

Socialist Call

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CHICAGO, ILL., SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1938

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Wire your orders for the special April 2 anti-war and anniversary issue.

Thomas Blasts Hull's Foreign Policy Speech

WASHINGTON.—Finding in Secretary of State Hull's recent speech outlining U. S. foreign policy "another indication of the Administration's drift toward war," Chairman Norman Thomas of the Socialist Party of America this week lashed the Hull stand against a referendum on war, his defense of keeping U. S. gunboats in China and his attempt to ignore the present neutrality law.

In a letter to the Secretary of State, Thomas asserted that "new war will not cure the ills which old war caused" and raised the following vital questions based on Hull's speech:

WHAT NEUTRALITY?

"1. Why do you ignore the neutrality law which the Administration of which you are a member supported but never enforced?"

"How can you explain in terms of justice or reason the rigorous enforcement of what you call neutrality against Loyalist Spain, but no enforcement at all of neutrality against the dictators who have wantonly attacked her. Remember that the Spanish government was elected "by orderly processes" which you so desire to defend. By what right do you substitute the President's proclamation of May 1, 1937, addressed only to American shipping, for the enforcement of the neutrality law, the non-enforcement of which has clearly helped Japan rather than China in the sale of its gold to our treasury and in the procuring of supplies?"

RAPS CHINA PATROL

"2. Do you mean to tell the American people that it is essential to our dignity, our trade, or the fundamental principles which must be the foundation of international order to keep our gunboats on the Yangtze where they never should have been, and to invite a repetition of Panay incidents? What conceivable good is done by those gunboats and marines worth the risk? Why should our government be so much more concerned with this sort of protection to its citizens abroad than with the protection of American citizens now against, for instance, the peonage of the cotton country or the tyranny of Mayor Hague of Jersey City?"

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE

"3. We do not understand the vehemence of your condemnation of the principle of a referendum before foreign war. Did not your party in 1924 at a convention at which you were an important delegate accept this principle? Moreover it seems to us a little strange that you devoted so much time to discussing an issue which the Administration so drastically squelched in Congress. We think that you do yourself and the President less than justice when you imply that a referendum would hopelessly handicap the government in conduct of our foreign relations. Is American diplomacy effective only on the assumption that the people can be made to fight a war of which they do not approve? We submit that the case for the Ludlow Amendment never was that it would be a sure panacea against war. The case for the Ludlow Amendment was and is that in a democratic as opposed to a fas-

(Continued on page 8)

Last Chance

This is your last chance to greet the SOCIALIST CALL'S third anniversary which will be featured by an anti-war issue April 2 (the next issue of the CALL). Special articles have been received from leading national and international Socialist and labor writers. We have extended the deadline for greetings and special bundle orders to March 28, noon.

On page 8 of this issue you will find more information with reference to this matter.

Anti-War Confab Called To Fight Conscript Plans

WASHINGTON.—Pro-war and anti-war forces in the nation are girding themselves for the battle of the century. Almost simultaneously with the setting up of the organization to hold a national anti-war Congress around Memorial Day in Washington was the passage of the Vinson Super-Navy Bill in the House of Representatives and the announcement of plans for the conscription of 2,000,000 men as soon as the United States goes to war.

The Keep America Out of War Committee, which has local affiliates in all the large cities of the country and which is sponsoring antiwar meetings in April around the anniversary of the entrance of America into the World war, has selected Clarence Senior, former National Secretary of the Socialist Party, to prepare and conduct the national delegated congress against war which will be held in the nation's capital to inform Congress and the President of the demand of American workers and progressives that they keep America out of war.

At the same time, by an overwhelming vote, the lower House, obedient to the demands of the financial interests that must be protected in China, approved of the Vinson Super-Navy Bill. The opposition to it was led outside of Congress by the Keep America out of War Committee and by the Youth Committee for the Oxford Pledge. Inside Congress the opposition was led by those representatives who stated that the bill provided for offensive weapons and hence was not worthy of support.

Seen by experts as of momentous significance was the recent conference of Army, Navy and National Guard officials to discuss plans for the conscription of 2,000,000 men in time of war. The conference examined a bill which has been prepared for presentation to Congress as soon as war is declared. Regulations have already been drawn up and forms are now being printed in anticipation of the war's outbreak.

DRAFT PLANS

On file in the War Department are drafts submitted by officers in all States proposing detailed plans for local recruitment.

Altho only 86,000 men volunteered in the month of April 1917 it is planned to induce 300,000 to volunteer in the first month of the new war. This increased figure is expected on the basis of aid to be rendered by local patriotic organizations.

As the intended to fully justify Socialist and liberal attacks upon military control of the Civilian Conservation Corps comes the admission by Army officials that the CCC training will cut two months off the three months needed for drilling a civilian for war service.

The military conference in Washington is only one of several. Two had already been held and one more will be held in San Francisco in the first half of May. It is now up to the anti-war forces in America to show that they mean business as much as do the Army and Navy.

Our mobilization of the national anti-war conference must be strong enough to show the war makers and planners that the mass of American people will not support or back up the war.



TWO OF the four members of the Young Peoples Socialist League (shown above) who were arrested in Washington last week for picketing the Austrian embassy. They and the pickets of the American League for Peace and Democracy who were arrested for picketing the German embassy are being defended by the American Civil Liberties Union which expects that the law under which the arrests were made will be thrown into the discard. The A. C. L. U. asserts that the law abrogates the right of free assembly, violates the right of citizens to due process of law and illegally delegates legislative power to the police. According to the progressive members of Congress who fought the bill it is left completely to the discretion of the police as to what constitutes action that insults foreign embassies. If the law is not declared unconstitutional all but two of the defendants will plead guilty and the case will be carried to the highest courts on appeal.

On March 15, 1938, Hitler was reported by Ward Price of the London Daily Mail to have made the following statement in an exclusive interview. "I have done this (annexing Austria) because I was deceived by Schuschnigg and a betrayal is something I will not tolerate. When I give my hand and word on a matter, I stand by it and expect anyone who enters an agreement with me to do the same."

On March 15, 1938, Hitler's warplanes flew over Czechoslovakia territory in violation of international agreement. Field Marshal Goering, Nazi No. 2 and Hitler's spokesman, summoned the Czechoslovakian minister, Dr. Vojtech Mastny. Goering assured Dr. Mastny that the flights were a "mistake," according to Associated Press. Goering "reassured" Czechoslovakia that they would not happen again and that the Czechs need fear nothing from Germany, which has no hostile designs!

Nazi "Reassurances"

HITLER LIES

On May 21, 1935, Adolph Hitler addressed the German Reichstag and among other things he had this to say about Austria:

"Germany neither intends nor wishes to interfere in the internal affairs of Austria, to annex Austria or to conclude an Anschluss."

Less than three years later, March 12, 1938, Hitler's troops goosestepped across the frontier of Austria to prevent the consummation of a plebiscite and annexed that country with the force of arms.

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DEALS AND DEATH

ITALY

ROME, Italy—It was expected here that within a few days the British-Italian accord would be completed. Informed observers were of the opinion that the agreement would cover the exchange of information on Mediterranean and Red Sea armaments and the cessation by Italy of certain military constructions. This would make possible some long term loans to Italy by private British interests.

POLAND

VILNA, Poland.—50,000 troops as well as tanks and 50 airplanes are concentrated here, 10 miles from the Lithuanian border to insure that the agreement forced upon Lithuania by the Polish government will be carried out. Meanwhile the "Collective Security" of democratic capitalist nations continues to be insufficient protection for anything but the imperialist interests of the great empires.

SPAIN

BARCELONA, Spain.—The Loyalist government stiffened its resistance on the Aragon front while independent working class and sympathetic agencies all over the world intensified their efforts to raise funds and materials for their comrades fighting against fascism in Spain. France and England, upon whose aid so many had relied, have continued their "non-intervention" while Italy and Germany pour men and materials into Franco's army.

LABOR UNIONS RESENTFUL OF MOSCOW TRIAL

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Dressmakers of Local 22, I. L. G. W. U. made sharp protest against the recent Soviet treason trial in the following petition, signed by hundreds of members, sent to Ambassador Alexander Troyanovsky, of the Soviet Embassy: "Officials and active members of Dressmakers Union, Local 22, I. L. G. W. U. ask you to kindly inform your government that we subscribe to the proposal already transmitted to you by Oswald Garrison Villard, John Haynes Holmes and other friends of the Soviet Union.

"We demand, implore, insist that in the interests of the Soviet Union and the labor movement as a whole, the sentencing of the men on trial be postponed and the Soviet Government permit authentic representatives of international labor to investigate and pass judgment on the amazing charges and confessions, which have caused such dismay and demoralization in the entire labor movement."

Demand Inquiry

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—"The Moscow trials will further blacken the repute of Soviet justice," a group of Minneapolis trade union leaders warned Ambassador Troyanovsky last week.

The protestants had asked that the trial which convicted the 21 Communist defendants be postponed until such time as a commission of liberals and laborites could reach Moscow to attend the hearings.

Among the signers of the protest were leaders of the North District Drivers Council, Electrical Workers union 292, Warehouse Workers union, Furniture Workers union 1859, International Association of Machinists district 17 and Woodenware Workers union 20418.

