with the concentration and mechanization of production?

The Progressive Miners of America in structure is an industrial union. How is it possible, therefore, for the P.M.A. to

PMA Not  
A Craft  
Union

actually function industrially and at the same time give comfort to craft unionism when industrial unionism is the bone of contention in the current labor split? A literate person can perceive of a union wanting to retain its independence, but how is it conceivable for a union to castrate itself of vital organs? Since the logic of the P.M.A. officers flows from the simple mathematics of two wrongs make one right, they can dispose of this query with the ease with which they settle international finance. They know or care little about the historic mission or the dynamics of the labor movement but they are always accommodating, their readers with involved diatribes on

matters of no importance or significance to the miners.

By the foregoing report the reader can understand that the Progressive Miners of America is today a pretty messy affair. It



John Fisher,  
President of Local 1, PMA

sticks out like a queer wart on the body of a healthy, vigorous and expanding labor movement. A full picture of the P.M.A., however, is not complete without a report of the role of the rank and file of this union through the four years of reaction.

Local union No. 1 of the P.M.A. at Gillespie, Illinois, is the best and outstanding example. This local union has 2400 members, the largest single miners' local in America. Local No. 1, under left wing and real progressive leadership, has time after time through resolutions, committees and delegates to conventions criticized the official policies of the parent body in sharp words. In deeds this local union has demonstrated an opposite role as compared with the state officers.

Local union No. 1 has withheld funds from "The Progressive Miner" for nearly a year because

Local 1  
Leads the  
Way

of the anti-labor attitude of that newspaper. Despite its conflicts with the American Federation of Labor in general it practically executed the strike of the Warehouse Workers of St. Louis, an A. F. of L. affiliate, and donated to the strikers some \$2,000; it carried on an effective boycott of Kroger stores because of this strike; it was instrumental in removing from the faculty of a local high school a teacher who had carried a gun against striking A. F. of L. steel workers at Alton, Illinois, in 1934; it donated \$1,000 to the striking auto workers of Flint, Michigan, a C.I.O. affiliate; a donation of \$500 was made to the Emerson electrical strikers of St. Louis, another C.I.O. affiliate; it contributed \$2,000 to the industrial unions of Spain now engaged in a life and death struggle against fascism; funds were donated to save two Italian anti-fascists who were threatened with deportation to Fascist Italy; it continues to support the Workers Alliance in its struggles for the unemployed; and among a number of other real working class acts of solidarity it carries on a campaign of education among its members that has

COMMUNISTS SPLIT  
UNIONS IN MEXICO

MEXICO CITY, (MLN).—The sub-surface animosities and antagonisms which have been slowly growing within the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers) since the Third National Council held in Vera Cruz last October have at last flared out into the open at the Fourth Council celebrated last week in Mexico City, resulting in a serious split of the organization which may lose it a full quarter of its membership.

Charging that the Fourth Council was illegally constituted, that it had violated the CTM's by-laws in its proceedings, and that bona fide delegates from various state and local organizations had been wrongly excluded from the sessions, the Communist Party withdrew its elements from the Council and various unions—most important among them being the railroad workers and the electrical workers of the Federal District—followed its lead. Three secretaries of the National Committee—Juan Gutierrez of the railroad union, and Miguel Velasco and Pedro Morales of the Communist Party—also withdrew, declaring that they could not be a party to the "illegal resolutions or other actions" taken by the Fourth Council.

After giving the absent secretaries a period of twenty-four hours in which to return to their duties, the Council voted to suspend them in their functions and to turn the case over to the CTM's Judiciary Committee for investigation and action. Three substitute members have been named to the National Committee to replace the absentees.

## Toledano Attacks

In his speech at the closing session of the Council, Vicente Lombardo Toledano, General Secretary of the CTM, made a strong plea for the return of the abstaining organizations and officials. He pointed out that of the total membership of the CTM, 3-183 organizations with 599,641 individual members had remained within the Council, thus giving a substantial majority over the 141,000 members whose delegates had voted to abstain. All the acts of the Council were hence legal, he maintained, as they had been approved by a majority of the

probably maintained the best working conditions of any mine in Illinois if not the United States. Here are examples of unionism from which the state officers and particularly the editors of "The Progressive Miner" may learn.

While the editors of "The Progressive Miner" were viciously attacking the auto workers' union during the height of the strike in Michigan, the rank and file of local union No. 1 rallied magnanimously by inviting Homer Martin, the president of the Auto Workers Union, to address a holiday meeting of the Gillespie miners on April 1. From this our Socialist readers must understand that what is said in "The Progressive Miner" is not to be accepted as the opinion of the entire rank and file of the P.M.A. Local union No. 1 by action shows the dissenting spirit now crystallizing within the P.M.A.

The P.M.A. has been again exposed as being unable to independently negotiate a contract with its coal operators. It has failed to date to secure for the miners what the U.M.W.A. secured through the recent Appalachian wage agreement. The Illinois district of the U.M.W.A. is perhaps purposely refusing to sign a contract in order to drive home to the recalcitrant part of the Illinois miners the fallacy of maintaining a separatist union. This maneuver will not dislodge the P.M.A. from its reactionary position but it is shattering the confidence of the miners in the P.M.A.

Gerry Allard's attack on the miners continues next week.

membership in accordance with the organization's Constitution and by-laws.

He went on to an analysis of the attitude of the Communist Party towards the CTM, charging that the Party had imposed its own discipline on its elements within the trade union organization, to the detriment and at the expense of the larger discipline of the CTM. Comparing the attitude and tactics of the principal Communist Parties of the world towards the trade-union organizations of France, Spain, and the United States, he called upon the Mexican party to display a similar degree of cooperation and loyalty to the labor movement and to refrain from partisan societies which under existing conditions in Mexico can lead only to adventurism and disaster for the labor movement as a whole.

He condemned in the strongest terms the action of the party in precipitating a break in labor's ranks on the very eve of the First of May, the labor anniversary which should have found the Mexican movement more united than ever.

## Charge Bureaucracy

For their part, the Communist Party and the various non-Communist organizations which have followed its lead out of the Council accuse Lombardo and his closest associates of attempting to establish a bureaucratic, personalist control over the CTM to the exclusion of all those elements unwilling to submit themselves to such dictatorship. They claim that bona fide delegates to the Council were excluded because of partisan motives and that in various states congresses and organizations, the ruling clique in the CTM has attempted to impose its own unconditional supporters on the membership, overriding the will of the rank and file.

They accuse Lombardo of attempting to use members for their political opinions and ideological divergences. Attacking the legality of the Fourth Council, they refuse to recognize its decisions or to accept the suspension of the three secretaries who have rebelled against the National Committee.

Unquestionably, the dispute has been a severe blow to the Mexican labor movement. Not only may it deprive the CTM of a substantial bloc of its membership, but it removes such powerful and influential unions as the electricians and perhaps the railroad workers, together with various state organizations of considerable importance.

It is impossible here to make a complete analysis of all the causes, immediate and remote, of the break. In brief, the conflict began to come out into the open when the electricians questioned the legality of the Third National Council in Vera Cruz and began a breach which was never healed.

## The Causes

Following the first manifestation of dissatisfaction with the CTM leadership came the dispute over the organization of the teachers' union at the Queretaro Congress, which has been frequently commented in "MEXICAN LABOR NEWS."

The third serious conflict arose over the Federation of Workers of the State of Nueva Leon where the Communists apparently made an attempt to capture

the local leadership. It was the exclusion of the Nuevo Leon delegation from the Council as having been improperly constituted which precipitated the walk-out.

## Mechanical Domination

There have been other minor incidents of a similar nature, but in general it appears that the veteran leaders of unions and state federations within the CTM were up in arms against the recent tactics of the Communist Party in attempting to seize the leadership of old and new organizations by purely mechanical means, without making a genuine appeal to the membership. This, they claimed, was particularly true of the way in which the Communists captured control of the Queretaro teachers' congress and of the Mexican Federation of Educational Workers resulting from it. The refusal of the CTM to admit the teachers' union, into the organization of the congress and the union was one of the principal reasons advanced by the dissidents, particularly the railroad workers, for leaving the Council.

