# Let Labor Stand On Guard!

an editorial

TWO events currently in the news should make organized labor sit up and take notice, for they point to developments that may well grow into a serious danger.

On July 14, Justice Aaron Steuer handed down a decision according to which a labor union is held liable to civil suits damages resulting from breach of contract brought about by a strike. On the basis of this decision, Justice Steuer appointed a referee to assess damages in the \$100,000 suit of the Busch Jewelry Company against the Optical Workers Union, a C.I.O. affiliate.

On July 18, at the annual convention of the American Communications Association, another C.I.O. affiliate, a warning was sounded that Western Union and Postal Telegraph were contemplating sweeping wage-cuts under cover of a new Wage-Hour Act thru the stratagem of raising the hourly wage-rates and then reducing hours considerably more than in proportion. The slash in wages will amount to 8.3%, it was calculated.

The strike at the Busch Company was called by the United Retail and Wholesale Employees Union and the members of the Optical Workers Union joined in. Presumably, merely by striking the union did some "damage" to the business of the company; otherwise, there would obviously be no use in going out on strike. For this, the Busch Company's claims \$100,000 and Justice Steuer has ruled that the union is liable.

If this action is allowed to go unchallenged, if the Optical Workers Union is left alone to bear the brunt of this monstrous decision, the entire trade-union movement will suffer a terrible blow, endangering its very existence. For Justice Steuer's action is without precedent in New York State and virtually without precedent in the nation since the famous Danbury hatters case brought remedial legisolation thru the Clayton Act.

"The Steuer decision is very unusual," Elias Lieberman, general counsel of the I.L.G.W.U. and one of the country's outstanding labor lawyers, has stated quite emphatically. "It will have a terrible effect on the labor movement if it is permitted to stand." It will mean a serious restriction on the right to strike and on the freedom of action of unionism generally. More than that, it may even prove to be an entering wedge in a concerted effort to bring about the governmental strangulation of unions by judicial interpretation, with or without the aid of legislative enactment. The Steuer ruling must not be allowed to stand!

The threatened wage-cut by Western Union and Postal Telegraph should make it perfectly clear to all that the passage of wage-hour legislation is no automatic guarantee of adequate wages or even of the maintenance of existing wages. Quite to the contrary, under certain circumstances, it may even be turned into a boomerang and serve as a camouflage for actual wage reductions.

The only answer is a strong, militant, united labor movement, able to make its organized, independent power felt on the economic and political fields alike. Such a movement can stay the hand of a Judge Steuer; such a movement can make wage-hour legislation, and social and labor legislation generally, mean something for the U.A.W. of its autonomous rights workers of America.

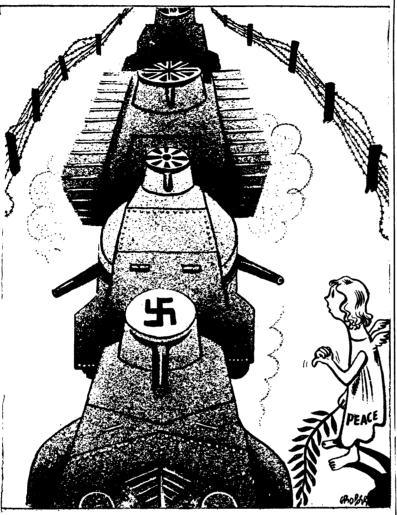
# Workers Ag

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

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#### NO PICK-UP



### AUTO WORKERS RALLY TO SAFEGUARD UNION

Detroit U.A.W. Leaders Repudiate Dual Unionists

By GEORGE F. MILES (Our Michigan Correspondent) Detroit, Mich.

An aroused membership of the United Automobile Workers of America turned upon its Stalinist tormentors and delivered two crushing blows which thoroly demolished any hope for their dualunionist schemes.

Most significant was the surprise victory scored by the Martin forces over the insurgents on Friday, July 22, at a meeting of 400 members of local executives thruout the city of Detroit. The meeting, originally called by the Detroit District Council, which has been under Stalinist control since its organization, was intended to serve as a mass mobilization for a rump convention in preparation for launching a dual union. A strong squad of Stalinists, appointed by the District Council chiefs, carefully checked credentials at the door and admitted no one against whom they could possibly think up any objection.

Despite this careful process of selection, the gathering of local union leaders and executive-board members listened to the reports of Walter Reuther for the so-called "middle-roaders" who had visited John L. Lewis in Washington, then to Frank Reid who had headed a pro-union mass delegation of local union presidents to confer with Mr. Lewis, and then turned down every proposal intended to rob the as an International union.

The proposal to invite Mr. Lewis to "intervene" was turned down by a five-to-three vote. Another proposal to invite a committee of local presidents to sit in on the forthcoming trial of the suspended officers was defeated by an even larger majority. Discouraged and demoralized, the insurgents failed even to place on the floor the muchadvertised proposal for an emergency convention. The pro-union forces then proceeded to pass a motion expressing their thanks to John L. Lewis for his decision not to intervene in the internal affairs of the U.A.W. and followed this

Detroit spokesmen for the union are jubilant over the outcome, pointing out that this constitutes the first time that the Stalinists have been so decisively routed in their own stronghold and on an issue on which they had assured John L. Lewis the membership of the Detroit organization stood with them. It is regarded as an expression of the deep loyalty of the mass of the membership to the union, and accurately reflects their resentment at the splitting efforts of the Stalinists.

The outcome of the meeting of local executives in Detroit bore out strikingly the contention of a large delegation of local presidents who, visiting John L. Lewis in Washington on Wednesday of last week, has assured him that the vast majority of the membership stood squarely behind the union and

# Tories Plot | U.S. Insists

#### Secret Anglo-Nazi Talks | Hull Sends Abrupt Note Revealed Aiming At Four-Power Pact

Secret negotiations between British Prime Minister Chamberlain and German dictator Hitler have been under way for some time, it was disclosed last week in London. To the British Foreign Office, these "conversations," presumably carried on by Lord Londonderry, represent another phase of the Tory campaign of 'wooing the dictators." It was regarded as significant that this development should come precisely at the time that the British royal family were on a state visit to France.

The great objective of Tory foreign policy is to bring about a 'general settlement" in Europe in the form of a four-power pact between England, France, Germany and Italy. France is regarded as safely in the tow of the British Foreign Office, so that the problem is primarily that of "appeasing" the two fascist powers. The recent Anglo-Italian pact constituted a big step along this road and the present negotiations with Hitler represent another stage in the

Behind the Tory policy of a general European settlement" is the desire to bolster up the capitalist order in Europe, particularly in the fascist countries, where it is most unstable, as well as to isolate the Soviet Union and lay it open to imperialist attack. For the sake of reaching an "understanding" with the dictators, Chamberlain has openly declared his readiness to make all necessary concessions in regard to Ethiopia. Spain, Czechoslovakia and Germany's "lost colonies."

against the self-seeking insurgents.