Miners Protest

GILLESPIE, ILL.—Members of Local No. 1, Progressive Miners of America, vigorously recorded themselves as condemning the Moscow trial. In a telegram to Ambassador Troyanovsky the miners' union asked that the executions be stayed.

The local represents 2400 coal diggers. Only five attending the meeting voted against the motion.

"Not by isolation, not by collective security can we avert war. We can stop war by articulating the loyalties of the working class in themselves. A workers' world! A world cooperative commonwealth is the way out!"—**NORMAN THOMAS**

LEFT WINGERS PROTEST

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Representatives from six local left-wing organizations met here and protested the Moscow frame-up trials and demanded a stay of execution of sentence until the charges against the twenty-one defendants, eighteen of whom have been sentenced to death, might be investigated by an impartial international commission.

In a strongly worded wire to Alexander Troyanovsky, Soviet Ambassador to Washington, the conference declared that while the workers' groups represented were firm in their defense of the Soviet Union, the trials are so damaging to the world labor movement that immediate investigation is necessary before the sentences of death should be executed. "Working class opinion in Los Angeles is outraged," declared the telegram.

Also adopted by the meeting, of which David Stevens was chairman, was a resolution protesting the Stalinist tactics in suppressing revolutionary dissent not only in the U. S. S. R., but in Spain and other countries as well. The resolution further protested all anti-labor tactics introduced by them in the world labor movement.

A general meeting has been scheduled to be held Sunday evening, March 20. It is expected that Max Eastman and other well-known radical thinkers now in Los Angeles will speak.

Signers of the message to Troyanovsky were: Earl Lane, Independent Communist Labor League; John Newton Thurber, Socialist Party; Zina Palby, Young People's Socialist League; T. H. Bell, Libertarian Group; David Stevens, Socialist Workers' Party; and Jack Dale, Fourth International youth group.

500 Unionists Ask Democratic Rights In Spain

NEW YORK—500 active trade unionists assembled in a meeting called by the Socialist, Anarchist and Independent Communist Groups of Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 22, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, asked Ambassador Fernando De Les Rios, to convey to his government:

That we stand unequivocally for the victory of the Spanish Workers against the Fascists and their allies.

That we pledge our utmost energy in support of this heroic struggle.

And because we are desirous of seeing a victorious workers' Spain,

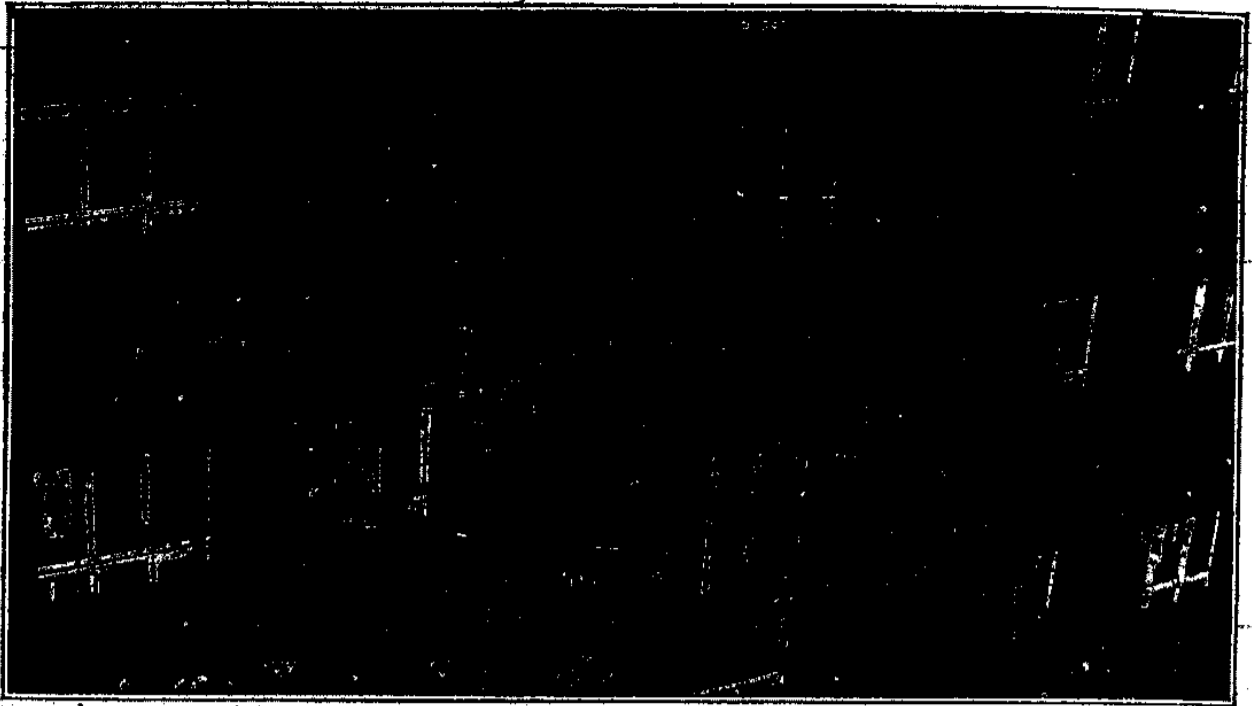
We support the activities and program of the New York Provisional Committee for Workers' Rights in Spain, and demand of your government:

Full and complete democratic rights to all working class political groups in Spain.

Release from prison of all anti-Fascists, and the thousands of active trade unionists who are loyal fighters against Fascism, and are incarcerated in government jails.

"All those who oppose intellectual truths merely stir up the fire; the cinders fly about and set fire to that which else they had not touched."—**GOETHE**.

FEY IS NO MORE



When Emil Fey, former clerico-fascist minister of public safety of Austria, committed suicide last week it served to recall his dastardly role in the fascist counter-revolution of February, 1934. The holes you see in the above building are the result of a savage fascist bombardment of workers' co-opera-

tive homes in Vienna in 1934. The clerico-fascists, fresh from their "victory", derisively changed the name of this apartment house from "Karl Marx House" to "Fey Hof" (Fey House), as the inscription on the above photo shows. The same Fey, along with his collaborators, Dolfuss and Schuschnigg, was

largely responsible for the murder of hundreds of brave Socialist workers and the imprisonment of thousands of others. The irony of fate has dealt unmercifully with the Austrian fascists—Fey is a suicide, Dolfuss was assassinated and Schuschnigg's life is very uncertain.

Socialists Rap Austrian Grab At Consulate

NEW YORK—A sea of banners and placards denouncing fascism and Hitler's latest adventures surrounded the German consulate here Sunday as New York Socialists staged a demonstration against the seizure of Austria by the Nazis.

Two hundred members of the Socialist Party and the Young People's Socialist League circled the entrance to the consulate and chanted anti-fascist slogans together with by-standers who joined the ranks.

The impressiveness of the protest was heightened by the surroundings, the banners lifted high against the background of near-by New York harbor. Passengers on Europe-bound steamers taking their last look at the city saw the marching lines of Socialists and anti-fascists.

Most popular of the slogans chanted by the pickets was: "HITLER MEANS WAR! WAR IS HELL! TO HELL WITH WAR! TO HELL WITH HITLER!"

Sympathetic crowds gathered to watch the demonstration and despite the urgings of the police to "keep moving," remained throughout. Only one untoward incident occurred when an egg was thrown at the demonstrators but the fascist's aim was as bad as his intentions and the egg splattered harmlessly on the pavement.

"It's a Nazi egg," shouted one of the pickets. "It stinks."

The demonstration was led by Jack Altman, executive secretary of the New York Socialist Party, who carried a large banner representing the swastika as a blood-stained executioner's axe above which was printed in large letters: "End Nazism." Genora Johnson, leader of the famous auto workers' Woman's Brigade, paraded with the enthusiastic pickets.

Negroes Campaign For Right to Vote

NEW YORK—The keen interest of Negroes in politics, sharpened still more by the filibuster against the anti-lynching bill, is being reflected in a wide campaign throughout the South for the right to vote.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is giving advice in fights against discrimination in the white primary system.

WORLD NOTES

By JOHN MILL

Edward Anseele

Anseele is dead. Perhaps his name means little to the average American worker, as they probably have not heard of him, but in Europe Anseele was rightly considered as an outstanding figure in the Belgian labor movement and in the Labor and Socialist International. Even those who met him only at international conventions could not help admiring his oratorical ability, his keen alertness on all questions discussed and his popularity among the Belgian masses.

He died at the age of 82 and there is no exaggeration in the assertion that during all of his matured life he faithfully served the interests of the working class. While a young man he already belonged to an organization affiliated with the First International. He was one of the founders of the Belgian Labor Party and was always considered one of its best organizers. He was the creator of the famous Belgian cooperatives ("Vouritt"), which served as an example of the best Socialist cooperatives in existence.

In fact, all Socialist activities—social, economic, cultural, political—found him always ready to assist in every way he could. Although he was identified with the reformists he nevertheless showed tolerance and respect for the opinions of others. Socialism, of course, was his aim, but immediate practical results for the working class were nearest to his heart.

The irony of fate punished him severely a few years ago and this shook his faith considerably in the possibility of essential reforms for the working class under a capitalist society. The labor bank he founded, and for which he spent so much time and energy, failed during the crisis. In 1886 he was sent to prison for advising the Belgian parents to induce their sons in the army not to fight the workers on strike, as the parents themselves were workers and they, the soldiers, after their military service would have to return to factories and shops.