On the whole, it may be said that the present break and the disputes leading up to it must be charged to the general immaturity of the Mexican labor movement and the extreme difficulties under which it has developed. It has never been a truly independent movement and due to the peculiar circumstances of the revolution and the governments emanating from it, there has always been far too great an intervention of government officials in the movement for its own soundness and health.

There appears to be good reason for supposing that a large part of the present difficulties are at least indirectly due to maneuvers and intrigues fomented by certain members of the government attempting to use sections of the trade union movement for their own political purposes, and that leaders on both sides of the dispute have wittingly or unwittingly allowed themselves to be made the tools of selfish interests alien to labor if not actually hostile to it. It is these outside intriguers and the employing class in general who stand to gain by the split.

## Whose Responsibility?

The Mexican labor movement is thus divided again and its united front of the past two years broken at a moment when unity was more badly needed than ever. From an objective point of view, it would appear that the Communist Party must bear the chief responsibility for the break, whatever may be the sins of the other side, for, by its own theory, if not by its practice in Mexico, it is part of the tactics of the popular front line for the revolutionary parties not to attempt to set too rapid a pace for the mass of the labor movement to maintain.

The shortcomings of the CTM and of a good deal of its minor leadership are nothing new in Mexican history; they are part of the labor movement's past, another aspect of the evil inheritance or the Marones' period and the old CROM. Progress towards eliminating such blemishes was undoubtedly being made and could continue only on the basis of unity and intelligent cooperation. To have split the CTM now for the sake of one immediate and partisan advantage is shortsighted and hardly calculated to create the conditions under which better leadership and a restored unification can be achieved.

# Spain Is Betrayed

By MARCEAU PIVERT  
 Reprinted from "Controversy"

THE international conference of the industrial and political organizations affiliated to the Second International (recently held in London) has demonstrated, alas, yet again, the persistence of the most dangerous reformist ideologies. Even in the moving speech of our comrade Cordeiro, representing the Spanish Socialist Party, one recognizes a kind of grief-stricken stupefaction with regard to Fascist cruelty and disloyalty;

"We have constantly striven to ensure social progress by peaceful and legal methods. Our generous people, having expressed its will, never dreamt of oppressing the reactionary minority. Nevertheless, the latter has violated democratic legality and launched out into civil war. Thousands of my comrades have been murdered simply because they were Socialists... How has such a thing been possible?"

This speech reveals clearly the origin of the political errors which led the Spanish proletariat to the threshold of the same catastrophe as that of Italy, Germany and Austria. It is only in proportion as an important section of the Spanish workers understood the relativity of democratic institutions and had prepared for the open struggle that the future of the Spanish people is now saved from the evils which weigh down the other peoples oppressed by the Fascist dictatorship of the great capitalists.

Unfortunately, these illusions as to the actual social content of bourgeois democracy still exist elsewhere than in Spain. The undeniable advantages of the democratic form of capitalist domination over its Fascist form

## LABOR ACTION ALONE WINS

too often disguise the fact that the true dynamic of modern history is the independent action of the working class. It is by this that we have repulsed Fascism in France, and it is to this that we must return every time when war or Fascism threatens the workers. In consequence, the distinction (accepted in almost every speech of the Conference) between "Democratic States" and "Fascist States," contains the germ of very grave confusion.

True, the material solidarity of the International with regard to our Spanish brothers is not negligible, but what would help them far more would be a CLEAR POLITICAL LINE. At the moment, however, the reformist assumption effaces this line and leads working class action into the worst blunders.

Either (1) it supports a policy of "non-intervention" which, in practice, serves the desires and interests of the imperialisms threatened by the Spanish proletarian revolution.

Or (2) it tends to desire or facilitate the intervention of the military apparatus of the bourgeoisie.

In the former case, we associate ourselves more or less directly with an attempt to colonize and divide into zones of influence the unhappy Iberian peninsula.

In the latter, we acquiesce in the hurling of the proletariat into an imperialist war, which undoubtedly constitutes at the moment the most terrible danger threatening the world and our socialist hopes.

The majority of the speeches at the Conference come under the second category. Thus we were amazed to hear my friend Pietro Nenni declare in the middle of an otherwise brilliant and militant address that, after all, the colossal armament burden assumed by France and by England was certainly the only means of protecting "peace and our liberties."

On the other hand, Jouhaux gave a typically trade union speech, and the distinction (though a very obvious one) between independent working class action and government action supported by the working class dominated his argument. It was one of the essential ideals to carry away from that Conference.

But when will it pass into action?

Faced with dangers of whose gravity and imminence nobody can any longer have the slightest doubt, the international working class ought to adopt with all its strength the methods of direct action—general strikes for limited periods, universal boycotts, powerful agitation and propaganda among peoples subjected to Fascist tyranny and among colonial peoples.

It would be far better to follow that path, with all its sacrifices but also with all its immense possibilities of stimulating international class consciousness, than to let our capitalist rulers believe that we are the dupes of their artificial juridical constructions.

The delegate of the American Socialist Party, Jack Altman, forcefully displayed a clear tendency in that direction of true proletarian internationalism, but his voice found no echo and his Party is as yet weak.

What will doubtless particularly interest the English readers of these brief notes is the impres-

## WHY THE STAND OF THE BRITISH?

without anxiety that we turn our thoughts to that powerful British working class whose role can be decisive in formulating the international policy of the working classes. We believe it is in the interests of a closer unity of our movement to speak frankly to our comrades—We do not understand why the urgent claims of the civil war provoked in Spain by our worst enemies are so little realized in England. The Guadajara is, for us, simply one sector, which has erupted into activity, of the international front along whose whole length capitalism confronts its exploited victims. We do not understand the ferocious repugnance of our comrades to a single united front of struggle formed of all the organizations produced by the proletariat and the lower middle classes, all equally menaced by the Fascist danger.

We do not understand the ferocious repugnance of our comrades to a single united front of struggle formed of all the organizations produced by the proletariat and the lower middle classes, all equally menaced by the Fascist danger.

We did not understand why Bevin gave as a reason the "hostility" of the Communists during the L.C.C. Elections, since to our knowledge the Communist Party rallied votes for our Labour comrades.

If discouragement has seized the workers, it is because they had been led to place too great reliance on the "honourableness" of the capitalists, and on their League of Nations mummery.

Under the pressure of imperialist antagonisms, the veil was rent—and Labour leaders should have foreseen this instead of trusting capitalist institutions. We could not understand the simple-minded trustfulness expressed by Bevin with respect to a Conservative Government.

Refusing to be entangled in diplomatic hypocrisies, we ourselves affirm that the heart of the "City" beats for Franco, that the foreign policy of our Popular Front Government has been compelled to take account to far too great an extent of that bias, and that the capitalists of the world know how to restrain their imperialist appetites and to adopt an agreed policy when it is a case, as it is today, of strangling a working class revolution.

Finally, we do not understand working class action and even socialist propaganda like the above which submit themselves to the demands of "public opinion." Public opinion is ruling class opinion. It is doubtless necessary to neglect no means of making ourselves understood, but it is also necessary for us to play our part as the conscious advance guard of the working class. We must courageously go against the stream of indifference or timidity if we are to earn the supreme reward of leading the working class to power.

For that is what has to be done, in every country of the world, if we wish to avoid Fascism and prevent war. From this point of view, we can explain how government may be led by formal juridical appearances to place on the

## WE ARE NOT NEUTRAL

same level the two adversaries, government supporters and rebels. But working class organizations can never, without betraying their historic mission, place themselves outside of their class position. We are therefore, without hesitation or argument, on the side of our Socialist brethren in Spain, in every possible way, and always, whatever happens. We must, then, organize today, on an international working class plan, a great campaign for the withdrawal of the Italians, Germans and Moors despatched to the rebel areas. We must also maintain an incessant agitation which will so effect the policy of the government that the Spanish Socialist Republic shall be torn from the stranglehold of international high finance.

But that demands the complete ending by each proletariat of all collaboration with its capitalist class, and the reconstruction of a genuine and single proletarian international.