#### 155 Locals Say No!

The delegation was organized upon the initiative of Frank Reid, president of the Dodge Local, of which the suspended Richard Frankensteen is a member. Indignant at the false claims of the delegation of 13 rebel presidents who claimed to represent a majority of the membership and called on John L. Lewis to take to continue with all the necessary of the U.A.W. and followed this with a motion of loyalty to the of locals calling upon them to loyalty to the of locals calling upon them to loyalty to the locals calling upon them to loyalty to the locals calling upon them to loyalty to the locals calling upon them to loyalty to the local Mr. Lewis the real facts. The response surprised even Mr. Reid. Some 50 local union presidents turned out and about 100 more, finding themselves unable to attend, wired their full agreement with the intentions of this commit-

> (See page 2 for a partial list of locals participating in this delegation.

Mr. Reid's delegation, representing some 150 local unions and about 300,000 members, stated that it intended: (1) to prove the falseness of the claims of the 13 rebel presidents; (2) to deny the allegation that peace in the organization can be achieved only thru C.I.O. intervention; (3) to provide Mr. Lewis with a comprehensive picture of the real nature of this longstanding inner-union struggle; (4)

(Continued on Page 2)

# With Hitler Mexico Pay

### For "Compensation" Of **American Investors**

After months of pretense of good neighborliness" towards Mexico, the United States government last week showed its imperialist hand by abruptly demanding arbitration of the acts of the Mexican government during the last decade in repossessing Mexican land owned by Americans. While dealing specifically with the land question, the U.S. note, delivered by Secretary of State Hull to Mexican Ambassador Najera, is clearly meant to extend also to the recent resumption of foreign oil properties by Mexico. In fact, the land issue is probably largely a pretext; primarily at stake are the oil properties.

The American note is considered by the press as of vast significance in its demand for "adequate, effective and prompt compensation." It undoubtedly points to a sharpening of American imperialist policy towards Mexico all along the line. As the New York Times puts it (July 22), "any question on the position of the Roosevelt Administration was definitely removed both for the lands and the oil properties. The Mexican claim that the land seizures were for social purposes was declared beside the point." In other words, the Administration is out to protect the financial interests of American investors even tho it may mean the economic enslavement of the Mexican people.

(A series of articles by Ellen Ward on the Mexican situation will begin in an early issue of this paper.

### **Knitgoods Unionists OK General Strike**

Over 3,500 members of the New York Knitgoods Workers Union, at an overflow meeting held last week at Manhattan Opera House, authorized the union to call a general strike in the knitted-outerwear industry. The meeting further empowered the executive board to set the date for the general strike and

International Ladies Garment Workers Union, who could not attend the meeting because of doctor's order, pledging full moral and financial support to the knitgoods workers.

Louis Nelson, manager of the union, reported that negotiations between the union and the Passamenterie and Trimming Manufacturers Association had reached a successful conclusion. As a result of this agreement, the workers in the textile-trimming section of the industry will receive a 10% to 20% increase in wages, a week's vacation with pay and other union demands. The workers cheered Manager Nelson's statement that the union was ready to come to an agreement with the knitted-outerwear manufacturers if they, similarly, would yield to the union's justified demands.

# I.C.O. GREETS CONVENTION OF I.L.L.A.

Paris, June 4, 1938. TOUR convention meets at a greater demands on all revolu- Hitler.

Because of the attempt prevented this time. There can be Russian G.P.U., is waging a no peace in the capitalist world. campaign of counter-revolutionary China and Spain continue to be terror against the most valiant war zones. The depression, begin- fighters of the proletarian revoluning in the United States and tion, the P.O.U.M., is robbing the spreading all over the capitalist workers of their revolutionary world, as well as the steady achievements and thus weakening increase of armaments production the resistance to Franco. in relation to total production, help to intensify the danger of war. The fascist dictatorships with their sabre-rattling are merely Stalinites. expressing openly the underlying trend of world imperialism.

The leaders of the Socialist (Second) and Communist (Third) Internationals are betraying the working class and the bourgeoisie of democratic countries, thus and present. serving the imperialist interests of the bourgeoisie. This policy merely letarian revolution are, yet it is helps to intensify the danger of working class of its political peace with imperialists and prowar preparations and war ma- intensified class struggles and evidence as an independent class temporarily.

of betrayal. The People's Front in and rallying forces. actually making preparations for burocracy. a military dictatorship.

of the Stalinites destroyed the share. American capitalism is the Germany and Austria, for the the union. militancy of the Austrian prole-strongest in the world. American

by spreading the illusion that the working class could rely on the time that is fraught with Schuschnigg government and other danger for the world labor move- bourgeois forces both within and ment and that, therefore, makes without Austria in its fight against

> The People's Front policy of the reformists and the Stalinites has

The world labor movement is in a profound crisis because of the activities of the reformists and

It is our task, we the communists principles of Marx and Lenin, to

they to whom belongs the future. George Kiebler, president of the imperialist war. By robbing the The spirit of proletarian revolution is undermining the decadent independence, by advocating class capitalist world. The contradictions of imperialism are becoming more mising the latter the support of pronounced. It is becoming ever the working class in the next war, clearer that the capitalist system they are paralyzing the only force has reached a stage where it can which could effectively carry on a no longer enjoy even the relative let the union itself work out these fight against war and are encourage ease and comfort which it enjoyed ing the imperialists to engage in in the past. At such a time,

nouvers. The extent of the deep revolts of the exploited and opprescrisis in which the international sed working masses are inevitable. labor movement finds itself is The terror of fascism, the classillustrated by the fact that during peace propaganda of the People's the crisis in May of this year, Fronters of both the Second and when a world war threatened, the Third Internationals, can at most working class was nowhere in hold back these revolts only

The reason for this tragic situa- rally forces necessary for the to bring about the material condition—in which the working class preparation, organization and tions on which Hitler thrives today. passively watches the preparations leadership of such revolts so that From the point of view of a world vate business of the union, thus away the inevitable fate that for another imperialist world war they are turned into successful proletarian revolution, the exwhich will bring it untold miseries offensive struggles of the prole- istence of a militant labor move--is to be found in the fact that tarian world revolution. We ment in the United States is of the Communist International, earnestly hope that the collabora- decisive importance. We are proud lification and abuse against the Indetermination to put an end to the dominated by Stalin, has taken tion agreed upon at the Paris of the fact that your organization ternational Union and its officers activities of the unscrupulous caover the policies of the Socialist International Conference between is playing a truly revolutionary, and members and advocating poli-International, and has in some the I.C.O. and other revolutionary communist, vanguard role as cies contrary to the policies of the of the Stalinist faith. instances even gone beyond it. The organizations will provide for new compared to the reformism and International Union and its offi-People's Front policy is a policy possibilities of training such cadres social-patriotism of the American cers and members calculated to di-