A Mohican of the old generation of Socialists is gone . . .

Death Of An Enemy

Emil Fey, not long ago the Minister of Public Security, corrupt and unscrupulous leader of the Austrian clerico-fascists, more powerful than any war lord, just shot his wife and son

and ended his own life by committing suicide. The Austrian workers in this tragical and trying hour of Austria's history, amidst persecution and terror, in face of the new slavery that has befallen them,—the inevitable result of the crime committed four years ago by the Austrian Fascists,—the Austrian workers will receive the news of Fey's death with satisfaction.

It is he who personally ordered the artillery to shoot into the magnificent municipal homes of the Vienna workers; it is he who was responsible for the death of innocent women and children of the workers; it is he who was instrumental in destroying the Socialist Party, the Trade Union and all workers' organizations; he confiscated their property and grabbed the funds of the Trade Unions; he stopped all the Socialist and labor papers and filled the prisons with the workers to capacity. There was not a man in Austria more hated by the workers than he and not one worker's tear will be shed over his death. To the contrary, the Austrian workers will say:

"To a dog—a dog's death."

Seek \$50,000 To Aid Spain

NEW YORK—Launching of an emergency drive for \$50,000 to aid hungry and wounded civilians in Spain was announced here by Charles Zimmerman, chairman of Trade Union Relief for Spain. Contributions totaling \$5,000 were sent to Barcelona this week, via the International Federation of Trade Unions. Appeals have been sent to every international and local union in the U. S. and Canada. Contributions should be made payable to David Dubinsky, treasurer, Trade Union Relief for Spain.

AIDS SPAIN

BALTIMORE—Several hundred dollars for the aid of Loyalist Spain was raised at a mass meeting here at which Comrade Elizabeth Gilman presided. Protests against Roosevelt's neutrality policy were adopted. The meeting, held under the auspices of the North American Committee, also heard another Socialist, Rev. Stone, who made the collection speech.

LECTURE TOUR

NEW YORK—Alexander Easterman, chief foreign correspondent of the London Daily Herald, official British Labor Party organ, has arrived in the U. S. for a lecture tour. Easterman has been blacklisted by Nazi Germany.



PRESIDENT SMETONA of Lithuania had his hands full this week trying to keep his cabinet together following Lithuania's acceptance of a Polish ultimatum. Smetona refused to accept the resignations of his Ministers of Justice and Foreign Affairs.

Action Against War Plans Sweeps America

Chicago Mobilizes Forces for Action

CHICAGO.—The Chicago Keep America Out of War Committee, organized here two weeks ago after hearing a report of national anti-war activities and plans by Norman Thomas, is making elaborate preparations for a huge mass meeting which is to be held in the Auditorium Theater, 431 S. Wabash Ave., Sunday, April 24.

Senator Robert M. La Follette, Norman Thomas, and Miss Muriel Lester of London, England, have agreed to speak. Clinton Golden, regional director of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, is among other who have been invited to share the platform on this occasion.

Officers

Dr. John Lapp of the Marquette University and Alva W. Tompkins are chairman and secretary respectively of the Chicago committee.

More than a hundred trade union officers, liberals, Socialists and religious leaders make up the general committee. Among them are: Grace Abbott, University of Chicago; Albert Palmer, President of the Chicago Federation of Churches; Prof. A. J. Carlson, Nobel Prize winner; Robert Morris Lovett; Prof. Maynard Krueger, member of the N. E. C. of the Socialist Party; Roy Burt, National Secretary of the Socialist Party; Frank McCulloch, chairman Illinois Workers Alliance; Milton S. Mayer, writer, and many others.

The Chicago group has accepted the program as outlined by the New York committee. Offices of the committee are located at 53 West Jackson Boulevard.

Anti-War Group Flays Changes In Ludlow Bill

ELIZABETH, N. J.—The Union County Branch of the Keep America Out of War Committee (formerly the Committee for the Ludlow Amendment) issued last week a scathing denunciation of Representative Ludlow's revised anti-war bill. This revised bill differs from the original in that it would not call for a popular vote on war if invasion were "threatened," and would, likewise, enable Congress to declare war without check in the event that any nation in the Western Hemisphere is invaded by a "non-American" nation.

Taking exception to these provisions, the public letter issued by the Keep America Out of War Committee asks, "Who is to construe 'immediately threatened'?" A War-mad President, or a stampeded and bull-dozed Congress? and goes on to describe the revised bill as "so circumscribed with loopholes and exceptions" that it is being transformed into a "shadow of itself, from which the essence has been abducted and murdered."

The letter goes on to reaffirm its belief in the original Ludlow Bill, asking that it be strengthened "so that the President, as commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy, could not so maneuver troops as to promote war". It concludes with a promise of backing for Ludlow "in any peace action you may initiate", but repeats that "we cannot support a sham amendment that marks a complete surrender to the war-mongers."

The Menace



25,000 Attend Pecan Strikers Victory Dance

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—Twenty five thousand workers—pecan shellers, their families, friends and sympathizers—crowded the City Hall Plaza here for a victory dance and celebration commemorating the settlement of their six weeks strike and the signing of a union agreement between local pecan operators and Pecan Workers Local 172.

Under banners proclaiming "Viva CIO," the huge throng, one of the greatest labor crowds ever to get together in the South, heard J. Austin Beasley, Organizer for the union, defy the enemies of labor in San Antonio to continue their union breaking activities of the past.

Since the strike was ended pending arbitration, the pecan workers have been engaged in building a strong union under great handicaps. With wages averaging at present little more than two dollars weekly, the ten cents a week in dues which they are now paying to enable their

Los Angeles Group Plans Big Meeting

LOS ANGELES, Cal.—Kirby Page, prominent Socialist and nationally known as an anti-war leader, has accepted an invitation to speak at the mass meeting which will be held in Los Angeles on the anniversary of American entry into the World War, it was announced here by John Newton Thurber, chairman of the Los Angeles Section of the Keep America Out of War Committee.

CALL DINNER A WOW

NEW YORK—With enthusiasm high, speakers in fine fettle and the one and only McAlister Coleman as chairman, the Third Anniversary dinner for the Call was acclaimed a wow by more than 200 persons who attended. Speakers included Norman Thomas, Oswald Garrison Villard, Quincey Howe, Jack Altman and Gerry Allard. A collection to help sustain this vital organ of Socialism netted more than \$300.

union to carry on represents an actual sacrifice of food or other necessities of life.

In spite of these obstacles, the dues paying membership is growing daily. Leaders predict that the union will have 10,000 dues paying members within the next few months. It is expected that at least ten locals will be chartered in this city.

SEMINARS

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—The National Religion and Labor Foundation is setting up three traveling seminars for the coming summer. These trips, lasting approximately a month each, will give ministers, teachers, labor organizers and other civic leaders an opportunity to study industrial trends and conditions among workers in great problem areas.

organizations that raised the slogan of "Schools not Battle-ships."

At the hearings before the Senate Committee on Labor and Education the main interest of the Senators seemed to be in the political beliefs of the witnesses. In particular did they question Robert Kelso, Jr. who was appearing in behalf of the Y. P. S. L. They wanted to know if he would defend the colonial possessions of the U. S., enumerating them in a way that brought them nearer and nearer to the U. S. Kelso's answer was, "No," each time. Finally, he said, "Are you getting to the United States?" When he was told that they were he reiterated his statement that he and his organization would not support American imperialism in a war.

In his statement to the Committee, Kelso insisted that the money to be spent on war preparations should be put to more useful purposes, in particular for the American Youth Act and for the building program as advocated by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee.

Among the witnesses appearing before the Senate Committee was Carl Ross, National Secretary of the Young Communist League. When he was questioned about his attitude toward wars in which the U. S. would be involved he said young Communists would fight in the U. S. Army in a war of defense. He refused to answer a question of what he would do in case the United States were at war with the Soviet Union.

In addition to Comrade Page, the committee has invited Kathleen Norris, the novelist, and Harry Lundberg, secretary of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, to be guest speakers. Lewis Browne, author of "Religions of Mankind," has been invited to act as chairman of the meeting.

The Los Angeles Anti-War Mass Meeting will be held in Trinity Auditorium, which seats 1900 persons, on either Tuesday, April 5, or Thursday, April 7.

The Keep America Out of War Committee has already sponsored a successful meeting with Jeanette Rankin, first Congresswoman, which attracted 150 people on short notice in the midst of the recent heavy storms. Some 75 joined the local section at that time, accepting the Manifesto drafted for the New York committee as a basis for operations. Among those who joined was R. G. Randall, who was a member of Congress in 1917, and, like Miss Rankin, voted against the American entry into the World War.

An Executive Committee has been elected to make preparations for the April meeting and to extend operations of the committee in Los Angeles. It is composed of H. Stone Hull, secretary of the L. A. Peace Council; Ethelwyn Mills, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Henry Donath; Paul Berg, member of I. L. G. W. U.; David Price, member of American Newspaper Guild; Fay Bennett, district organizer of American Student Union; Earl Lane, Independent Communist Labor League (Lovestoneites); and Comrade Thurber.

Officers

The committee has elected officers in addition to Comrade Thurber, including Miss Mills, treasurer; Mr. Donath, executive secretary. Subcommittees on Publicity, Arrangements, Finance, Labor Organization, Liberal and Pacifist Organizations have also been named.