Let each one examine his conscience in order to raise himself to the level of understanding and of heroism displayed by the magnificent fighters of Spain.

## A BRITISHER VIEWS NORMAN THOMAS

By Angelman

The following article was written following the recent visit of Norman Thomas by one of the most prominent Socialist journalists in England. He has asked that his identity be kept secret, but is anxious to have Americans know the reception accorded to Comrade Thomas during his recent visit in England.—Ed.

Norman Thomas slipped into England on a cold April day. When he talked to the reporters in his West-end hotel not one



Norman Thomas

of them was aware that he had been three times Socialist candidate for President.

The Manchester Guardian, needless to say, did him very well. The News-Chronicle, which has made a new reputation by the excellence of its dispatches from Spain, headlined Mr. Thomas as "Kicking the world in the pants." Other dailies printed the briefest summary of his comments on British policy towards Spain and Europe. There was a public luncheon arranged by London Socialists, and one large evening meeting, after which Norman Thomas went to Cambridge, for an address to the local of the Left Book Club. Then for a day or two he was in Birmingham, watching the Labor assault upon the parliamentary seat filled for more than forty years by Sir Austen Chamberlain. One wondered how all this would compare with the adventures in America of an English Norman Thomas, were such a phenomenon imaginable. Now let us glance at the evening affair in London.

The place of meeting is the auditorium of Friends House, the Quaker headquarters a stone's throw from the Euston railroad terminal.

The hall holds something over 1,000. It is a good deal less than packed—partly because a sixpenny ticket (twelve cents) was needed for a seat, and partly because of poor publicity. It is a most attractive audience, of an average age not much over thirty undeniably a sample of England's best. The arrangements seem to be altogether English.

George Lansbury—a few days later to be standing on the peak of the world news—is in the chair. At 78 years of age he is a picture of venerable health, rather like an Essex farmer of 1889. He speaks, not overlong, in his rich London voice, giving a cordial welcome to the American visitor, but no information about him to correct the blunders of the daily Press.

## THOMAS, THE ORATOR

Norman Thomas could hardly be in better form. He fills an hour with masterly ease. He is lucid, eloquent, humorous. The American political system; the increasing domination of the Presidency and consequent swamping of the quadrennial election; the rigors of the federal system and

the extreme difficulty of getting third-party candidates on the ballot—Why not a Labor party? explained in a few convincing strokes. The working of the electoral college, which on a majority of a single vote, would give the whole electoral bloc of New York State to the fortunate party ("There's a representative system for you—it reminds me of some of your British arrangements"); the racial problem and the immigrant communities; the pioneer tradition and its persistence in the American bourgeoisie; what Roosevelt has attempted, and what he cannot do—all this and much more comes out in a flow of animated American English that makes a delightful experience for the audience. "Why can't we get more American speakers of this quality? Are there any?" Norman Thomas's temper is perfect; and his irony ever ready to spring. Thus his English friends are always, he says, exclaiming over the un-British complexity of the American Constitution, the gross absurdity of President and Congress being held up or destroyed by the 18th century anachronism of a Supreme Court. Yet what American would envy a Government and people which had to make terms with such impossible schemes as the Canadian Constitution or the Indian?

## APPLAUSE FOR INDIA

And, as for the central problem of the British system; "You cannot have one standard for England and another for India—a sentiment which evokes the evening's loudest burst of applause. At the end of it, Norman Thomas smilingly remarks that he must get back to his proper theme, Socialism in America—after their "momentary enthusiasm for justice in India."

Every sentence is interesting and—save for the peroration, which sound prepared—wonderfully vital. Norman Thomas may not realize the large ignorance of his audience concerning American institutions and events; here and there he should be simpler in exposition. Doubtless he takes for granted that he is to be given an opportunity of answering the questions with which these young people are bursting—about the New Deal, John L. Lewis, the sit-downs, the Supreme Court and the Wagner Act, Farmer-Labor, and what not. But there are no questions.

And then as Lansbury declares the meeting closed, someone calls out, "Can't we sing the Internationale?" "Certainly, if someone will start it." Someone tries, at a unmanageable pitch. The feeble strain is petering out when a strong baritone strikes up from the platform and continues in resonant tones.

Amazing! Norman Thomas can sing the Internationale; he actually knows the words! He goes bravely through the long first stanza, and by the time the chorus is reached there is a scattered minority joining in. Some have heard the tune before; to most of them the song is strange.

# NAC Rallies Branches To CALL Sub. Drive

By JOHN NEWTON THURBER

Every branch in the Socialist Party throughout the country has been notified by the National Action Committee of the Socialist Party, that they are to mobilize their forces behind the CALL Subscription drive.

"To support our own press we are launching a subscription drive," the National Action Committee states. "This is to be a major party activity. We must make the distribution of our own paper as wide as possible. It will carry the official party position on all issues of the day, news from the labor field with our interpretation of events, etc. For this reason it is essential that the CALL be in the home of every Socialist Party member as well as in the home of all sympathizers and potential recruits."

In accordance with this decision, the following directives have been issued to the branches covering the conduct of the drive:

1. The basic quota for each branch or local with no branches is 10 subscriptions.

2. A special subscription price of \$1.00 a year is offered for the duration of the drive.

3. Subscription blanks specially prepared for the drive have been sent to each branch. More can be ordered from national headquarters or from the Call.

4. Renewals will not be credited in this drive, except for persons who have allowed their subscriptions to lapse for six months or more.

5. Each branch sending in 9 new subscriptions will be given free, one subscription to be sent to any workers' center, library or union headquarters designated by the branch. The 9 sold in addition to the one donated will be credited as 10 on the branch total.

6. Reports on results of the drive by branches will be made each week in the "CALL" beginning with the issue of May 22.

7. Each branch securing 10 new subscriptions will be rated "Builder Branch;" 25 new subscriptions—"Honor Branch;" 100 new subscriptions—"Red Banner Branch."

8. The branch securing most subscriptions in the drive can either name two persons whose expenses will be paid for two weeks at the Three Arrow Camp or at some other workers' camp close to the home of the winner.

9. The 10 highest branches in the country will be awarded bound volumes I and II of the "Socialist Call." The 15 next branches will be awarded bound volume I of the "Socialist Call."

10. Each branch getting 25 or more subscriptions will be given a large picture of Norman Thomas suitable for framing for branch headquarters. Each branch getting from 10 to 25 subscriptions will be given a small picture of Norman Thomas, also suitable for display. Branches getting 100 or more subscription will receive a picture of Comrade Thomas, autographed by him, with a note on their performance in the drive.

11. Direct financial contributions are still to be solicited for the \$10,000 drive of the "Call," and reports on these will also be carried in the "Call."