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## *AUTO WORKERS RALLY* TO SAFEGUARD UNION

(Continued from Page 1) convince him that the vast Martin stated he had never been majority of the membership wants in doubt about Mr. Lewis's strict slovakia, as it had seized Austria, the "non-intervention" fraud the International Executive Board observance of the autonomous Europe was in great danger of which has, in reality, helped to proceed with the trials of the rights of the U.A.W. immediate war on May 21 and 22. destroy anti-fascist Spain. In the suspended officers as scheduled; (5) to give assurances that the Martin, "that Mr. Lewis, after havto conclude that peace is now of the Spanish bourgeoisie, the trials would be fair and in line ing the true facts presented to assured because a world war was People's Front, with the aid of the with the constitution of the union; him, has declined to intervene (6) to prove that the union is in no in the affairs of the International danger of collapse but, on the con- Union, but proposes to respect in trary, is proceeding to strengthen every manner the autonomy of the itself on the basis of the 20-point U.A.W. program; and (7) to convince Mr. Lewis that "we are certain the A.W. locals, which voluntarily went U.A.W. will work out its problems to Washington yesterday, repreto the satisfaction and greater good sented the true attitude of the of the entire labor movement. We membership of the U.A.W. We feel we are waging a successful have never doubted for a moment

struggle against a grave situation." that their action had the over-The entire group of presidents appeared before Mr. Lewis with file. This demonstration in Washthis program after choosing the fol- ington should be sufficient proof who have remained loyal to the lowing spokesmen to represent the for anybody who might have various regions: Frank Reid, Dodge doubted it before. Those who have analyze both for ourselves and the Local 3, Detroit; Ed. Linder, Local so bitterly and irresponsibly atmasses the causes of the collapse 190, Detroit; Gilbert Jewell, Local tacked the U.A.W. will be judged working class in attempting to of the international labor move- 93. Kansas City; Elmer Davis, by their action. They are now getform an alliance between the ment in order to overcome the Local 139, Cleveland; George Sorweakness and misery of the past rell, Local 182, Lansing; Jack Lit- their many disruptive and antitle, Local 156, Flint; Henry Burke, Weak tho the forces of pro- Local 110, Meriden, Conn.; W. P. Allen, Local 34, Atlanta, Ga.; and

Wisconsin District Council No. 1. Greatly impressed by the delegation, Mr. Lewis informed the press that "there has been no intervention by the C.I.O. and no steps taken toward intervention" He was quite willing, he stated, to problems, if that was the desire of

Martin Greets Lewis Action Informed of the conference in Vashington and of Mr. Lewis's at- in the membership.

capital decided the outcome of the paratus of the union and to usurp last war. American capital helped the authority of the International German capital get on its feet It is our task to train cadres, to after the war, and thereby helped Executive Board. bership and oath of office. Stalinites and the reformist vide and split the union, for which France has broken the mighty By defending the principles of sectarianism of the American purpose they solicited funds thru enthusiasm which swept the communism against those who Socialist Party. We are proud of the United States mails so as to French labor movement in June would degrade them, we are your splendid trade-union work, carry on activities dual to the In-1936, has robbed the working class defending the future of the Rus- of your fight against imperialist ternational Union. of the achievements won in those sian revolution, we are making our war and your persistent efforts for ternational Union. battles, has depressed living contribution towards helping the the organization of the American standards thru deflation and, forces of proletarian democracy in working class as an independent finally, has even come out in the Soviet Union—those who are class force. We are particularly jeopardized the unity and proper functioning of the organization, support of the Daladier government which is openly working for the proletarian state and the which you have manifested in Icreating an emergency making the interests of big capital and is socialist economy by the Stalinist your aid to the anti-fascist move- necessary their suspension. ment in Germany, Austria and You, comrades, have been given Spain. We thank you, in the name since their expulsion which were The policy of the reformists and an important and responsible of the Communist Opposition of untrue, harmful and injurious to comradely help which has made it possible for these comrades of pension, a factional campaign to

ours to continue their struggle disrupt and confuse the functionagainst the Nazi regime. We confidently expect that your convention will result in greater political and organizational suc-

cesses in the future. Long live the International Communist Opposition!

Long live the proletarian world revolution!

With communist greetings, Buro of the International Communist Opposition

Another letter was received from the Buro of the International Communist Opposition, strongly advising against the proposed change of name to the I.L.L.A.

#### U.A.W. Against "Intervention"

COLLOWING is a partial list of local unions of the United Automobile Workers Ititude on intervention, President of America, represented by their presidents at the recent conference with John L. Lewis or else on record by "We are glad to note", said Mr. telegram: Locals 11, 25, 28, 30, 34,

"The representatives of the U.

ting the answer of the union to

Encouraged by the widespread

cers were to be placed on trial on

bring about a state of chaos with-

President and the International

4. Carrying on a program of vi-

5. Diverting funds from the In-

6. Creating a situation which

7. Making public statements

8. Continuing, since their sus-

which follows:

37, 40, 45, 46, 58, 65, 70, 78, 85, 87, 93, 99, 110, 118, 121, 125, 131, 139, 156, 161, 168. 169, 172, 175, 178, 182, 184, 188, 190, 197, 203, 209, 210, 214, 215, 216, 217, 225, 226, 228, 229, 230, 235, 244, 247 262, 265, 268, 270, 280, 286, 295, 312, 318, 322, 323, 352, 364, 365, 368, 369, 378, 379, 382, 386, 391, 398, 402, 410, 428, 429, 436, 460, 464, 469, 476, 477, 483, 494, 509, 510, 526, 529, 533, 537, 545, 551, 557, 562, 576, 581, 584.

> (See the article by George F. Miles on page 1 for an account of the purposes of this delegation and of its interview with Mr. Lewis.-Editor.)

ing of the union, by attempting to tie up its funds, by attempting to persuade locals to violate the union constitution, by withholding paynovement in support of his admin- ment of per-capita tax, by attemptstration, President Martin an- ing to tie up the delivery of the nounced that the suspended offi- mail to the union.

9. Converting union property to Monday morning, July 25. Each their own use, disrupting meetings of the defendants will have to of local unions by acts of rowdyanswer to nine charges, a digest of ism, refusing to recognize the authority of the International Presi-1. Conspiring, for personal and dent and the International Execufactional gain, to disrupt the In- tive Board and the provisions of ternational Union, to interfere the constitution and carrying on a with its proper functions and to program of open incitation and rebellion against the authority of the International Union and against 2. Seeking to appropriate the ap- its interests and welfare.