The activity of the committee in Los Angeles has already shaken many people from their adherence to those propagandizing for collective security.

Hoan, Zaritsky, Martin Address April 4 Rally

CHICAGO.—The Labor Party of Illinois and of Chicago and Cook County will hold a mass meeting the evening of April 4 which will be addressed by Max Zaritsky, International President of the Hat, Cap and Millinery Union, A. F. of L.; Daniel Hoan, Socialist Mayor of Milwaukee; Homer Martin, President United Automobile Workers of America, and Morris Bialis, Chicago Manager of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. The meeting will be held at the Steuben Club, Randolph and Wells streets.

"Democracy without Socialism is not democracy; Socialism without democracy is not Socialism."—SAM BARON.

Young Peoples Socialist League In Forefront of Fight Against Militarism

By AL HAMILTON

Four members of the Young Peoples Socialist League were arrested last week for picketing the Austrian consulate, in expression of solidarity with the heroic Socialists of that country as the climax to a week of anti-war and anti-fascist activity in Washington, D. C.

The week began with the appearance before the Senate Committee hearing evidence on the American Youth Act of Robert Kelso, Jr., on behalf of the Y. P. S. L. It continued through the weekend Pilgrimage for Jobs and Education and went on to the presentation of the petitions to "End American Militarization" that had been collected by the Youth Committee for the Oxford Pledge.

The arrests were made under the provisions of the Pittman Act, forbidding the holding of protests before foreign legations in Washington. The Yipsels were carrying signs which read, "Red Vienna Will Rise Again!" They had scarcely formed their line before the Austrian embassy when the police swooped down upon them and carried them off. Within an hour, pickets of the American League for Peace and Democracy who were marching in front

of the German embassy were also arrested. It was reported incorrectly in last week's CALL that the members of this organization were singing, "It's time to go to war."

Present Demands

Several days before a committee representing the Youth Committee for the Oxford Pledge presented 20,000 signatures appended to a petition to the President requesting that 1) All American armed forces be removed from foreign territory 2) The Sheppard-May Bill be defeated 3) The Vinson super-navy Bill be defeated and 4) A genuine war referendum amendment be passed. The committee was not allowed to see the President but was interviewed by his secretary, Martin McIntyre. The interview was very unsatisfactory but the committee announced that it would continue to collect signatures to the petitions.

Those who waited upon the secretary were F. Littell, Social Action Chairman of the National Council of Methodist Youth; George Kaye of the United Wholesale and Retail Employees of America; Jeff Campbell of the New England Student Christian movement; Robin Myers of the Youth Committee for the

Oxford Pledge; and Al Hamilton, National Secretary of the Young Peoples Socialist League.

Try to Muzzle

The Pilgrimage had not been an unqualified success. Despite the insistence of the Y. P. S. L. that the 2,000 participants must make anti-war demands upon the Administration there were no anti-war slogans carried at all. There was a constant and vicious attempt to muzzle the Y. P. S. L. and to prevent it from activity of its own. At the meeting of the National Council of the American Youth Congress there was an attempt to cross-examine the Young Socialist representatives. It was known and feared that the Yipsels were certain to want something militant, colorful and demonstrative. However, despite the passage of a motion to prevent any independent activity, the Y. P. S. L. refused to recognize the right of the A. Y. C. to determine what its affiliates shall and shall not do. Because the leadership of the Pilgrimage was in the hands of people and groups which did not want to raise anti-war demands or to exert any colorful pressure upon the Administration, it was the Y. P. S. L. and some of the other participating

BUILD A WORKERS' FRONT AGAINST CAPITALISM!

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Ludlow In Reverse

The December 25 issue of the SOCIALIST CALL which stated the Party's position on the Ludlow war referendum bill, said:

"The Ludlow amendment is far from a surefire way of keeping us out of war. What it does say, however, is that before we decide to die we would like to vote on the matter. And that is not an unreasonable request for human beings to make . . . The Ludlow amendment does not outlaw war. But it does make it harder to get into war.

"With all its failings, the Ludlow Resolution represents a protest against being stampeded into war."

Comrade Norman Thomas very aptly put the case of Socialists when he said: "What makes me like the bill is what the reactionaries and war-makers are saying against it!"

The discussion which the Ludlow bill provoked had its educational value. It served to acquaint the great masses of workers and farmers of this country with the imminence of war. It also served to separate the chaff from the wheat and accordingly gave the American people an idea of what the lineup was on this war business.

Now, however, the original Ludlow bill has yielded to pressure and fear. It has been abducted, emasculated and murdered. Two glaring revisions of the original bill proves this assertion: "except in case of attack . . . actual or immediately threatened." The other change has to do with enlarging the scope to the whole of the Western Hemisphere.

The first part of the revision is a loophole which leaves the proposed amendment to the mercies of interpretations by war-like lords in Washington.

The second part of the change is a carte blanche to American imperialism which is just as ruthless as any other imperialism.

This capitulation to the war-mongers is no surprise to Socialists and class conscious workers. The joker in the revised Ludlow bill will not delude the genuine antiwar forces. Certain imperialist interests will, of course, oppose the bill in any form, but such a sham maneuver will not divert the working class from the true course which the Socialist Party and its allies have set forth against militarism.

War mongers have captured the Ludlow bill. But we still want a genuine war-referendum amendment. The workers and farmers of America will understand now more than ever that war can be defeated only by the concerted action of themselves and their fellow travelers of the middle class.

C.P. Stuff-

The Daily Worker was dizzy not long ago from having its face slapped soundly, if metaphorically, after an attempt to sabotage the National Sharecroppers Week meeting in Newark, N. J.

The attempt flopped sadly when nearly 200 people turned out for the meeting, and several trade unionists, who the Daily Worker had said had refused to speak or had withdrawn their endorsement, declared their solidarity with the sharecroppers in speeches or in greetings.

The controversy grew out of an unfortunate incident. Harry Wendrich of the Printing Pressmen's Union was one of the endorsers of the meeting. A leaflet, with his name on it and printed by photo-offset process, bore the label of the Lithographers Union, with which the Printing Pressmen have a long standing jurisdictional dispute. Wendrich considered it necessary to disassociate his name from the leaflet.

The C.P. in Newark attempted to capitalize on this incident by persuading other endorsers and speakers to withdraw. They even approached LeRoy Baxter, president of the Newark N.A.A.C.P., who answered them with a resounding "No!" Before all plans were set, however, they rushed into print with the story that the endorsements and list of speakers were "faked", that William Carney, militant young CIO regional director in New Jersey, would not speak as announced, and that Wendrich and others had withdrawn their endorsements.

The most effective possible answer to the story was the meeting itself. Carney did speak and vigorously urged support of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union by all unions in industry. Those who had endorsed the meeting sent greetings and pledged solidarity with the sharecroppers' efforts to organize. These included Wendrich.

Page the Clown

This ad appeared in the March 19, 1938, issue of THE NATION, under the heading of "Miscellaneous":

"In my booklet IF THIS BE TREASON, published last summer, Heywood Brown was described as a 'forthright enemy . . . of all wars and war-makers . . .' I apologize. Robert H. Mercereau, 1439 Leavenworth St., San Francisco, Calif."

"CHARLIE McCARTHY" BROWDER



Workers' Forum

Contributions to the SOCIALIST CALL must be accompanied with the name and address of the writer as a matter of good faith, not to be used for publication if the writer prefers that the name be omitted. Short, snappy letters will receive first consideration.

COMMENTS ON JOHN MILL

READING, Ohio.—My first issue of the CALL came in a few days ago and I want to tell you I read it thoroughly and enjoyed it. I am not against changing the format to a larger four-page paper provided the same or greater space is thus made available.

Reviews of books and magazine articles would be of interest to me and I think to others. I believe John Mill's denunciation of the proposed Communist-Catholic cooperation would have been stronger without its implied blanket denunciation of Catholics and their religion.

—Paul L. Munson.

C. P. SUPPORTS BOURBONS

LEXINGTON, KY.—Communist Party strategy in Kentucky for the 1938 elections will be to try to lead the workers to support Senator Alben W. Barkley, Roosevelt floor leader, in his Democratic primary campaign against Gov. A. B. Chandler. It was indicated here this week.

That another big "defeat reaction" campaign was being launched first appeared when Tim Cadle, Communist active in the CP-dominated Workers Alliance here, delivered a public address at Workers Alliance Hall on "Why Chandler Should Be Defeated." Cadle, in his speech to an audience of WPA workers, conveniently failed to mention that Barkley, whom the CP is supporting, was responsible for the appointment of the viciously anti-labor state WPA administrator, George Goodman, a fellow-townsmen of Barkley's.

Kentucky Communists demonstrated the depths to which they are willing to descend in the local elections here last fall. Though the Lexington CP unit had no candidates in the field, it issued a leaflet urging workers "Don't Vote Republican," one of the principal reasons given for this advice being that the Republicans (no mention of any Democrats) were preventing passage of the anti-lynching bill. The CP attack was directed entirely against the Republicans, although the local Democratic machine is one of the most reactionary in the country.

—A Kentucky Comrade.