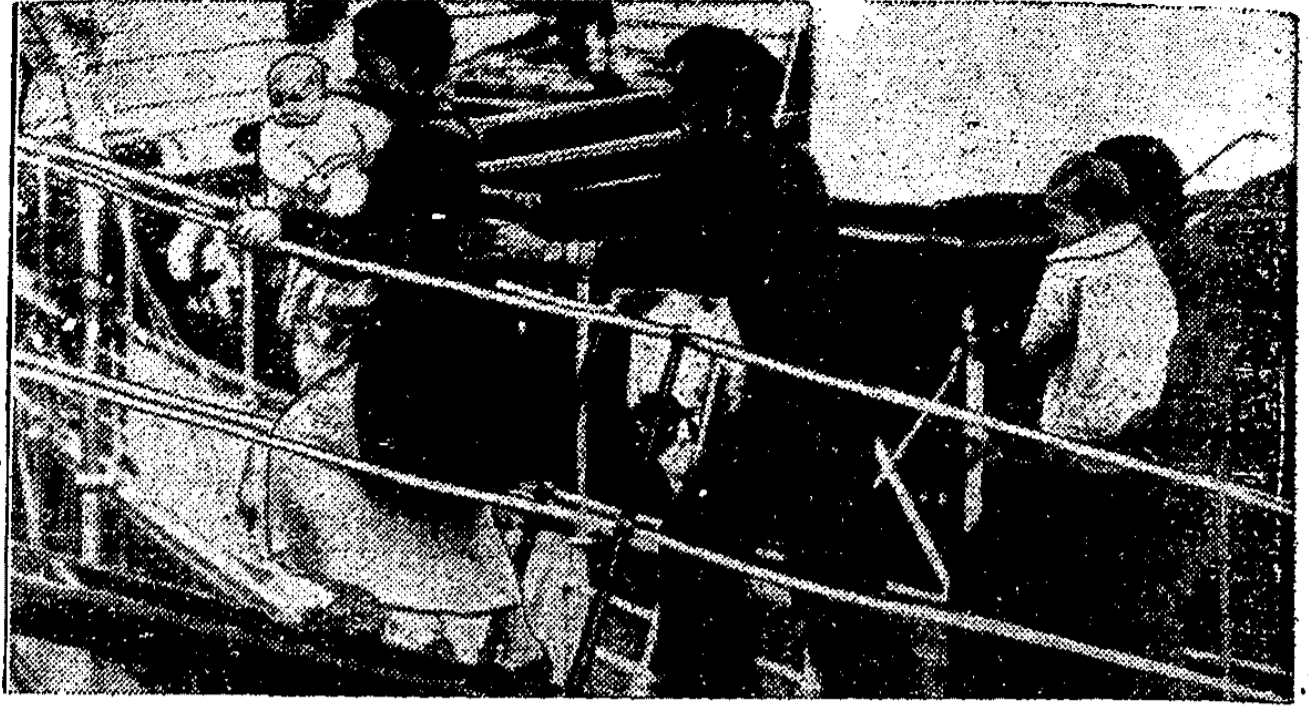
12. Party speakers are urged to push "Call" subscriptions wherever they speak under party auspices.

Branches are beginning to get to work on this activity, but all too slow. The first report on their activity is printed this week. We are glad to report that a large number of comrades have written in asking for more subscription blanks already, but most of them have not got their organizations at work getting subscriptions yet.

Every member of the party must throw himself into this drive! What is your branch doing?

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# Basque Refugees



Here are but a few of the desperate refugees from the war torn Basque capital of Bilbao, Spain. Most of the 4,000 who were forced to evacuate their homes were children.

## BOOKS

### Why Did They Confess

By DAVID P. BERENBERG

Why Did They "Confess?"—Pioneer Publishers. New York Ten Cents.

Interest in the "Moscow Trials" has not died down, nor will it so soon come to an end. The political, and more recently the psychological problems posed by the so-called "confessions" will absorb the attention of revolutionaries, and of students of history, for many years to come. The present pamphlet, "Why Did They Confess?" offers an explanation recently hinted at by Otto Bauer. The pamphlet is a translation of an article originally printed in "Nouvelles d'U.S.S.R." published by a group of communists known as "Que Faire?" who are neither Trotskyists nor Stalinists.

After reviewing the trials and analyzing the various explanations official and unofficial that have been offered for the strange "confessions," the article comes to the following conclusion: When Zinoviev and Kamenev capitulated to the Party in 1927 they said: "We are obliged to submit our will and ideas to the will and the ideas of the party, for it is the sole leader of the proletarian revolution and the sole supreme judge of what is of

use or of harm to the victorious progress of the revolution."

"Hence, when in 1936, the leadership of the party judged it necessary, in the alleged interest of the revolution, to deal a blow to Trotskyism and to Trotsky, when it decided to utilize for this end the former Oppositionists, the former Trotskyists, what could they oppose to the orders of the party, to the will of Stalin? After the sacrifice of their ideas, they were required to sacrifice their lives and their honor."

The writer of this article goes so far as to say: "Their attitude towards the party recalls the attitude of the believer towards his God: All that God wishes, all that God requires, is good; it must be performed, without grumbling, without discussing the will of God—in this instance, the will of Stalin."

This explanation, strange as it may sound to western ears, accustomed to independence of thought, has a certain plausibility. Assuming, as any honest person must, that the confessions were not above-board, one must attribute them to torture, mental or physical. The author of this pamphlet rejects the thought that these men would have yielded to torture.

He believes that he has found, in the abhorrent distortion of party discipline that has grown like a

cancer in the Communist Parties throughout the world, the answer to the mystery." Obviously such an argument is not susceptible of mathematical proof. It will be rejected by those to whom the Communist Party discipline is in very truth the word of God. It will be looked upon as interesting by those who do not need to be persuaded of Trotsky's innocence. It may, as these booklets do at times, reach some few who are on the fence. The theory is not likely to be widely accepted.

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VILLAGE BRANCH meets every Thurs. night at 107 MacDougal St. Ellen Leeb, Sec'y, 303 West 4th St

#### BRONX

2ND A.D. meets second and fourth Wednesdays, at 1401 Jerome Ave. Sophie E. Nelson, secretary.

5TH A.D. Meets every Wed. 7 West Burnside Ave. (near Jerome) Rm 20. Lester Lermond, Sec'y.

AMALGAMATED, Upper 8th A.D. meets every Tuesday. Inquire L. M Reich, 100 Van Cortland Pk. So. Apt. C 42.

#### BROOKLYN

DOWNTOWN KINGS. Regular meetings every Thursday at 8 P. M., 42 Smith Street. A. Walsh, Sec'y., 140 Warren Street. John Tamm, Organizer.

BORO PARK BRANCH, 4514 New Utrecht Ave. Meets every Wednesday evening at 8:00 P. M. Edith Feferholtz, Sec'y.

#### LONG ISLAND

SUNNYSIDE. Meets 2nd & 4th Wed at 3908 48th St. Sunnyside, L. I Emily Oxhandler, Secretary.

#### DETROIT

BRANCH ONE meets every Wednesday, 8 P. M., People's House, 39466 Trumbull. Tel.: Terrace 2-3512.

#### ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

MEETS every Tues. 8 P. M. 1603A So Jefferson Ave. Bus. meeting 1st Tues. Class in Socialism 2nd 3rd, 4th Tues. Labor Forum every Sunday 8 P. M.

## FROM LENIN TO STALIN

By VICTOR SERGE

This book is a summary of the changes that have taken place in the Soviet Union during the past twenty years. Victor Serge knows his Russia as few men do. One of the first Western European supporters of the Russian Revolution he spent eighteen years in the Soviet Union, serving it with sword, pen and brain. Imprisoned and deported as an oppositionist to the Stalin regime, Serge was released and allowed to return to Belgium after a world-wide campaign in his behalf led by Andre Gide.

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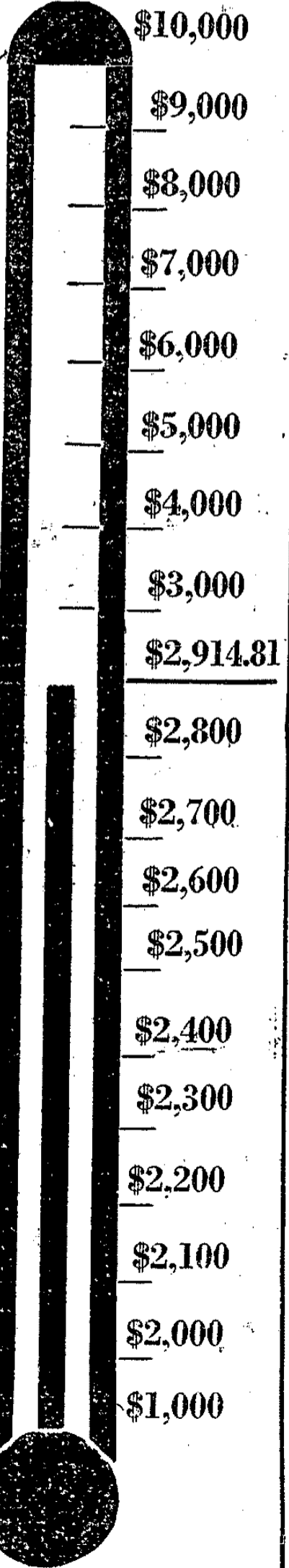
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# \$10,000 For The CALL





# With The Party

## IOWA

The following letter was sent by Mrs. A. M. Prescott, secretary of the Sloux City Local, to the CALL:

"We, the Socialist Party of Sloux City, wish to send our votes of thanks to Comrade Roy E. Burt, for his wide awake activities in regard to the policies of our government.