Keenly aware that their irresponsible acts have laid them wide open to severe disciplinary action, the suspended officers have issued 3. Issuing to the newspapers statements shouting "frame-up. false statements divulging the pri- In this way do they try to explain violating both their oath of mem- awaits them at the hands of the union membership, which is showing with increasing clarity its fixed reerists and unprincipled politicians

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# Some Questions Of Labor Politics

yet uncompleted transformation party as the labor movement i of labor's viewpoint on politics has given way to a new period of this whole rotten tradition is stagnation and inertia. For years, essential. only a tiny minority on the left wing of the labor movement urged the necessity of a break with the old employing-class parties; the main body of the trade unions seemed immovable in their "nonpartisan," anti-labor party fixation. The political revolt of the geous from the point of view of years after the war seemed to have left no mark. And now again, after the formation of Labor's Non-Partisan League in 1936 and goal a post here, an office there, especially of its New York affiliate. the American Labor Party, the on the old-party electoral machines first enthusiasm surrounding labor's new start on the road to independent political action appears to have died down. It would new appeal to the voters—how seem that our movement has exhausted itself by organizational semi-independence, and is content to assume permanently the form of a political threat rather than

But this aspect is really superficial, for the forces that have been set in motion, far from being exhausted, have as yet hardly tested their youthful strength. Labor will itical independence if it is to bor-party movement is arising, maintain itself at all, even on the today, certain electoral blocks are economic field; that will be made useful, especially when arrived at

a review of the conditions under necessary, and especially of the factors determining its method of desired, as its reason for existence operation, can serve a useful

#### The Breakup Of The Two-Party System.

American politics has functioned under the sign of the two-party system. At times, the economic discontent of the masses of workers and farmers has expressed itself by throwing the Republicans out and voting the Democrats in, or vice-versa. Ir other periods of our history, especially at the turn of the century, when finance-capital was making its triumphant and ruthaccumulation of serious discontent resulted in the Populist explosion. The political technique of these signified no real shift in governday made an effectively demago

economic base. That in some cases appeals. they succeeded in temporarily wresting political power from the tradition of the old parties.

masses turn to a new party? First, politics." Otherwise, if it allows of all, naturally, in deep dissatisfaction with the social and discredited practises of the past, and in a precarious position. All faction with the social and discredited practises of the past, economic policies of the old it will soon find no room for itself. and in a precarious position. All let alone to have enough left from working-class education—is firmly the proceeds to exist themselves against the Popular Front. Inside and economic system which these parties represent. Secondly, in revolt against the whole corrupt method of rule of the old parties, the treacherous connivings and double-dealings, the repeated

power and patronage. For a new

#### Political Trading

Political trading, that is, alliance for alliance's sake with the old parties regardless of program or principle, may seem advantavote getting. But what sort of voting strength should a labor on a ticket which rests as much which finds no difficulty in mergnew party by the old machines. And, of course, a labor party with ploitation and destruction. The of any use to the old parties.

It may be that, under the have to win to full-fledged pol- peculiar conditions in which the lamore and more clear in the next by the labor party from the point of view of "what's in it for us." It is at such a time as this that But no political organization can look upon emergencies, forced which a labor party becomes upon it by circumstances beyond its control, as a condition to be

#### The Question Of Candidates Nor can a labor-party movement

approach the question of candidates from the old-party point of view. For perhaps the first time in our history, the class basis, the organizational roots and the social and economic program of a political party are of far greate importance than the personality o the candidate-altho the latter direct connection with a labor organization is certainly a consideration. A labor-party movement appeals to the workers, the farmers, the unemployed, the discontented masses on the basis their experience.—Editor.) less drive towards power, the of its program and the new concepts of politics for which it stands. However "practical" it changes are important. We know never look upon itself, or appear that the shift from a Republican to others, as merely a vote-getting to a Democratic administration machine. Therefore, it cannot base its selection of this or that candimental power from the railroads to date for office on the fact that he the farmers or from the monopolies is a Catholic, there being already to the people. But we also know a Jew and a Protestant on the The various projects under the that the astute politicians of that ticket; or that he is an Elk or a Mason and can therefore corral its predecessors have been helpful. that "the agricultural ladder has trary to Liberalism. The candidate gical attempt to parade as totally the votes of these organizations. But whatever is being done by the become a treadmill for these peo-

For a labor-party movement. therefore, a clean break as soon old parties, that is, in winning the as possible with the old is of vital voters to their platform, was due importance to its very existence. to their unalterable opposition to It must appear before the masses the whole odoriferous political as the champion of the new, as the expression of opposition to all that Under what conditions do the has come to be known as "dirty

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# World Flight to War

THE whole country is one in | means of production and increas-L acclaiming the remarkable ing misery and degradation for the | betrayals of principle for votes, feat of Howard Hughes and his vast masses of the people. Under companions in girdling the globe the reign of imperialism, in which T first glance, it may appear party, therefore, and especially for in the incredibly short span of every technical invention is im-A that the tremendous, and as such a completely new type of three days, nineteen hours and mediately converted into a means fourteen minutes. And, indeed, of mass-murder and annihilation, striving towards, a break with there can hardly be any doubt that the multiplication of the human this flight will go down in the productive forces has meant the history of technical progress as multiplication of the power of the one of its brightest achievements. wretched cliques of warmongers The problem of rapid locomotion to unleash the most horrible forms and the circumnavigation of the of destruction upon the human globe, has for centuries appealed race. Under the dark shadow of to the imagination of mankind and capitalism, every blessing behas always occupied a central comes a curse, every advance a place in man's age-long struggle veritable boomerang. with nature. And now, Jules Verne's eighty days of feverish fiction as breath-taking exploit of Howard

> development of "labor-saving" oligarchy of the owners of the cialism

And just so will it be with the party movement desire? Is its eight days and sixteen hours of the most deadly weapon of modern to Chamberlain. The Liberal newsseven years ago, have become three warfare, even more deadly than days and nineteen hours in ever. The scientific achievements favor of a Popular Front governas it does on the new forces of astonishing reality! Another gi- of yesterday are already bearing labor? Protracted practice of such gantic step forward in mankind's their fruit in the devastation of "democratic" Conservatives, such a policy means less and less of a mastery of the forces of nature! Ethiopia, Spain and China. The as Anthony Eden and Winston But it is precisely the curse of achievements of today will fa- Churchill! The official Labor Parnew, how different, can a party be the system of society under which cilitate the annihilation of cities, we live that every victory of the the murder of millions, the deing with its rivals?—and the human race over the forces of its struction of what has taken consequent undermining of the environment becomes inevitably decades to build up. To the tens transformed into a means of ex- of thousands who are now cheering the accomplishment of Hosuch an attitude soon ceases to be steam-engine, the tremendous ward Hughes, it may yet become a nightmare of horror

Political horse-trading defeats machinery, the whole system of Capitalism poisons the very electric power and electro- well-springs of human progress. technique-incredible achievements The fruits of the inventiveness of of the human genius—what have the human genius, of the penetrathey meant for mankind? Under tion of the secrets of nature by the the system of capitalism, in which human mind, will only then become every advance of science is im- available for the best interests of mediately converted into a source of mankind when the nightmare of private profit and class power, the capitalism, with its profit-making ultiplication of human productive and war-mongering, is left far forces has meant unprecedented behind and humanity achieves its wealth and power for the small security and freedom under so-

# New Problems of Tenant Farmers

By H. L. MITCHELL

THE problem of farm tenancy has received some attention in ly as a result of the protest against ntolerable conditions voiced by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. Some progress has been made to-Farm Security Administration and I sion now as never before.