MORE "PEOPLE STUFF"

READING, Pa.—The local unit of the Workers Alliance by

a vote of 18-16 stuck its finger in the Democratic pie and endorsed Thomas Kennedy for Governor on the Democratic Party ticket. The majority was achieved by a people's front of Communists and Democrats. The Communists took three quarters of the defense of the policy on their shoulders. The Socialists stood alone with the rank and file comrades and the one Trotskyite in opposition.

We stated the Socialist position with no apologies and hit straight from the shoulder against the policy of endorsing "good men".

Name calling and personalities as usual marked the Communist defense. They attempted to employ parliamentary maneuvers to cut off debate when we indicated that this motion would be made the occasion for a searching debate and questioning of the "People's Front" policy so glibly expounded. It was humorous to witness the pious horror of the Communists when one of our comrades in his excess of disgust at such scuttling of the class struggle spoke of "damn Roosevelt." One can easily grasp now the Communist deification of Stalin.

—Mark Brown.

MAIL BAG

Our readers don't think the idea of changing the CALL to full newspaper size is such a good idea. They are voting against the proposed change with many letters; the following are excerpts from a few letters:

"I like the present tabloid form of the CALL. I find it easier and more convient to turn pages than full newspaper size..." C. E. Robel, Lewinston, Idaho.

"Your proposal to change to a full sized newspaper is, I believe, unsound. The tabloid sized paper is very convenient while the full sized paper requires a table and quite a bit of elbow room..." Louis Koffman, Philadelphia, Pa.

"If you're going to change the size of the CALL pages, please make them smaller. Guess it's a battle between those who read in an arm-chair, rocker or bed..." E. R. James, Oakdale.

"Nix on changing the present format of the CALL..." A. L., New York.

Several letters have been in approving a change but the negative votes outnumber them

SQUIBS

BY GENE LOMAN

RED BIRD IN WINTER

Thick headlines echo thud of
Fascist guns
pounding the workers' quarters
of Madrid;
a bare tree, lopped yet living,
to the dawn
raises a knuckled fist,
and high upon it, poisoning to defy
the Bourbon winter, 'shrapnel-
volley'd snow,
a red bird—challenging the
hostile sky,
hailing the green blades thrusting
from below:
O crimson pennon, valiant
shepherd's flute —
I lift a mental hand in clenched
salute!
Kenneth Porter.

AARON LEVENSTEIN suspects the CP is trying out the old united front from below policy again—but you'd never guess with who.

"While the Trotskyites were picketing the Russian consulate in New York because of the Moscow trials," he writes, "a woman claiming she is a member of the DAR, tried to snatch the American flag from the hands of a demonstrator, crying 'No Trotskyite can carry our flag!'"
"So the comrades are in the DAR now!"

GRABBER'S GOAL

Get all you can. Can all you get. Kill men for profit, cheat and lie. Give largely to the church and let
The priest absolve you ere you die.
I. D. McFADDEN.

Barber-Congressman of Niagara Quits To Return to Trade.

Probably figures he can trim his clients just as well in his own shop.

Clyde Whitson, campaigning for mayor of Kendallville, Ind. in order to get out the women vote is promising "soft water in every bathtub." That's a fine platform, but what about those who have no tubs?

Anyway, a modern, streamlined candidate should have promised to throw in bath crystals.

by a large number. So it looks like, dear readers, that the comrades and fellow workers who pay the freight are voting against a change of format.

Unless the trend of opinion changes by April 1, it seems that we will remain a tabloid. The editor of the CALL appreciates the many suggestions that were received.

AT THE FRONT with Norman Thomas

Out of Europe's tragedy two pictures remain the clearest in my mind. The first, a cable picture in a New York paper showing long lines of Jews in Vienna waiting for visas so that they can go to Poland. Think what it means when Poland is by comparison a place of refuge for Jews! The second is a picture in memory of beautiful Barcelona, under the bright sunshine by the blue Mediterranean, with its main streets turned into a charnel house by an unending succession of raids. To this has our civilization come.

TRAGEDY IN CENTRAL EUROPE

The tragedy of Central Europe is not the fact that Austria is united with Germany. For many years that would have been the logical solution or partial solution of a real problem. The tragedy is that six and a half or seven million people are brought under Hitler's rule. Schuschnigg's rule was bad enough. He and his party in a sense deserved their fate because they had wantonly destroyed the socialist strength which was Austria's hope. But Hitler's brutal treatment of Jews, Socialists and others is a more terrible fate than any that Schuschnigg had power to inflict.

I cannot believe that any rule is immortal against the accumulated hate of the oppressed and I still think that the ultimate and only secure victory over fascism must be won by the awakened might of the workers with hand and brain. It is our duty to take every reasonable opportunity to aid the underground movements in fascist lands.

Our immediate task in respect to Spain is to answer the imperative plea for milk, medicines and ambulances. The North American Committee is cabling money to Europe to buy supplies as fast as the money comes. Remember Loyalist Spain still lives despite the bombs and airplanes which Mussolini and Hitler have supplied to its fascist foe.

In European politics Hitler rather than Mussolini has been the winner. The indication are that he bribed Mussolini not to oppose his occupation of Austria by promising to stop at the Brenner Pass — but Mussolini must know how little a promise is worth from the mouth of a dictator. Hitler has also probably added to this promise some definite support to Mussolini in Spain.

Meanwhile, the weakness of British and French opposition is a natural consequence of British and French acquiescence in the initial stages of Franco's revolt.

One can sympathize with the reluctance of people to go to war not only because of the cost of war but because of the memory that the British, at least, must have of its futility. Yet the outstanding reason for the weakness of British and French policy is probably not so much popular aversion to war as the indecision of a divided bourgeois democracy, important elements of which are still more afraid of a genuine democracy of, by and for the workers with hand

brain than they are of fascism. This inner weakness of bourgeois democracy, or rather this essential weakness of the capitalism and nationalism of the great European powers which are relatively satisfied in their possessions, will not be cured by the universal conscription of 180 million Americans under an American capitalist government.

MUST RECOGNIZE REALITIES

In season and out of season we must insist that in these tragic hours only two things affecting American policy are certain: (1) that the sure result of America's entry into war will be militarism, fascism, universal conscription at home; (2) that Roosevelt's war will not cure what Wilson's war did so much to cause. The United States might conceivably help in the defeat of one or another of the aggressor nations, but in the hour of victory our capitalist militarism would share in the making of a new set of peace treaties worse than those made at Versailles.

We socialists who prophesied long ago that the peace treaties tried to set up an impossible sort of Europe must not forget our own convictions even in the hour of our warm sympathy for the latest victims of aggression. It was preposterous to try to set up a whole lot of new states in Europe, all containing discontented minorities without any adequate plan for economic cooperation.

Self determination was not a sufficient principle for solving the problems of Europe, especially not self determination as interpreted by victors in the hour of triumph. It is still possible that to the wars of Europe the conquest of Lithuania by Poland will not be added. But before there can be peace in Central Europe there must be some recognition of economic realities which are flouted by the efforts of tiny states to become self sufficient. That recognition will not be helped by having the United States go to war.

WHAT HULL'S SPEECH LACKED

Secretary Hull's speech which the Daily Worker coupled with Litvinoff's request for joint action as a warning to fascist powers, contained many admirable abstract sentiments. But his vehement opposition to the Ludlow Amendment showed once more the essential weakness of the Administration's position and its fascist tendency to insist that people who are allowed to vote on bond issues and other taxes should not be allowed to vote on the most terrible tax of all—conscription in war. Equally weak was Mr. Hull's implied defense of keeping gunboats on the Yangtze where they never should have been sent. Let Mr. Hull and the Administration protect American citizens in Jersey City and Georgia rather than invite war by policing a river thousands of miles away which they cannot protect against the ravages of war.

Perhaps the weakest thing of all about Mr. Hull's speech was his failure to mention the neutrality law which the Administration has never enforced. Indeed, he has continued a policy of embargo against Loyalist Spain, against a government chosen by the "orderly process" of which he is so fond. Embargo is not applied in the least degree against Spain's enemies, Italy and Germany.

All in all the Hull speech marks another stage in America's drift to war. It is rather closely parallel to some of the words and deeds which preceded our entrance into the last war.

In spite of things more than sufficient to keep the opponents of America's entry into war from complacency, it is still possible for us, if we act together, in time, and intelligently, to prevent Roosevelt from following in Wilson's footsteps. The most encouraging news of the week from this angle is the fact that Clarence Senior has already begun work as Executive Secretary of the Keep America Out of War Committee with headquarters at Washington. This committee is spending its energies toward setting up a great Delegate Congress in Washington, probably on Memorial Day. Watch for official announcement of its plans and cooperate!

NEW DEAL FLOP AIDS PUSH FOR WAR

No negative opposition to this measure or that likely to lead to war will be very effective unless as a substitute for battle ships we go in for building houses and as a substitute for war trade plan on a genuine peace trade within and without our borders.

One great factor in making America's entry into war probable is the complete failure of capitalism under the New Deal, as under the old, in solving our real problems. The following figures are alarmingly significant:

By the end of August, 1937 under the New Deal production in America had about equalled the 1928 average but by that date there were about ten million more people in America so that the production should have increased proportionately. Nor is that all. Within ten years enormous improvements were made in technological processes. In the period from 1923 to 1929 there had been a 22 per cent increase in production, but according to the Brookings Institution marketing was about 20 per cent below what it should have been. A like increase should have been expected in the decade of the thirties. It is therefore evident that it was not success but failure when the 1937 figures only approximated those of 1928. And since August, 1937 there has been a drop in most of the indices of prosperity of about 30 per cent.