"We believe that our Party should enjoy rapid growth with our new secretary."

The Sloux City, Iowa, Local of the Socialist Party has sent the following letter to Representative Vincent Harrington and Senators Guy Gillette and Clyde Herring of Iowa:

"The Socialist Party of Sloux City, Iowa, in regular session, emphatically protests the passage of the Hill-Shepard Conservation Bill. We believe it tends to promote the concentration of power into the hands of a few and therefore is contrary to the principle of sound Government. The passage of this bill is UN-AMERICAN and not in keeping with the Spirit of Democracy."

## NEW YORK

The 8th A. D. Bronx will hold a social at 7 W. Burnside Ave. on Saturday evening, May 22, at 8:30 P. M.

A Soapbox Social sponsored by the Hunter and City College Circles is being held Saturday, May 22, at 615 Second Ave. (one flight up). All other Yipsel affairs for that night have been called off since money

must be raised for Soapbox. Food, drinks and entertainment galore.

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

A membership meeting will be held Wednesday, May 26, at 8:30 P. M., at Stuyvesant Casino, between Eighth and Ninth Sts. on Second Ave., to hear a report of the City Executive Committee on the two-day meeting on organization and finances.

This meeting is of utmost importance and every member should make it his business to attend. Discussion by the membership will follow the reports.

## ONE DAY INCOME TAX

Because of the change in the dues system a great deal of financial confusion exists. To cover the period until the new dues system goes into effect and to take care of the cost of moving our headquarters, a one-day income tax was proposed and adopted by the City Executive Committee.

We call upon every party member in New York not to wait, but to send in this tax immediately. Non-party members can also send money to the care of Jack Altman, 21 East 17th St.

The City Executive Committee of Local New York will have a full two-day meeting at Camp Three Arrows starting Saturday, May 22, at 1 P. M. and continuing till Sunday night. The order of business will concern itself with organization and finance. This will include carrying out of the five-point call to action of the National Executive Committee of the Party plus the municipal campaign issues, and the new dues system.

The Modern Monthly is celebrating its thirteenth anniversary Friday, May 21, at the Center Hotel. There will be dancing, a show and entertainment.

## Thursday, May 20:

Jack Altman will speak on Spain and the LSI Conference, at the Morningside Heights Branch, 600 West 125th St.

Bob Tyler will speak on the Wagner Act and Labor's Strike Wave, at the 3 A. D. Bronx, 880 East 162nd St.

Oscar Signer will speak on the Socialist Party Trade Union Resolution at the Village Branch, 107 McDougall St.

Lazar Becker will speak on the Socialist Party People's Front Resolution at the 18 A. D. Brooklyn, 267 Schenectady Ave.

Max Schachtman will speak on the Trotsky Hearings in Mexico at the 12 A. D. Manhattan, 615 Second Ave.

Friday, May 21:  
Joel Seidman will speak on the Sit-down Strike Wave at the 21 A. D. Brooklyn.

John Newton Thurber will speak on the Relief Cuts and the Municipal Campaign, at the Upper 8 A. D. Bronx, 100 Van Courtlandt Park S.

Arthur Pincus will speak on Cuba at the East Side Labor Center, 31 Second Ave.

Sunday, May 23:  
William Farrell will speak on a Socialist Program for America at the Midwood Branch in Brooklyn.

Tuesday, May 25:  
Jack Altman will speak on Spain and the International Labor Movement for the German Branch at the Yorkville Labor Temple, 157 East 84th St.

## CONNECTICUT

Jack Altman will speak in Hartford, Connecticut, at a mass meeting for Spain under the auspices of the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy.

## PENNSYLVANIA

The State Convention of Pennsylvania will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 22 and 23, in Allentown.

Genora Johnson, leader of the Women's Brigade in Flint, Michigan, will speak at a mass meeting Saturday at 7:30. Other speakers who will address the convention include: Dr. Jesse Holmes, State Socialist Chairman; Charles Sandwick, state secretary of the Worker's Alliance, and Alice Hanson. David Felix, member of the NEC, will be chairman.

A representative of the Spanish consulate will address the convention Sunday afternoon.

Jack Altman will speak in Philadelphia at a mass meeting for Spain on the Debs Column.

## PITTSBURGH, PENNA.

Socialist trade unionists met here last Saturday and Sunday to hammer out solutions to their day-to-day problems and to set up a regional Socialist Council in Western Pennsylvania to coordinate and insure Socialist discipline for the Party work in that area.

Leaders of 25 internationals from Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania were present. Frank N. Trager, national labor secretary of the Party, led the discussion. The specific problems facing the various delegates were discussed.

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# Trouble in Steel



Philip Murray and steel workers prepare Pittsburgh strike.

# Socialist Trade Unionists Report on Basic Industries

By LEWIS CONN

PITTSBURGH, PA.—Socialist trade unionists gathered in this city last Saturday and Sunday, to hammer out solutions for their day-to-day problems in their unions.

They came from Maryland, from West Virginia, from Ohio, from Pennsylvania. They represented twenty-five international unions. Among them were leaders in the CIO textile drive; organizers and rank-and-file workers who played impressive roles in the Jones-Laughlin strike and other advances of the SWOC; and officers and rank-and-file leaders in coal, in aluminum, in glass, in electrical work. There were half a dozen delegates to Central labor bodies.

From their conference emerged the beginnings of a regional Socialist council in Western Pennsylvania which will coordinate and insure Socialist discipline for the work of the Party in that area. And there emerged a thorough understanding of the orientation of the Party as expressed by the last national convention.

Led by Frank N. Trager, national labor secretary of the Party, and by prominent Socialists in steel, glass, coal, aluminum and other industries, the delegates dealt with the specific problems they are facing, and formulated programs of immediate action.

Particularly important was the discussion of the aluminum industry, led by Nick Zonarich, international president of the militant Aluminum Workers' Union, and Walter Pasnlek, secretary of the New Kensington, Pa. local, which took the initiative only a few months ago in swinging the international from the AFL to the CIO.

Steel discussions were led by Henry Smith, SWOC leader in Baltimore, and Morris Mullinger, just returned from the SWOC battle-line which successfully fought J. and L. in Alliquippa. Coal discussion chairmen were John Madoni and Ray Hasev, officers of the Barking and the Russeton lodges, respectively, of the United Mine Workers.

Joseph Rees, of the Creighton local, Flat Glass Workers, led the program in his industry, while Andrew Panazick, president of the New Kensington local, United Electrical Workers, began the discussion on electrical work.

A special committee appointed by the conference drew up plans for a regional organization, which will concentrate its work in the trade-union field. The plans will be presented as recommendations to the state convention of the Party, to be held May 22 and 23.

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# SPY RING IN NYC OPERATES TO AID FRANCO CAUSE

By HAL SIEGEL

New York N.Y.—The open campaign of Franco sympathizers in this country coincides with the sensational expose of a spy ring operating from New York. The so-called American Committee for Aid to Spain, avowedly Fascist in sympathy got under way just as Senator Nye and Lundeen demanded a Congressional investigation of charges of espionage and outright aid to the Franco rebels.

The close connection between the Spanish Fascists in this country and American big business was revealed with the launching of the American Committee for Spanish Relief. Banking, shipping and nitrate interests are particularly active in giving aid to Franco in cooperation with his agents in the United States.

For some time it has been known that the suite of rooms in the Ritz Carlor Hotel, occupied by Cardenas, former Spanish Ambassador to this country, was the center of activity. It was known that large sums of money were quietly being collected; that from that headquarters certain persons were being charged with the task of reporting shipments to Loyalist Spain from this country. There is now convincing proof that a powerful set of spies is in operation in this country and in Cuba.

### Ship Foods

The importing firm of Garcia and Diaz has specifically watched and charted the shipment of food-stuffs, etc. A sort of sub-headquarters is located in a Greenwich village restaurant and rooming house owned by Basques in this country, including also a travel agency. Among the more important activities of the former ambassador has been the supervision of arms purchased for Franco and the creation of a committee to raise money.