#### Trend Towards Mechanization

must be done immediately for the producers of cotton. The Farm Bill for the entire year. was enacted, and outside of a few minor changes, including some tenant and sharecropper, the poli- Each year additional thousands mittees to discuss joint action, and cies of the old A.A.A. were con-

tinued. With the further reduc-(We publish below the statement tion of cotton acreage, the numof H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, at the National Emergency Council Conference at Washington. We present Mr. Mitchell's niews of material to the statement of the statement of the past five years, there has been an increasing trend toward mechanization of cotton forming my material to the statement of the stateme Mr. Mitchell's views as material for zation of cotton farming. This is study and discussion and we urge our particularly true of the rich delta readers to comment on the basis of the Mid-South and the plains region of Oklahoma and the plains region of Oklahoma and which returned the second Labor Texas.

It is difficult to discover which has been most responsible for the Conservatives 16,700. The result must be in its approach, it can the last two or three years, largeton farms—the policies of the Department of Agriculture or the in- to 6,000, Labor coming up to 11,000 troduction of tractor-farming. and the Conservative winning with Both have contributed. Within the 16,000. Unfortunately, this vote ward developing a program de- last five years, there have been cannot be interpreted as a consigned to alleviate farm tenancy. over 500,000 families so displaced. Of the tenant farmers and share- papers complained that the Labor

distinct from the opposing party. Those who vote a labor ticket F.S.A. is largely in the nature of ple," and that statement still holds Especially is this distinction true have made the beginnings of a an experiment. Only a few thouin the case of the third-party fundamental break with the old sands have been and can be assistmovements. That these movements methods and the old outlook—they ed in becoming home-owners. What come day laborers, and all three who believe that the C.P. is comdied can be traced to their dying will be unmoved by such shoddy we are now most concerned about types of farm-workers are finding munist and by the numerous midis something that will bring imme- that there is less and less demand dle-class element in the Labor Pardiate relief to the hundreds of thousands thru the South who are those who still have land on which thousands thru the South who are feeling the effects of the depres- to live, always precarious, have be- sent the "social-fascist" period, come more so now.

family for making a crop on shares liefs that inspired the earlier The low prices of cotton and cot- is too small for it to raise enough struggles of the Labor Party. It ton-seed paid for the bumper crop cotton to satisfy the claim of the is also important that the Nation-

condition of those who have no tarian members. The I.L.P. and the which were designed to help the place upon the land is much worse. Labor Party have appointed com-

(Continued on Page 6)

# Labor Front In England

By WALTER SAWYER (Our English Correspondent)

London, England.

THE main struggle here in the past few weeks has centered around the question of the Popular Front. The National government has been forced by its foreign policy to expose clearly its true nature. The recognition of the conquest of Abyssinia and the cynical agreement with Italy over Spain, have outraged the instincts of class-conscious workers and the patriotism of less advanced sections Feeling has not reached the stage where there is much immediate prospect of a change of government, but a vigorous dispute is papers and the Stalinists are in ment, which might even include ty and the Independent Labor Party are opposed to this.

#### Setback For Popular Frontism

Political events have provided a setback to the Popular Front tendency. Two by-elections were fought recently, in which Conservatives, Liberal and Labor candidates went forward-Aylesbury and West Derbyshire. At Aylesbury, the case for a labor candidate-from the liberal point of view—was very weak. In 1935, Labor polled only 4,700 votes against the Liberal's 13,600 and the Conservative's 24.700. Great pressure was brought to make the Labor candidate withdraw, but without success. The candidate, who was of the extreme left of the Labor Party, made a strong socialist case The Communist Party urged the workers to vote for the Liberal. The Liberal press claimed that many Labor members had left their party in disgust and were working for the Liberal candidate. On polling day, however, the Conservative and Liberal votes were both 3,000 down; the Labor vote rose by 3,000.

The action of the Communist Party aroused great resentment among the workers, and, at the West Derbyshire by-election, the C.P. supported the Labor candidate, a very flimsy explanation of which returned the second Labor government-Labor had only 3,600 votes, the Liberals 13,200 and the scious socialist advance: Liberal the President has said manifesto contained nothing con

and from sections of the member-The portion of land allotted each ship who retain the socialist bethe Communist Party, dissatisfac-This is tragic, of course, but the tion is growing among the prole-

(Continued on Page 5)

### **WORKERS AGE**

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July 30, 1938 Vol. 7.

#### ROOTS OF FASCISM

TNADEQUATE attention, it seems to us, is being paid by the labor movement to the menace of the company mob. Within the last few weeks, a number of outbreaks have taken place which should certainly serve as timely warnings—the attack on the National Labor Relations Board hearings in Ohio, the raid on the C.I.O. lumber-workers union in California, and other incidents of a similar char-

Employing-class violence is nothing new in this country. But the company mob is not merely a case of employing-class violence. In the mobs threatening the N.L.R.B. examiners at Weirton and Steubenville or those that routed C.I.O. members out of their homes at Westwood, there were certainly many hired thugs and gunmen, but that is by no means the whole story. There is no use overlooking the fact that these mobs were composed of ordinary, plain people as well, of workers and farmers, of small merchants and business men, of jobless downand-outers, in addition to professional strong-arm men and gangsters. Thru an adroit combination of old-fashioned demagogy and modern high-pressure publicity methods, thru a network of connections embracing business, civic, patriotic and church groups, specialists in the employ of big industrial concerns have been able to exploit the backwardness and ingrained prejudices of certain sections of the population in order to organize them into savage mobs howling for the blood of some union leader or N.L.R.B. examiner. And there you have the company mob, a new and dangerous weapon in the hands of big-business reaction.

But there you have also the beginnings of an American fascism. For the company mob displays to a surprising degree many of the authentic features of fascism: its pretense to being a "popular" or lower-class movement; its deadly hostility to socialism and the labor movement; its hooliganism and resort to extra-legal violence. The company mob is at once a component part and an anticipation of a future American fascism, should that dreadful scourge ever come to afflict this country. That is the real direction in which the danger lies.

The time to act is now. It is for the labor movement to inspire the middle-class masses and backward workers with confidence and win their allegiance, thereby depriving the company mob of much of its social base. It is for the labor movement to set up a solid fighting front against employing-class terrorism and crush it in its early stages before it is too late. For this, the labor movement needs militancy, responsibility, unity. And not the least of these is unity!