Nor is this all. There has been no great improvement in the distribution of what income is produced. Under the New Deal there was to the end of 1935 a gain of eight-tenths of one percent in the proportion of the national income going to wages and salaries as compared with 1932. Relief had increased about 3 per cent of the total national income, and Roosevelt's present economy consists mostly of keeping down relief. This is not a record to prove that the New Deal is a failure as compared with the old—certainly that is not true. It is a record to show the failure of capitalism under old deal or new. What we need is social ownership and planned production for use not under a totalitarian state but a cooperative commonwealth.

A new tumor institute has been opened in Chicago — but they probably wouldn't be interested in that growth on the city hall.

SNOW-RED COMES TO TOWN

(Reprinted from THE BEACON by Special Permission)

By Milton S. Mayer

Chicago's dream has come true! The city has a liberal newspaper. It is called the Midwest Daily Record, and it stands four-square for whatever Adolf Stalin tells it to stand for. Since it has only been going a couple of weeks, the Record hasn't chosen yet between the reform movement of Honest Tom Courtney and the collective security of Sanitary Ed Kelly. The one that loses out will be surprised to learn that he is a Trotskyite.

Several months ago I began getting come-ons, through the United States mails. They informed me that Chicago was going to have a liberal paper. They arrived on an average of one a week. Now, I had been associated with every liberal paper that never got started in this town, and none of them had enough money to send out one mailing, much less one a week.

In December, I think it was, I was asked to meet a couple of interesting fellows who were connected with the proposed liberal paper. I can't say that they were very interesting, but they certainly were connected with the proposed liberal paper. Civic-minded citizens of all parties, they said, were going to support the paper. "Of course," they went on, "the Tribune will call it Communist." I pulled a newspaper clipping out of my pocket and said, "Earl Browder does, too." I never heard from them again. My mail fell to a whisper.

Patriotic Fervor

The Record began publishing on Lincoln's birthday. Ten days passed and I hadn't seen it. On February 22, I, like so many other members of the lumpen-bourgeoisie, was on my way to my office when I decided that no good liberal should be without the Record. I passed the Communist bookstore on 57th street, and there in the window was a house-ad for the Record. I went up the steps and tried the door. The Communist bookstore was closed for Washington's birthday.

Liberals who are going to read the RECORD will want to familiarize themselves with the new liberalism beforehand. The RECORD is published by the Communist Party. This is the same Communist Party that used to talk about world revolution of the world proletariat, but with an entirely new cast (and lines), the original Moscow troupe having been shot in the basement. The Communist Party now stands for Peace, along with the TRIBUNE, Collective Security, along with the Navy League, and Twentieth Century Americanism, along with the Daughters of the American Revolution.

I like my revolutionaries revolutionary. I like my reactionaries reactionary. When the

Communists and the Liberty League start saving democracy, I want to be somewhere where I won't get hurt. For I am what used to be called a liberal. Whether it is revolution or reaction, I will take mine straight and hang separately. Collective security is jake as far as the security goes, but, as someone has said, I don't like the collection. If you do, you cannot afford to be without the Daily Record, unless you are already reading the Daily News.

Once Nice People

Communists used to be nice people, back in the days when they wore wire whiskers. You knew where they stood. Warmongering lovers of democracy were liable to get shot in the front, comes the revolution, but there are worse places than the front to get shot in. Now the commies are wearing lamb's clothing, and they are lying down with the lion. The idea is to eat the lion when he isn't looking. If I know my history, and I do, it usually works out the other way around.

You can read the Daily Record and sleep like a baby. There isn't a revolution in a carload. The Record is useful, too, just like the Tribune, if you are able to read between the Communist line. If you're new at this business, just bring your copy around to me and I'll tell you what the weather report really means.

The Low-Down

It isn't hard to translate. Where you see the word Trotskyite, just read John Dewey. Where you see the phrase great Socialist democracy, just read shot without jury. Where you see kept press, just read kept by somebody else. When you hear that Charles A. Beard has told Congress why he thinks a big navy won't keep us out of war, don't look for it in the Record; the kept press is more likely to carry it.

One of the specialties of Chicago's new liberal newspaper is Red-baiting. The only innovation is that the Communists call the Reds the Fascists. If, like me, you don't like Red-baiting, not even when it's done by Communists, you won't like the Record. But I can't see why Willie Hearst is trying to keep it off the stands; it's the best friend he's got.

Where did the money come from? It takes a lot of dough to run a daily, when your only display ads are for Earl Browder's book and the New Masses. The boys claim to have raised \$40,000 in nickels and dimes. I don't suggest that a few rubles may have fallen into the hat, but there isn't \$40,000 in the pockets of Chicago's liberals. I know, because I've been through their pants.

Martin Offers 5-Point Plan To Unite Labor

New impetus for those progressive forces in the American labor movement working for unity between A. F. L. and C. I. O. on a constructive basis was given recently in the proposals made in a radio address by President Homer Martin of the powerful C. I. O. auto workers union. Martin's program is the first one advanced by an international union head on either side of the present division of labor which has been free of the fire of controversy and recrimination and accusations and counter accusations which have clouded the issue so thoroly for many people. He proposed:

1. Early resumption of peace conferences.
2. A clear statement by the

A. F. of L. of the recognition of the necessity of industrial unionism in the mass production industries.

3. Immediate steps to list and adjust jurisdictional conflicts arising in those fields where the C. I. O. is operating but older A. F. of L. unions are in actual existence.

4. Adjustment of the jurisdictional conflicts by submission to arbitrating committees with a time limit and arrangements for appeal and final decision.

5. The admission of the C. I. O. to the A. F. of L. as a whole and not on a destructive piece meal basis, this admission to take place upon the attainment of a peace basis.

The United Auto Workers Union has already furnished the best lead to other unions on the matter of an anti-war stand and it looks like the same union has put forth the best lead on labor peace, needed more sorely each day in the labor movement of the U. S. A.

CLASS ANGLE SOME NEW PLAYS

By Michael C. Arcona

The Guild's Liberalism, etc.

The Theatre Guild seems determined to uphold the cause of political liberalism to the American theatre-goer. This may be a worthy purpose but so far this year it has not made for good theatre. Nor has it been financially successful for the 52nd Street organization. Two of its offerings on liberalism, "To Quito and Back" and "The Ghost of Yankee Doodle" have had runs just long enough to take care of the Guild subscription list. And the third one, Mr. S. N. Behrman's "Wine of Choice" seems headed for no better success. In spite of the very droll and very amusing Alexander Woolcott, who can lounge about a stage more beautifully than any actor in the American theatre.

The trouble is of course that there is little drama in any play that seeks to do no more than expound the philosophy of political liberalism. In these three plays, except for moments in the Ben Hecht drama, the pattern has been pretty much the same, and so have the characters. The old trio of people and points of view... reactionary, radical and liberal. And after two hours of talking an audience to death, liberalism is shown as, if not quite the best, at least the most valid of all political and economic ideologies.

Unsatisfactory

We will say this much, however. The liberalism of these Guild offerings seems much more the result of a well-considered philosophy of life than of some inner confusion. But to one who is a Socialist and who has a definite viewpoint on our social structure they fail to satisfy. For in the attempt to put on the stage the confusion of the liberal heroes of these plays, we get, in spite of some good acting, excellent settings, a certain amount of suavity and wit and some excellent comedy... too much dramatic confusion.

We regret that this is so. For the liberal is slowly vanishing from the American scene and the attempt to keep liberalism alive via the Guild stage is a quixotic undertaking. And doomed to failure. For the battle lines are becoming too sharply drawn and sides must be taken.

What John Mason Brown said of the author of the latest Guild offering can well be applied to the Guild as a whole. "He, (S. N. Behrman) shows his absorption in grave social problems by his interest in trivial social people." Which, this department feels, is a perfect characterization of the Theatre Guild's idea of drama. And which is to be regretted. For once the Guild had courage and vision. Once the Guild dared to present things like Ernst Toller's "Masses and Man". But that was in the far away and long ago. And today, if it weren't for the Lunts, the Theatre Guild would be definitely on its way out as a force in the American Theatre. Sometimes we can't help feeling that it is, in spite of the Lunts.

On Borrowed Time

Lack of space prevents us from saying all the nice things that we feel like saying about Paul Osborn's dramatization of Lawrence Edward Watkin's "On Borrowed Time" now at the Longacre Theatre with a cast that includes Dudley Digges, Dorothy Stickney and Frank Conroy. And Peter Holden, the best child actor we've seen these many years. It is a human and absorbing drama of an old man and a little boy, and the old man's attempt to save this boy from the clutches of a prim and straitlaced aunt... to live and take care of his grandson until he is old enough to take care of himself.

And it is one of the most poetic and tender fantasies we've seen since Christopher Morley's "Thunder on the Left." Which is saying a great deal. And though

it is a play dealing with death, one leaves the theatre stirred to thinking not about death but about life. And with a feeling of having experienced a beautiful play... and through the play a beautiful bit of life.