At first, known as the Non-Faritan Committee for Spanish Aid, the present organization changed its name to the American Committee for Spanish Relief. For some time it could not clearly state what its aims were, but finally smoked out, it states thru its Secretary, Joseph F. Moore: "The Committee will finance help for sufferers in that part of Spain held by the Nationalists under General Franco. Later perhaps it will extend its efforts to all parts of Spain." Of course, the Honorable Mr. Moore continues to protest that the committee is non-political.

### Where Is It?

Altho the committee operates from the Hotel Vanderbilt, it gives as its address 386 4th Avenue, N.Y.C. Is it just a coincidence that the address of the North American Committee is 351-4th Avenue, N.Y.C.? Could it be wishing to trade on the prestige of the NAC? Perish the thought.

Already two men who had given the prestige of their names to the organization have withdrawn

### PERSONAL

ACCOUNTING STUDENT, disgusted with local co-eds, wishes girl correspondent, Box 40, Socialist Call.

their support:—Walter Hampden the well-known actor, and General William N. Haskell. Charging that he had been asked to join a committee that would aid non-combatant sufferers without regard to "race, religion or politics," General Haskell resigned because the committee "was at least in aspects, political." Despite his resignation the committee continued to use his name as executive director. Indeed they are "honorable gentlemen." And the political aspect of their policies is a Fascist aspect.

### Church Backs It

It is already apparent that the main support of the committee will be in the "400" and hierarchy of the Catholic Church. Cardinal Hayes, through Mgr. Lavelle, Vicar general of the arch diocese, wrote to all pastors urging upon their parishioners to attend a meeting at Madison Square Garden. Mgr. Lavelle wrote that "the Cardinal archbishop regards this mass meeting as very useful and in the interests of portraying the truth and drawing the correct conclusions therefrom." And behind it all is the shadow of the Honorable Mr. Cardenas, Franco's agent-in-chief in this country.

Our own domestic variety of Fascists have finally crept out of their holes. Together with the agents of Franco, they are working openly for the first time. Apparently the recent neutrality legislation has had the effect of making them bolder.

Although the American Committee for Spanish Relief protests that it is impartial its connection with Fascist elements in this country has been exposed. In a letter to the Countess of Guell, Mr. Garcia informed her that Hammond "was working assiduously to gather funds and adherents to the cause (Fascist)." The same Garcia is advised by a friend who had visited the Cardinal and Archbishop in this city that "they promised to do everything they could as soon as circumstances permit."

On May 14, the women's auxiliary gave a tea to mobilize support for the Madison Square Garden meeting. The following "imparital" ladies were present: Mrs. Ogden H. Hammond, Princess Elsie Tolonia, Mrs. Basil Harris, Count and Countess Ferdinand-Coloredo Mansfield, Mrs. Michael Williams, Mrs. Charles Gordon Mackey.

Among the officers and directors of this committee are the following:

Ogden H. Hammond—appointed Ambassador to Spain by Pres. Coolidge, President of the Hoboken Development Co., and the Broadway Improvement Co., Vice-President of the First National Bank of Jersey City, Director of the Public Service Corp. of New Jersey.

Joseph P. Grace—Chairman of

# Consumers' Cooperation

By BENJAMIN WOLF

Joseph Reeves, Education Secretary of the London Royal Arsenal Cooperative Society, writing in "CONTROVERSY," a publication of the British Independent Labor Party, makes an appraisal of the cooperative movement. The following quotation taken from his article and passed on to the readers of the "CALL," is representative of the attitude of many left wing socialist cooperators in England.

"In the developing struggle between the forces of Capitalism and a proletariat striving after power, the Co-operative Movement must come down either on the side of Capitalism or on the side of the workers. "If directed beneath by the

mass of class-conscious members, it will decide to place its influence and resources on the side of social change. Today the Co-operative Movement is very largely conditioned by the capitalist society. That is inevitable. The Labor Party, the Trade Unions, organizations for the education of the workers and all manner of social influence have the impress of Capitalism through and through, and the Co-operative Movement is no exception to this rule. It must be accommodating and not revolutionary, otherwise it would have short shrift. It may dwell in the Garden of Art, but must not enter the Palace of Action. That is, so long as it concentrates upon distribution and leaves production to the capitalist entrepreneur, it is fairly safe from governmental interference. The Capitalist is not at all fastidious as to who retails his manufactured goods, and it is much the same to him whether they are handed over the counters of private retailers or those of Co-operative Stores.

"If the Co-operative Movement is properly directed, there is no reason why it should not become one of the most powerful agencies contributing to the overthrow of the capitalist system. It cannot, however, be used immediately for revolutionary purposes for the simple reason that it is far too deeply imbedded in the capitalist system. It is important that as the capitalist system weakens, the Co-operative Movement should become less tied to capitalist standards and more in keeping with working class social aspirations. In a short term sense, the Co-operative Movement can only be reformist in character. In a long term sense, it is definitely revolutionary in that it is preparing the workers for socialist society, giving them experience in the management of industrial undertakings and providing them with the means of guaranteeing sustenance to the forces of progress in the days of struggle and transformation . . .

the Board of W.R. Grace and Co. Mr. Grace operates banks, shipping lines, trading companies, nitrate plants, and sugar plantations in Central America. In 1928 his salary and bonuses from widespread interests amounted to \$1,000,000.

Mr. Basil Harris—Vice-President of the International Mercantile Marine—and one of America's most notorious anti-union employers.

Mr. Michael Williams—editor of the "Commonweal," a Catholic periodical.

Mr. Leon Fraser—President of the First National Bank of New York.

### Spain Week

May 30 to June 9 will be Spanish Aid Week, the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy announced through Herman Reissig its executive secretary. All affiliated organizations were asked to redouble their efforts in behalf of Loyalist Spain.

The Socialist Party of Local New York will institute a drive for a Socialist Party ambulance, to be sent to Spain through the North American Committee. Street meetings, tag days, picnics, house parties will be utilized to collect money for this purpose. At the same time the branches will increase their activity in the local North American Committee chapters with the objective of collecting material aid and making New York conscious of the need for aiding the victory of the Spanish anti-Fascists.

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"Those who are aware of the mission of the workers in human society should lay hold of the Co-operative Movement and use it for the ends which the class-conscious worker has neglected. Committees of Societies should be manned by class-conscious members who know their role. If the Committees of Societies were composed of men and women determined on using Co-operation to undermine the capitalist system, then the higher organs of the Movement would be manned by similarly minded people whom they had selected. The class-conscious worker has neglected the Co-operative Movement and has left his more sentimentally minded comrade to do a job which he should be doing.

"It may be, of course, that there were never such workers in sufficient numbers to build all three Movements, and that as the workers gave their attention to the developments of their Trade Unions and their political parties, so they were compelled to leave the Co-operative Movement to their less active members. If this is so, then the deficiency should be repaired immediately and a call should go out to all workers who want to see a great Co-operative Movement preparing the way for the Socialist Commonwealth to lend a hand in accomplishing a task which is vital in the days of change and disintegration ahead."

# 'FORDISMS'

"Fordisms" handed out to the 140,000 workers in the Ford Motor Company wherein Ford tries to inject his workers with his antipathy to unions is considered by Homer Martin, President of the United Automobile Workers of America, as a violation of the Wagner Labor Act. Therefore while the UAWA is forging ahead with an intense campaign to bring the workers into the union, it is simultaneously considering the placement of formal charges with the National Labor Relations Board for these alleged violations.

## Hear Jack Altman

'SPAIN AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR MOVEMENT' Tuesday, May 25, 8 P. M.

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STAGE SOCIALIST CALL and SCREEN

CROWDED WEEK ON BROADWAY SCREENS

Astaire-Rogers Score In New Musical at Radio City

"SHAL WE DANCE," with Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Eric Blore, Edward Everett Horton and Harriet Hctor. Directed by Mark Sandrich. Music and lyrics by George and Ira Gershwin. At the Music Hall.