### Broun's Bright Ideas

CPEAKING at a meeting in Toronto some weeks I ago in connection with the annual convention president, Heywood Broun declared himself in favor of the establishment of government-owned newspapers in certain large centers of the country.

We have never paid any attention to the outbursts of Heywood Broun and, by this time, we should be accustomed to the grotesque clownishness of this eminent pillar of the American People's Front. But now it is not a question merely of folly or stupidity. There is a sinister undertone to the proposal of a government-owned press that cannot escape notice. For who can fail to detect the cloven hoof of the totalitarian system of governmental propaganda and control of ideas? Mr. Broun might be quite certain in his heart that President Roosevelt would never abuse such a power, altho we may be permitted our doubts. But surely the New Deal is not going to last forever, and then what?

The lesson is pretty clear. Scratch a Stalinist People's Fronter, especially one who raises the heavens with his avowals of love for "democracy", and you find a surprising enthusiasm for authoritarian autocracy with its despotism, blood-purges and governmental control of propaganda.

# Letters on the Age | WORLD TODAY

Readers Begin Discussion of Age Problems

vitality. Your articles on national analysis I have read anywhere. However, there is a serious criticism I would like to voice.

Holding an office in a C.I.O. union, I have had ample opportucommunist activity takes. But, it seems to me that your criticisms smack of the personal grudge. I have often felt that same sense of disgust for some of the stunts they pull, but I do not think your paper is the place to air it. Yes -point out their destructive nature, but also tell us how to combat the disease. I do not feel that you are serving any cause when you imitate the tone of the

Daily Worker. In all due fairness, I must state that I have met a few communists n the trade-union movement who are sincere, hard workers and with vhom I could work, despite fundamental differences. Many radicals who at one time worked n close cooperation with the C.P. (we form a class almost, by ourselves) are looking for an answer. We don't feel that the S.P. is that answer. We feel more akin to your group than to any other. But we recoil when we as much as smell the Daily Worker. It used to make us feel like arch-reactionaries until we took our place in the trade unions and began to feel that there was still a place where we could carry on. We are young. Please help us shape policies ir our unions; show us how we can n our daily activities, tie up our local problems with those of a national and international charac-We have already taken a position on the war question. There s much work to do and not much time to do it in. Point these things out to us and leave the hysterics

A TRADE UNIONIST

Our correspondent's valuable criticism raises a problem of edito<mark>ria</mark>l policy to which we have given considerable attention. It has been our endeavor in recent months to avoid any quarrels or "arguments" with the Stalinites. We have tried to place our emphasis upon positive and construc tive treatment of the big problems

to the Stalinites.

our efforts so highly.

facing the labor movement at home

Marcus Hook, Pa. | pursue this course, it is a fact that find your paper, on the whole, Stalinism constitutes a sinister menace one of genuine sincerity and in many sections of the labor movement. Under such circumstances, conand foreign affairs are the keenest structive work is impossible without a persistent struggle against this menace. And, naturally, the Age reflects this

Nevertheless, this would not excuse any tendency to lapse into the "tone" nity to see, concretely, what form of the Daily Worker, against which our correspondent warns. Such a tendency runs counter to the spirit and policy of the Age and we can assure our correspondent that we will be more vigilantly on guard in the future to prevent its appearance.—Editor.)

#### SOME SUGGESTIONS

Fort Wayne, Ind.

The Age has been very interesting lately. The column, "News of the Age," has helped a lot. Sometimes, however, there is a tendency to give too much space to articles that have only a limited York state constitutional convention are a case in point. To be sure, they were very interesting and informative but only to section of the Age readers. would like to see a series articles on the "recession" by Lyman Fraser. It is also my opinion that a number of articles pointing out the inconsistencies i New Deal theory and practise would of considerable benefit. . . .

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Northville, Michigan Let me congratulate you on the number of contributors and widened perspective makes the paper today worthy of the organization and deserving of going over the

NONE SO WELL-EDITED

I have seen many workers newspapers-none of them as well edited as the Workers Age. M. B. R.

But, however much we may try to more effective paper.—Editor.

### INIOL

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**=**By Lambda **=** 

London, July 6, 1938.

DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

THE latest demands made by Henlein upon the L Czechoslovakian government are:

1. All Germans in Czechoslovakia, regardless of whether they live in the German districts or outside of them, must be included in the plan for "national

2. The Germans must be represented in the Prague government by their "President" (i. e., Henlein), who is to have extensive veto powers. 3. Germans must be represented in the military

leadership of the Czech Republic. To accept these proposals would mean to undermine the strength of the Czech republic from

within and to keep the Nazis in touch with all military secrets of Czechoslovakia. Benes' answer implies that the Sudeten Germans will be granted autonomy only in the German districts and that the central political and military

power (including control over the police) will

definitely remain in the hands of the Czechs. Let nobody believe that the Nazis have given up appeal. The articles on the New all claims they laid on Czechoslovakia because, for the moment, they abstained from applying violent means. They continue to apply tactics that weaken and undermine the Czech state and in this they are supported by the British and the French. We must reckon with the possibility that Hitler may again turn to violent means. Nothing would be more false than to believe that Czechoslovakia is out of danger.

#### THE DALADIER DECREES

THE Daladier government has issued about a I hundred new decrees. The most important empower the government to take credits up to 10,-000,000,000 francs from the Bank of France and introduce the so-called "open-market" policy enabling the government, thru the Bank of France and the private banks, to issue an unlimited number quality of the Age. The growing of notes instead of short-term treasury notes. This opens the way for new inflation. The promulgation of these decrees puts the government in control of the banks and makes it practically independent of parliamentary control in all financial matters. It top in your present circulation marks a new step in the direction of the arbitrary rule of the executive power and weakens that of parliament. Thru inflation of the currency, the capitalists will be able to keep down the real wages of the workers and reduce the savings and the income of small property owners. Economically and politically the road is being paved for an authoritarian regime. Demoralized by the effect of the People's Front policy, the French workers and petty bourgeoisie stand by without doing anything and adopt an attitude of political indifference. From 1936 to 1937, membership in the Communist Party in What do you think of the Workers the Seine district (Paris and vicinity) decreased and abroad. We are gratified that our Age? What are your criticisms and from 36,000 to 24,000. The trade unions have come correspondent estimates the results of suggestions? Write in and do your bit down from 5,000,000 to 3,500,000 members. There towards making the Age a better and are ever more numerous dismissals of shop delegates. Very noticeable also is the increased number of bankruptcies of small businesses which find it impossible to comply with the tax laws.