A comparison of this play with Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" is inevitable. The ultimate conclusions are pretty much on the same order. But "On Borrowed Time" has a certain ring of truthfulness which is sadly lacking in the Wilder drama. Wherein "Our Town" preached that the grave was a far happier place than the world above ground... and let it go at that without much valid argument for it, preached that life hasn't much purpose or meaning except the continual round of small days in small lives... in "On Borrowed Time" life has meaning and purpose... and while death is an inevitability... one wants to go on living, one has something to live for. And there is a gallantry and a courage to circumvent death, even after Mr. Brink has called you to go along.

Discussing People

Frederick Lonsdale's new comedy "Once Is Enough" is a play about the sort of people we dislike very, very much. In spite of some good acting by Ina Claire. A comedy of manners about some blue-blooded Englishmen and women. And the setting is the inevitable Lonsdale setting... a drawing room in an English country house. What I mean is that it is another of those very boring plays about people who look comfortable and bored and well fed, who wear beautiful clothes beautifully, who live on their income from some very sound limited liability company, an income assured by the continued exploitation of the workers who produce the wealth these idlers squander.

It is a comedy about people who can afford to spend from Friday evening to Monday morning week-ending, playing, drinking, gambling, indulging in consummated and unconsummated adulteries, both conversational and otherwise... in short a thoroughly disgusting crowd.

And all without the saving grace of even one good piece of comedy, or a dramatic situation to take the edge off a wasted evening. Except for Ina Claire. Who, as usual, is far superior to the play.

And the other night we spent a couple of hours watching Katherine Dayton's attempt at humanizing and ridiculing dictatorships. A sad attempt and doomed to failure... for dictatorships and dictators are woven of too serious a cloth for the light scissors of the author of "First Lady." Sorry.

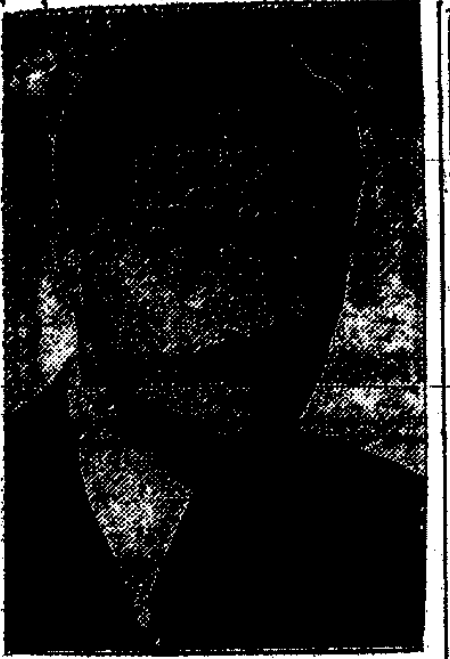
A note to Socialist Locals:

Two of the films mentioned in this column last week, "The River" and "The Plough That Broke the Plains" are being distributed free of all but express charges to organizations who will arrange showings of them. A good idea for locals to raise some money. Arrange with some local movie house to run a midnight show, sell tickets, raise money for the local. The film can be secured through the Farm Administration, Washington, D. C., or the local office of Paramount Pictures.

Send in your greetings for the Special Anti-War issue of the CALL. Deadline March 28!

BUNDLE RATES
for the
SOCIALIST CALL

Less than 10.....3c each
10 to 100.....2 1/2c each
100 to 300.....2c each
300 to 500.....1 1/2c each
Over 500.....1c each



MARC BLITZSTEIN, actor-author-composer of "The Cradle Will Rock" now near the end of its run at the Mercury Theater.

BOOKS

THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN AMERICA

By Marjorie Clark and S. Fanny
Simon W. W. Norton & Co.,
N. Y., 1938, 200 pp. \$2.00.

In two hundred simple, swiftly moving pages Comrade Simon and Dr. Clark have succeeded admirably in retelling the story of the American trade union movement from its early colonial days down to 1937. The authors, although aiming their volume at the general public kept in mind the specific needs of workers and young students for an easy, compact text.

They tell their story primarily from the point of view of the efforts made by labor to organize into free, democratic unions strong enough to win better working conditions against a united, vicious opposition of bosses, courts, government and sometimes reactionary labor leadership.

Particularly useful is the fact that the problem of organization is treated in terms of its relation to prevailing conditions at the time. Whenever labor organized for direct economic action or for political action or both, its purpose was to lift itself if only a little, out of its wretched life of want, insecurity, and poverty.

This is brought out not only by showing the plight of labor in the many times of depressions, but also in the supposedly prosperous days of the last War and in 1922-29. If anything, labor suffered more as a result of its acceptance of the Gompers-Wilson war policy than perhaps at any other time with the possible exception of the great betrayal in 1933-34. Both times government promoted illusions of friendliness but actually bound labor in various ways including widespread sanctioning of company-unionism.

In a second edition the authors can correct certain mistakes of fact and implication and also provide chapter bibliographies for additional reading. There is a cheaper trade edition available which student groups, classes in workers education, as well as trade unions can and should buy.

—Frank Trager.

WATCH
THE WRAPPER

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157 EXPIRED!
RENEW NOW!

Working Class Philosophy Fishermen and Plutes

By Joseph M. Coldwell

Howdy, comrades. As I write this article a heavy snow and wind storm has New England in a wintry grasp. Ships coming to port with riggings and top decks covered with ice. The coast guards have been kept busy answering distress calls from vessels unable to ride out the storm. On land several persons have died from over exertion, trying to make their way against the storm of snow and wind. Adults and children of the unemployed have suffered from exposure to the cold in their homes, not having sufficient fuel to keep the rooms warm.

Of course this is not news, it happens every winter, but this winter the suffering on land is more widely spread owing to the unemployment situation. To fight storms at sea winter or summer, is the usual experience of seamen. Fishermen have to go out to the Banks of Newfoundland to get fresh fish for you and me to eat, they too have to fight the storms. To some of them this may be their last storm.

Danger At Sea

As I look out the window I can see snow being blown in clouds by the wind, and I have a mental picture of those fishermen out there in the storm. Some are comparatively safe on board their ship, others out in the dories, or small boats, pulling in their hand lines, when a snow squall comes up. The visibility is poor. They pull on their oars trying to reach their ship. Their shipmates sound the foghorn constantly to aid them find their way to the ship. But the wild, howling wind, blows the sound away from the men pulling on their oars. They cannot reach their ship. They are lost on the great Atlantic Ocean in a snow storm. Their only hope now is that they will be picked up by another fishing vessel, which frequently happens. Some times they are run down by the great ocean liners, as the Banks of Newfoundland are on the ocean highway of vessels plying between the Eastern ports and Europe.

Gloucester Memorial

Each year at Gloucester, Mass. a picturesque memorial service is held to honor the memory of those fishermen who during the past year "have failed to make port." Their names are read and flowers are thrown on the waters of the out going tide. The tears of the mothers, sisters, sweethearts, widows and orphans, mingle with the salt water of the sea, and another chapter is closed of "the men who go down to the sea in ships."

Social Contrasts

I also have another mental

picture, a picture not of men and women suffering, not of men losing their lives that we might live, not of children huddled together in a cold fireless room, or of men being found dead in snow drifts. No comrades. This is a picture of the pampered pets of plutocracy basking in the sunlight, cooled by the balmy breezes of a tropical climate. "Where is that place?" you ask. Right here in the U. S. of A. Down in Florida, the winter playground of the rich, and the home of the Ku Klux Klan.

Thirty odd years ago I worked in Florida. I have travelled from Jacksonville to Pensacola, and down the coast to where the plutes spend their winters. I am an honorary member of two Florida labor unions, and helped to organize several Socialist Party locals in that state. Along the coast line of the lower part of the state, where there are good sandy beaches, sumptuous hotels, apartment houses and mansions have been built for the comfort of the rich.

\$100 Rooms

The prices of rooms for the winter season at some of those places would give the average workman the jitters. But money is no object to the plutes, especially when they don't have to pay it out in wages. Suites of rooms run from \$25 per day and upwards. One hundred dollars a day for a suite is not considered extravagant for a bloated plute and his pampered pets.

Some of the private houses have swimming pools on their own grounds with sea water pumped in from the ocean. The pool is part of the garden scene. Were I a Walter Winchell I might suggest of certain midnight parties that have taken place in some of those gardens, of the champagne that was drunk, and of the antics of the "gilded youth" when they are soused. But I am not Walter Winchell, so I will refrain.

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A GLIMPSE AT THE PRESIDENT OF THE SHARECROPPERS UNION

To our office last week came Comrade J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. He had completed a tour of St. Louis, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago in behalf of Sharecroppers Week, which came to a successful close March 13.

A tall, mild-mannered man, Butler needed no introduction as to his background but he volunteered to say that he was an "Arkansas hillbilly" with plenty of experience as on oil worker, farmer, laborer, which has been interspersed with periods when he taught school in the backwoods country known as the delta region.

There was a defiant gleam in his clear blue eyes as he related how deputy sheriffs, planters and riding bosses had repeatedly attacked meetings of the S. T. F. U. and brutally persecuted members who bear the brunt of the fight to establish a measure of democracy in the feudal-capitalist sections of the United States.

An Old Timer

Organizing dispossessed land workers is no new task for Butler. The beginning of his experience dates back before the sharecroppers union was organized—in 1914, he was an organizer for a farmers organization which later became and is now known as the National Farmers Union.

The idea of forming an organization which would fit the requirements of the sharecroppers, tenant farmers and day laborers of the South was conceived by a handful of men in and around the neighborhood of Tyranno, Ark., several years ago.