By Hick Flynn

These Astaire-Rogers affairs don't require any titles. RKO might just as well announce that Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers have contrived some new dances, a leading composer has banged out hit tunes, and that a couple of comics have been thrown in to help out proceedings. The results would doubtless be the same, for Astaire-Rogers' has come to mean guaranteed screen entertainment and "Shall We Dance" is no exception.

What of it if the plot sums up to zero, if Astaire's manner distracts the critical eye from the dance content, if Gershwin's score requires sinking in? The players are so darned friendly that this reviewer for one, fell into a glorious palsy-walsy mood before the film was ten minutes old.

The musical's high spot is the scene wherein Astaire taps in rhythm to the giant pistons of an ocean liner. Eric Blore's frenzied effort to phone directions to the Susquehanna police station to an uncomprehending Edward Everett Horton is an hilarious piece of business. Gershwin's songs improve with repetition and this proud winner of two Hit Parade Sweepstakes chooses "They Can't Take That Away From Me", "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off", and "They All Laughed" to become the nation's most popular ballads in that order. "Slap That Bass" is a hot rhythm number to start your toes tapping. The actors are uniformly excellent and the direction is careful and competent.

To reiterate, "Shall We Dance" is a pleasant sedative, if you need one.

CRITERION FILM IN THIRD WEEK

On Saturday morning, "Make Way For Tomorrow," the Paramount film now current at the Criterion Theatre, will begin the third week of its run.

The cast of the picture features such well known players as Victor Moore, Beulah Bondi, Fay Bainter, Thomas Mitchell, Barbara Read and Porter Hall.

The screen play was adapted by Vina Delmar, prize-winning novelist, from the story, "The Years Are So Long," a best seller, by Josephine Lawrence.

"Make Way For Tomorrow" was produced and directed by Leo McCarey, who will be remembered for his "Ruggles of Red Gap" and "The Milky Way."

ROSLYN GIVES 'NO MORE PEACE'

Ernst Toller's anti-war play, "No More Peace," will open at the Roslyn Playhouse, Roslyn, L. I., on Monday (May 31), it was announced today by Charles Hopkins, director of the WPA Federal Theatre for New York State.

The Toller play will be the first in a series of important plays to be presented in repertory at the Roslyn Playhouse during the summer months. Plans are under way to present the series in a tour of principal up-State cities later in the season.

"No More Peace" will be presented at the Roslyn Playhouse every Monday and Friday night.



Spencer Tracy and Freddie Bartholomew in "Captains Courageous"

WPA Theatre Do "Show Off" And Lewis Play

The J. C. Moffitt-Sinclair Lewis dramatization of "It Can't Happen Here" heads the group of attractions with which the Caravan Theatre of the WPA Federal Theatre Project opens its season in the public parks Tuesday evening, June 1.

In addition to "It Can't Happen Here," which will be presented in Brooklyn, the Negro unit will stage George Kelly's "The Show Off" in Manhattan, and the Suitcase unit will offer a comedy, "Tons of Money," in the Bronx and Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream" on Staten Island. A vaudeville bill will be performed in Queens.

Performances, which are free to the public, will be given from Tuesday to Saturday evenings, inclusive. All attractions will remain in the boroughs for one week, moving on to new locations upon completion of the five-day engagements.

Julius Evans, director of the WPA Caravan Unit, announced, also, that the grounds of the Hillside Housing Corporation in the Bronx have been added to the list of locations to be visited by the project.

WPA's 'Dr. Faustus' Withdraws Temporarily

The WPA Federal Theatre Project's acclaimed production of "The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus" will be withdrawn on May 22 to leave Maxine Elliott's Theatre available for rehearsals of a companion piece, Marc Blitzstein's opera, "The Cradle Will Rock."

THEATRE PARTIES

When planning theatre parties, Party and Y.P.S.L. branches are requested to do so through the Theatrical Department of the SOCIALIST CALL. Phone GRamercy 5-8779 or write to Martin Bernstein, Manager, Socialist Call Theatrical Department, 21 East 17th St., New York.

'Episode' Not What Advertised At Playhouse

EPISODE, with Paula Wesselly, Karl Diehl, Otto Tressler, Wolf Tressler, Hans Tressler, Erika von Wagner and Friedl Czepa. Directed by Walter Reisch. At the 55th St. Playhouse.

By Manuel Wein

Methinks that 'Episode' doth advertise too much. It offers Paula Wesselly as winner of the gold Volpi Cup Award for the world's best screen performance, Venice International Exhibition, 1935, and a line of melodramatic inducements to make your eyes bulge and your temples quiver. "Inflation! . . . masses starved and died . . . era of the flapper, the gigolo, the lesbian, the forger, the procurer . . . vortex of tragedy and comedy," promises the program.

But in truth, 'Episode' is no social document. It is a subdued romance of Vienna, the Vienna of any period. The most startling manifestation of Depression Vienna, 1923, as purveyed in the film, is a bit early occurring in the picture wherein a fat guy drains a glass of beer, spies a couple of government men on his trial and promptly ventilates his bosom with bullets. He's an embezzling banker whose suicide sets the picture on its path.

Valerie Gaeriner accepts money from an elderly art dealer in order to maintain her poor mother, whose savings were lost in a bank crash (ibid, suicide). The affair is strictly on the up and up. It is especially when the affair is on the up and up that a little sex would have come in handily.

He's married, has two sons, but she's unaware of this condition and doesn't particularly care as long as the checks arrive regularly. She falls in love with the tutor to her Herr's sons. Complications set in, complications are ironed out. Happy ending to a mildly amusing film.

Maybe they don't get to see many movies over in Vienna. Or else they're pretty free with their prizes.

'Last Night' Lingers

"The Last Night" will be held over for a fourth and final week at the Cameo beginning tomorrow. It will be succeeded by "Paris Commune," a Soviet film depicting the revolt of the workers of Paris in March, 1871. Gregor, Rochal is its director.

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ENTERTAINMENT - REFRESHMENTS

'They Gave Him a Gun' At Capitol, An Anti-War Film

"THEY GAVE HIM A GUN," an M-G-M production with Spencer Tracy, Franchot Tone and Gladys George; directed by W. S. Van Dyke; at the Capitol.

By Nathan Levine

It's the ancient story of two men who love the same woman and of the woman who marries the wrong man. However, there's always a new twist to an old score, and "They Gave Him A Gun" looked for a while as if it were going places until it bogged down with that old triple play: from Court Room to Big House to Jail Break.

Mark Twain's Classic Tale At The Strand

"PRINCE AND THE PAUPER," with Errol Flynn, Billy and Bobby Mausch, Montague Love, and Barton MacLanc. Directed by William Keighley. A First National Picture, at the Strand. By Martin Bernstein

Life and expression is given to Mark Twain's tale of a 16th Century coronation, "The Prince and the Pauper," wherein deep poverty and royal splendor suddenly meet face to face.

As ascendant to the throne of Henry VIII, Prince Edward (Bobby Mausch) becomes involved in a mixup with a beggar boy that almost cost him his royal crown. Being a playful youngster, the Prince invites beggar boy Tom into the palace, and exchanges his regal robes for the beggar's rags, landing in the gutter for his prank. His own Royal guards give him a good beating, and the Prince meets up with the brutalities of Barton MacLanc, acting as the beggar boy's father. While accompanying MacLanc, the Prince goes through the experience of witnessing the congress of thieves, and listens to one of their number reveal a story of oppression and enslavement. The mixup of Prince and pauper causes a series of humorous incidents, whose fine points can only be appreciated by seeing the story revealed on the screen. Suffice it to say that the situation in which the pauper-turned-prince proclaims his real identity to a court which beholds him as insane has been worked out with a masterful touch. Errol Flynn, in a rather insignificant role as a soldier of fortune, comes to the rescue and delivers the real Prince to the palace, after a series of wild horseback rides, just in time to snatch the crown from the innocent imposter.

The war finds Fred and Jimmy and Rose in the army; two buck privates and a fair haired nurse. Jimmy (Franchot) is a young clerk, tenderly reared. His first taste of bayonet practice upsets him. But Fred (Spencer) is a circus barker, a roughneck but an amiable guy. And Rose (Gladys) is a beautiful and understanding woman (of course).