#### THE LUSHKOV CASE

MHE press reports that Lushkov, G.P.U. official and commander of the Soviet border troops in the Far East, has fled to Japan by way of Manchukuo and published statements in the Japanese press betraying Soviet military secrets. As late as December 1937. Lushkov was elected to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. and enjoyed Stalin's and Yezhov's special favor. When he saw that his aide was executed and that he himself was not reelected to certain party offices, he feared for his own safety and preferred to go over to the enemy. This is the second case of a Stalin-Yezhov henchman turning fascist. The first one was the former Soviet ambassador to Rumania who fled to Italy. Evidently, the Stalin-Yezhov regime has sunk to such a low level that its instruments are mere unscrupulous careerists who have nothing in common with communism and, at the first sign of danger, desert to the enemy.

Among those whose names have disappeared from the lists of candidates to the Soviets in the last elections, we also find that of Chubar, member of the Political Buro, and Krupskaya, Lenin's widow. All four of Yezhov's aides in the G.P.U. have been executed. Will Yezhov share Yagoda's fate?

### Newsof the AGE

By ROBERT MACKLIN

"AMERICAN DEMOCRACY" PURE AND SIMPLE

N Westwood, California, a mob of deputized gangsters smashagainst a slashing wage-cut.

well handled by police deputies for of American traditions. the bosses of the Chicago Hard- During past years, the party has ware Foundry - with tear-gas adopted two distinct methods of bombs. Let me quote a news item accomplishing its ends. One, which from a New York tabloid: "One is still well-remembered, was the picket picked up a tear-gas setting up of so-called "revoluprojectile and threw it back into tionary unions," which followed the ranks of the attackers. He was the policy of destroying the trade among the six arrested on charges unions and attempting to set up of inciting to riot." Of course, the unions under the leadership and proper thing for a peace-loving, control of the communists exlaw-abiding American citizen to do clusively. Their policy during this would be calmly to allow the gas period can be exemplified by the bomb to explode in his face. Here, following quotation from the Red

#### IF I WERE A CARTOONIST

capitalist "democracy"—American we want to explode the trade-union style. You can appreciate our oft- apparatus and destroy it... there repeated contention that this kind cannot be the slightest doubt." "democracy" is the mother of fascism. But what shall we do about it? Now, if I were a carthe words Labor Party. The cartoon would not be complete without Workers Age in it. Just how, I don't know because I am not acquainted with the mechanics of cartooning. But it would be to indicate that the big fellow is welltrained in the art of offense and the union is constantly used in an defense, and in the timing of his effort to foment discontent and to the Communist Party.

# WE HAVE A RIGHT TO BE

Reading this, you may think to yourself: "My goodness, these felows are sure proud of their paper." Well, why shouldn't we be? It would be quite revealing to jot then look thru the past volumes of the Workers Age and note how it foreshadowed and forewarned the oncoming storms of world reaction and indicated clearly how to prepare for them. Oh, yes, mistakes were made; and never were we ashamed to admit and correct them, once we were convinced we

One red thread runs thru every in their ability ultimately to batter ation in rearmament. The A.E.U. tional Committee of the A.E.U., down this degenerating capitalistic is the largest union concerned. It | C.P. affiliation to the Labor Party system and to build upon its ruins is in a key position so far as re- was defeated only by the casting a new classless world without ex- armament is concerned; it is re- vote of the chairman. But there ploitation, starvation or war.

The Workers Age deserves to be considered as America's best la- ant memories of government trick- point of the rank and file. bor weekly. It deserves your sin- ery dating from 1914-1918. The The I.L.P. naturally welcomed

# Stalinism in the Unions

U.A.W. Head Wars Against Menace to Labor Unity

By HOMER MARTIN

(These paragraphs are taken from Homer Martin, president of the United false insinuations and innuendoes some other political epithet as a Automobile Workers of America.

—Editor.) ed a C.I.O. picket line around a TT is obvious to me that Amelumber mill, then raided the homes rican workers are generally of the strikers in the night and very antagonistic toward the drove them out of town without Communist Party and its entire so much as a chance to take along program. Very few communists in their meager belongings. These the labor movement will admit striking workers had dared to fight their identity; most of them will go to great lengths in attempting Another scene - Chicago, the to prove that they have no connechome of industrial massacres. tion with the party and that their There, too, the situation was very activity is in keeping with the best

them, that we want to explode their discipline, that we want to These are every-day samples of wrest from them the workers, that

"Trojan Horse" Tactics The method used during the past toonist, I would answer that by few years has been called the drawing the figure of a worker in "Trojan-horse" plan, by which the those of us who have consistently by the union. Every individual overalls, arms half-bent, fists Communist Party attempted to refused to bow the knee to their obeys the law of self-preservation; doubled, sparred off to do battle come into leadership under one dictates. with the capitalist plug-ugly. One disguise or another, one misreprearm I would label Progressive sentation or another. The color, Unionism, the other Independent size or breed of the horse is of unions is their deliberate and well-Political Action. On one fist would minor significance; the main thing planned disruption of local unions a democratic organization. Just as subjected by employers to economic is to get within the walls.

used to gain control, thru the "Trojan-horse" plan. Baseless misrepresentation of issues within discredit those leaders within the

(Continued from Page 3)

the struggle against the Popular

Front is helping to unite the I.L.P.

Trade Unions And Rearmament

garded as a union with political is reason to believe that this does

consciousness, and it has unpleas- not necessarily represent the iew-

Party.

a radio address recently delivered by the communists seek. Deliberately "Trotskyite," "Lovestoneite" or

#### Deliberate Distortion

An illustration of the device of deliberate distortion of issues in given a preferred position. the union is the confusion which the Communist Party deliberately created at the recent signing of the supplementary agreement with the General Motors Corporation by upon trade-union principles and manouvers and strategems in order the Executive Board of the International Union, an action which ers, regardless of race, creed or win the approval of the "third parwas in keeping with the provisions of our constitution. The supplementary agreement, which was implement industries. The union four separate anti-labor techniques merely amended this year and cannot make adherence to any are listed and discussed by Mr. Saactually improved thru negotia- creed or political philosophy a poss, who was aided in his study tions with the corporation was, nevertheless, bitterly denounced not seek to divide workers into in the N.L.R.B. They are: (1) "inby the Communist Party and its groups on the basis of political dependent" unions; (2) back-tostooges, because it was negotiated opinions but to unite them in spite work movements: (3) vigilantism: and signed by the Executive Board of differences of political opinions. (4) pseudo-patriotic organizations. without first being submitted to a Every member of the union, when too, was involved a struggle International of Labor Unions delegate body representing local he takes his oath of membership, increasing skill with which these unions in General Motors plants. pledges himself to work in the employers crystallize public opinenough, right above the story quot- is no need to shout from the They evidently chose to forget that interests of our union and to abide ion thru their manipulation of the ed, there was a boxed news item housetops 'Destroy the unions' as this same supplementary agree- by the policies and laws of the 'independents', back-to-work movewith this heading: "Hundreds of was done in Germany. But, that ment was negotiated and signed union. The union has no preference we want to break up the reformist last year by two of the suspended for any political belief. There is no and order', and the vigilante officers, without ratification either favored group within the union nor groups places in grave jeopardy by the Executive Board or by any is there any political group to their employees right to organize delegate body. This hypocritical which the union is opposed as such. and bargain collectively." and dishonest misrepresentation of However, no matter who is afthe issue involved is typical of fected, whether it be persons of describes as "lineal descendents many such incidents. While it was some particular political creed or of the company unions." clear to everyone that there was those who claim to have none, all no real issue involved, the com- must alike adhere to the discipline munists used it as a demagogic of the union; and any who advocate signed to support a spontaneous appeal to destroy the confidence or engage in policies or principles desire of a large number of employof the workers in the leadership of harmful to the union will be fought ees to return to work. However, in-