But it was not until Norman Thomas came through the region with his ringing appeal for organization that the idea took concrete form. The state convention of the Socialist Party which was held in Tyranno in 1934 further developed the idea and in July of that year the organization was launched.

A Mass Union

Scores of locals are now functioning in Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas. Membership in the Sharecroppers union is now estimated between 35,000 and 40,000 and the work of building the organization will receive greater impetus with the financial assistance which will be derived from solidarity of workers and friends who made Sharecroppers Week possible.

Besides taking up the immediate demands of landless workers and battling against sinister reactionaries who are determined to stop the union from spreading, the union is conducting an educational campaign. Members of the union, who are deprived of an elementary education, are taught by union teachers to read and write. Labor periodicals, workers' literature of all kinds and other cultural programs are well received by the members. The union emphasizes this part of its program because it knows that the final answers to even simple everyday questions of the sharecroppers are definitely related to the problems which confront the working class in general. Their perspective is a broad one, and the union leaders understand that the real solution to the evils of Southern economy will

be solved only when a fundamental change takes place in our whole economic and political system.

New Hope

Butler was anxious to get back to his field of operation. He returns to the delta country with renewed hope and enthusiasm, knowing now that his fellow workers of Northern industrial centers are backing the S. T. F. U. in their fight to establish in America a system which will no longer permit its proletarian citizens to starve amidst an abundant industrial machine they have created.

Back in the country where hunger, bad housing, and civil injustices abound, Butler returns to rejoin his fellow union officers—E. B. McKinney, O. H. Whitfield, H. L. Mitchell, Ward H. Rodgers, and others. They have a job to do and they are doing it with a kind of courage which makes the labor movement proud of its Southern fighters.

Sharecroppers Affairs A Success In New York

Sharecroppers Week observances in New York City ended Sunday after two benefit performances of "Pins and Needles" and a luncheon over last week-end.

All of the five union members and officials in New York for the week were present and spoke at the meeting with Norman Thomas, honorary chairman of the Week, and Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., who acted as chairman.

Feature of the luncheon was Mrs. Henrietta McGhee's moving account of her arrest and conviction in Forrest City, Ark., on a charge of "enticing labor." Mrs. McGhee, union rank and filer, is fifty-four years old and the mother of thirteen children. After her conviction and the imposition of a \$250 fine she was railroaded to a "peonage farm" in Arkansas where she was the victim of almost incredible cruelty and physical brutality. She spent forty days there before the Union was able to get her released on bail pending an appeal.

Unions Entrenched In Former Non-Union Town

BELVIDERE, ILL.—Unionism is now pretty well entrenched in this town which for years was the scene of non-union operation by the National Sewing Machine Co.

Three American Federation of Labor unions have jurisdiction in the sewing machine company's factory. The unions recently successfully defeated a move of the company to challenge the unions right to exclusive bargaining authority as decided by the National Labor Relations Board on February 17.

WANTS NO CHANGE

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—The format of the SOCIALIST CALL as it is now (tabloid form) seems to meet with my fancy. My vote is for the continuance of the tabloid.

—I. P.

Send in your greetings for the Special Anti-War issue of the CALL. Deadline March 28!

decision was handed down in the case of the Chicago Equipment Co.

The National Labor Board has also affirmed the intermediate decision of the trial examiner in the case of the Fansteel Co. in Waukegan. This order calls for the reinstatement with back pay of all strikers who were subsequently discriminated against by the company.

THE SHAME OF THE SOUTH--

A Negro Is Hanged



BRUTE FORCE backed up Poland's ultimatum to Lithuania as Marshall Edward Smigly-Rydz, Polish dictator, massed 50,000 soldiers on the border until terms of the "agreement" with the Litha are complied with.

Thomas Blasts Hull's Foreign Policy Speech

(Continued from Page 1)

...cist country the people have a right to vote on a war which they in a very different sense than the Congressmen at Washington will have to fight. It is no violation of representative government to let the people who are allowed to vote directly on taxes to vote on this most terrible tax of all. Moreover with the aid of modern devices like the radio and electrical recording apparatus there could be a discussion and vote on the great issue of war and peace in less time than it took some Senators to tell just why they opposed action of the federal government to protect American citizens against lynching at home.

"We do not ask these questions merely rhetorically. We ask them because we think they are vital to the most important issue which confronts the American people."

Filmstrip of Chicago Massacre Available

The Educational Department of the International Ladies' Garment Workers informs the CALL that a filmstrip of the Chicago Memorial Day massacre have been made available. The charge for the strip is 50c.

A large filmstrip covering the Steel Workers Organizing Committee since its inception is being prepared and will also be available soon.

Further information may be received by writing to Mark Starr, Educational Department, ILGWU, 3 West 16th St., New York.

That a 23-year-old Negro hanged last December at Covington, Ky., just across the river from Cincinnati, was innocent of the charge of rape against him, is asserted by the American Civil Liberties Union in a statement on "The Frame-Up of John Montjoy" just issued from New York headquarters.

The Cincinnati branch of the A. C. L. U. had interested itself in the case almost from its inception in 1935, and had formed the Montjoy Defense Committee to aid him.

Montjoy's execution was four times postponed through court proceedings and appeals for executive clemency. Governor Albert B. Chandler of Kentucky, who has consistently refused to issue a single pardon, declined to act in his case, despite the recommendation of the Attorney General and the Lieutenant Governor. One unsuccessful attempt was made to get the United States Supreme Court to review the conviction, which rested upon the sole word of a white woman and the repudiated confession of a companion of Montjoy. At the original trial Montjoy was represented by counsel who failed to make a record on which an appeal could be fairly based.

Words of Death

The story in essence, according to the Union, involves the "assumption, common in the South, that any white woman's word is to be taken against a Negro's. The white woman who alleged she was raped by a Negro whom she had never seen and whom she identified from pictures in the possession of the police, was later shown to have been on friendly, not intimate terms with Montjoy for three years."

The Union's statement declares that Willie Black, Montjoy's companion had been forced to perjure his "eyewitness" testimony; that prominent gynecologists contend Mrs. Cummings could never have been "raped" in the circumstances she described; and that no physical examination of the woman had been made until three weeks after the incident.

"Political expediency," said the Union, "restrained Governor Chandler from correcting an outrageous injustice of the courts."

Electrical Workers Sign Contract With G. E.

NEW YORK.—The United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers, has won a signed contract from the General Electric Co., largest manufacturer of electrical equipment in the country. The pact followed a series of conferences between union leaders and heads of the company.

Sharecropper Supper Slams at Southern Slave System

CLEVELAND, O.—Some \$125 is on the way to the Southern Tenant Farmers Union and the Workers Defense League, its legal agency, as a result of the Cleveland sharecropper supper of Saturday, March 12.

Roy Reuther, running for the Presidency of Flint, Michigan auto workers' union, took the collection assignment for a home run. Other effective speeches were made by Howard Kester, National Organizer of the S. T. F. U.; Beryl A. Whitney, Education Director of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen; W. O. Walker, President, Cleveland NAACP; Rev. John Sommerlatte, Toastmaster; and Robert Parker, County Secretary of the Socialist Party here and President of local 48, American Federation of Teachers.

The Cleveland Committee for the observance of National Sharecroppers Week included Freda Selgworth, Industrial Secretary of the local YMCA; Russell Jelliffe, Director of Playhouse Settlement; Mrs. Murtis Taylor of the Playhouse, Emily West of the Goodrich House, and Helen Phelan of the Merrick House Settlements; Myrtle Roper, Industrial Secretary of the Cleveland Phyllis Wheatley Assn.; Rose Friedman of the Socialist Party local; Mary Scott Chaffin of the Workers Defense League; and W. O. Walker, President of the Cleveland NAACP and Editor of the "Cleveland Call-Post."

Local 217 of the auto workers union donated its union hall for committee meetings, the library put up special displays, Euclid Avenue Baptist Church reduced its rental, Mr. Kester was allowed to speak before the Community Religious Hour, and unions cooperated with the committee by buying blocks of tickets after the event was endorsed by the Cleveland Industrial Council.

Chicago Labor Chalks Up Gains On Many Fronts

Labor in Chicago has won a number of important victories in the past two weeks. They show that in spite of the depression, the organization of labor, especially in the C. I. O. has been progressing steadily.

Two weeks ago, in two of the largest Labor Board elections that have been held in Chicago, the workers in the International Harvester Co., Farm Implement Division, chose the S. W. O. C. by a three to one vote while the stock handlers at the Chicago Stock Yards chose the Packing House Workers of the C. I. O. as their collective bargaining representatives.

These two victories are of great importance because in each case the industry represented has been notoriously open shop and anti-labor. Col. Cyrus McCormick whose Chicago Tribune has been crowding that the C. I. O. is on the decline has large interest in International Harvester and the vote was the best kind of answer to his type of propaganda.

In addition, the National Labor Relations Board has just handed down two decisions in favor of the union in two Chicago cases. The most important was the case of the Western Felt Co. Last summer after a 58 day strike, the workers returned to work under a truce agreement. The company immediately began discrimination against active union members. Last week the Labor Board Trial Examiner handed down a decision ordering the reinstatement with back pay of all the union members who had been discriminated against and who had applied for such reinstatement. A few days after, a similar

LAST CHANCE

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