Jimmy took to his gun and learned his lessons well. Not even the plaintive beseechings of a German worker calling "comrade" deterred him from his butchery. His ruthlessness won him the Croix de Guerre and thenceforward Jimmy knew that his guts were in the trigger. After the war, Jimmy became a mobster, a dough-boy soldiering for easy money. The war for democracy had put a gun in his hand and its power could win more than tin medals.

Nor could Fred, who had stepped aside in deference to Jimmy, allow him to clothe Rose with "That kind of money." Nor did Rose know where Jimmy got his money. Then she discovered Jimmy's ways, and betrayed him to the police for the good of his own soul. And from that point onward its the case of a woman torn between her duties as a wife and the woman who still loves the man she didn't marry.

"They Gave Him A Gun," backfires in too many places. Franchot Tone is still the best indignant eyebrow-raiser in the business. Spencer Tracy, an actor of merit, plays satisfactorily under the difficulties. Gladys George is a convincing Rose. The script writers made an auspicious beginning but got tangled in the barbed wire and the direction stumbled into a shell hole at some point during the "shooting."

The Mausch boys triumph under the directorial wing of William Keighley. Montague Love gives a royal performance as Henry VIII. All in all, a colorful production deserving of a place on your movie schedule.

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# The Filipinos Plead

## Filipino Socialists Charge Quezon Uses U.S. Army to Enslave Workers and Peasants

### AN OPEN LETTER TO ROOSEVELT

To the President of the United States, Washington, D. C.

The Socialist Party of the Philippines has resolved to forward to you and through you to the Congress of the United States, the following appeal:

Since the establishment of the government of the Philippine Commonwealth under the Tydings-McDuffie Law, the National Assembly, which is the insular legislature, inspired by President Manuel L. Quezon, has been passing laws tending to set up a Fascist military dictatorship in the Islands, in contravention of the provisions of the act of Congress which created the Commonwealth while the masses of the people are left to suffer under intolerable conditions.

While the government of the United States spends billions of dollars to give work and relief to the unemployed, the government of the Philippines has not so far appropriated a single centavo for such purposes.

**No Unemployed Relief**  
Under pressure from American holders of Philippine bonds, the government is only concerned in balancing its budget, at the cost of the suffering of the masses, while under pressure from big corporations in the Philippines, the government dares not tax big business and large incomes. So the misery and suffering of the masses become deeper and deeper, while the standard of living sinks to the lowest level. The number of unemployed workers is estimated at about 1,500,000 or more than ten per cent of the entire population of the Islands.

**Peasant Feudalism**  
The peasants groan under a feudal system of tenancy and peonage. No peasantry of any other country is as oppressed as the peasantry in the Philippines. The peasant in this country is exploited, cheated and brutally handled by the landlord. He does not own even the small piece of land on which his miserable hut stands.

In the province of Pampanga,

### U. S. Imperialism



When Pan-American Airways wanted an island in the Pacific, Uncle Sam obliged by just reaching out and snatching up four of them. Here is Harry L. Theiss as he posted the claim notice on Howland Island. Thus does the flag follow the dollar; thus is an empire built! and thus do we get entangled in imperialist wars.

some two thousand landlords, that is, less than one per cent of the total population of the province, which is over 250,000 people, own ninety per cent of the total area of the agricultural lands. Similar conditions obtain in other agricultural provinces.

Hospital facilities for the poor are awfully lacking. Thousands of poor people and workers die for lack of medical assistance. Workers in the sugar centrals, mines and factories as well as agricultural laborers are paid starvation wages, while children of the peasants go almost naked.

**Suppressed By Force**  
Owing to these deplorable conditions, strikes and disturbances are breaking out, which the government is preparing to suppress by force. Already sporadic peasant uprisings have taken place, which have been suppressed by the intervention of the army.

To cope with the growing unrest and militancy of the masses, the government of President Manuel L. Quezon, instead of taking steps to ameliorate the condition of the workers and the masses, has adopted several measures that would convert the Commonwealth Government into a Fascist military dictatorship.

First, the government is building an army of 500,000 at a cost

entirely out of proportion to the government income. Most of the money spent on the army, could well be devoted to social improvements, but the army is intended to keep the masses in submission as President Quezon has publicly declared.

Second, the government is being rapidly centralized, by depriving municipalities and local governments of their autonomy. Only recently the police has been nationalized, taking it away from the control of local governments and boards, and placing it under a Commissioner of public security, appointed by President Quezon. This measure is in direct contrast with the progressive policy pursued before the enactment of the Tydings-McDuffie Law, to ever increase local autonomy in accordance with American principles of democratic government.

Third, the sedition law has been amended in such a way as to practically wipe out the freedom of speech and the press. This constitutes an open violation of the act of Congress, creating the Philippine Commonwealth, and which guarantees to the people of the Philippines the same civil rights that are enjoyed by the people of the United States.

These and other measures pur-

## 'Good-Neighborhood'

An Editorial

What is this "good-neighbor" policy of which Roosevelt boasts?

Liberals claim that it is the end of American imperialism. Under "good-neighborliness," American marines have been withdrawn from Latin-America and direct America political control has been relaxed in the New World

But what has Roosevelt left instead of the marines and open U. S. domination?

### PUPPET RULE

In Cuba, FDR set up the army dictator Fulgencio Batista. In the Philippines, the state department made its alliance with the puppet of America's financiers, Manuel Quezon.

In the place of direct American rule, the U. S. State department has constructed an equally effective system of indirect rule, by setting up puppet dictators in so-called "liberated countries," which America seeks to dominate.

Twentieth century American imperialism—like imperialism of the last century—rests upon a partnership of U. S. finance and the colonial ruling class. They serve one another politically and share their business profits—at the expense of the colonial masses.

The Socialist Party of the

Philippines has submitted a little publicized petition to the President and Congress of the United States, indicting Manuel Quezon, tool of American interests, for his rule over the masses in these Pacific islands. We are reprinting that plea.

### APPEAL FOR MERCY

Its importance is increased because it comes on the heels of the Tydings-McDuffie Law, granting "liberties to the Filipinos. This grant of liberty has been followed by the despatch of General Douglas MacArthur and former Governor Paul V. McNutt to the islands. MacArthur is grooming the Philippines to do service for America in a war against Japan—and also to quell riots in the islands. Paul McNutt, who won his fame in the U. S. as the "Hoosier Hitler" by his use of martial law against strikers in Indiana, is a fitting mate for MacArthur.

From the accompanying document it appears that the Philippine radicals have taken Roosevelt at his word and are appealing for a redress of their grievances, very much as the British colonies have done time and again. The liberation of the Philippine people, however, will only come with the overthrow of capitalist-imperialism in America.

suing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce the masses under absolute despotism by depriving them of their constitutional rights.

We hold that the government and the people of the United States are still morally and legally responsible for the welfare of the Filipino people not only because even under the Tydings-McDuffie Law, the United States exercises supreme sovereignty over the Philippine Islands, but because President Manuel L. Quezon uses the armed forces of the United States as a threat to the Filipino masses, should the people undertake any movement to shake off and overthrow their oppressors.

We, therefore, petition you and through you, the Congress of the United States:

### Petition

First:—That the army of the United States in the Philippines be not allowed to be used against the Filipino people, should any civil disturbance occur growing out of the oppression of the people by their government.

Second:—That the claim of the

Philippine government for the amount of about P46,000,000.00 accruing to it from the devaluation of the dollar, and also the claim for the refund of the amount of over P50,000,000.00 collected in the United States as excise tax on Philippine coconut oil be both allowed, but that a condition be attached to the grant that none of the money, thus refunded shall be used for military and armament purposes, but all the funds shall be expended for social improvements, such as unemployment relief, hospitals, schools, etc., and

Third:—That a congressional investigation be undertaken with the end to forestall the setting up of a Fascist dictatorship in the Philippines, in violation of the act of Congress, establishing the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands. In this connection, the intervention of the Catholic Church in matters of government, the ban of all opposition organs and publications and the subservience of the courts to the will and whims of President Manuel L. Quezon also be investigated.

MARCOS D. MANALANG

An Exposure

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