Communist Party to dominate

to the dictates or to follow the by raising the cry of "Red baiting." agreed upon, which all unitedly 'whispering campaign" deliberately baiting" than the Communist democracy to function and the only Communist Party is aimed at the courage to stand up in a meeting organization can be built.

undoing of labor leaders who stand | and oppose their policies, they in the way of the control which immediately raise the cry of are levelled at almost every non- means of silencing all opposition communist leader of labor in "Red baiting" is never an intelli-America. One has to turn back only gent or effective method of dealing as recently as 1935 to find the with those whom we oppose. It is Communist Party blasting away at an appeal to prejudice and no John L. Lewis and other leaders based upon a real analysis of the issues involved. There is no group tory and problems of labor, is esin the union which is immune from pecially timely at the present mocriticism; neither is there any political group which is to be

> No Political Discrimination The union is not a political organization. Our organization in based camouflaged by indirect, anti-labor receives into membership all work- to accomplish old objectives and to political affiliation, who work in ty" or the public. the automobile, aircraft or farm- Based on N.L.R.B. investigations, condition of membership. It does by Elizabeth T. Bliss, a colleague

the union also fights to preserve Another method used by the itself against all who would harm ployer groups which are resisting

by creating confusion, bringing all members should participate in pressure. . . They are designed to Practically, the same tactics false issues on the floor, and making decisions, so all members terrorize and demoralize striking which were used in the Communist generally discouraging the level- should participate in carrying out employees and to stampede them to Party's attempt to destroy the headed workers from attending these decisions once they are made. return to work. . . rade-union movement, are now their union meetings. The com- There must be freedom of discusmunists will stall for hours, using sion and opinion in our ranks. This above the law; it makes no effort every known parliamentary device, is as it should be. However, demo- to maintain an outward semblance until disgusted workers leave the cracy is not confined merely to of legality. Mr. Saposs reports: meetings, relinquishing control to freedom of discussion. Democracy "Employing violent means, it (vigialso means that, out of this discus- lantism) seeks to break up unions The Communist Party has sought sion and exchange of opinion, a and to coerce workers to foreswear labor movement who refuse to bow to immunize itself from criticism cause, a program and a policy are their right to organize." policy of the Communist Party. It However, let me say that no group support. This is the real meaning are revealed as "still another agenhas been an open secret that the has been more proficient in "Red of unity. This is the only way for cy thru which the employers operplanned and set in motion by the Party itself. When anyone has the basis upon which an enduring opinion against unionism." Employ-

suspicion of the foreign policy con- rearmament, even to defend "de- ganized to fight subversive moveducted by Chamberlain. Unfortu- mocracy", the League of Nations, ments. They actually direct their nately, this political objection is etc. Unfortunately, this has been energies toward fighting legitiand the live elements in the Labor largely influenced by League of urged more thru the newspaper mate labor organizations which

Plymouth, for instance, stated: inside the unions. "We would be prepared to work | In some parts of the country On the industrial field, the out- 16 hours a day making munitions the engineers are attempting to standing event has been the strug- if we were quite sure they would make arms for Spain, in small needed to tell the workers what is gle between the Amalgamated En- be used for the defense of demo- workshops which they themselves happening. Short-time is already issue of the Workers Age right gineering Union (A.E.U.) and the cracy." The source of this pointion set up. This is especially welcome, being worked in Lancashire textile from its very inception, and that is government. The government ap- may be gathered from the fact as the difficulties of getting the industries; railway workers comits faith in the workers as a class, proached the engineers for cooper- that, at the conference of the Na- arms to Spain may lead to an ex- ment on the decrease in goods traftension of the struggle among the fic; and trade union officials recseamen and transport workers.

Economic Decline An important factor which is ad- half the corresponding figure for ding economic forces to political 1937. In spite of growing governawakening is the decline in busi- ment orders for armaments, steel ness activity. The government dis- production has begun to decline. cerest support. The best way to A.E.U. at present is raising strong the opposition which the engineers courages any suggestion in the The Board of Trade index for gensupport it is to help win for it objections to cooperation with the showed to the government and the press that a slump is approaching eral production shows an advance thousands of new readers. Subs- government, on the grounds of rising militancy which was appar- and still tries to conduct election of one percent over that for a year

ANTI-LABOR ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES, by David J. Saposs and Elizabeth T. Bliss. League for Industrial Democracy, New York. 1938.

THIS study of anti-labor activities in the United States by the chief economist of the National Labor Relations Board who is also a profound student of the hisment. A new and "well-organized mass offensive . . . against organized labor" is under way today, Mr. Saposs emphasizes. The formerly open opposition to unionism on the part of employers is being

"Independent" unions Mr. Sanoss

Back-to-work "activities appear stensibly as civic movements, devestigation by the Board has consistently revealed that they are surreptitiously organized by emthe organization of labor, and by Our union is and must remain business dependents who have been

Vigilantism places itself openly

Pseudo-patriotic organizations ate in their manipulation of public ing the protective symbolism of Americanism, such organizationsthe authors cite, as examples, the down all the critical events of human history in the last decade, British Labor Against Popular Front authors cite, as examples, the Constitutional Educational League and the National Americanism Nations ideology. A. Young of and on the platform than by work they falsely attack as radical and anti-government."

ognize declines in their own departments. In the first quarter of 1938, plans for new factories were cribe yourself! Get new subscrib- trade-union rights, the number of ent, but urged that the A.E.U. campaigns on the slogans of "pros- ago. An actual decrease is possiunemployed engineers and political should refuse to cooperate with perity". But newspapers are not ble at an early date.

# Mr. Potash Tries to Cover Up SOME PROBLEMS OF

### New Fur Agreement Brings No Real Gains to Workers

By B. BARAZ

N his analysis of the new agreement, Mr. Potash, manager of the New York Fur Workers Union, stated: "In every industry where division of work is established, the system of temporary cards is recognized as a necessity, even in those trades where the contracting system is legalized." Tho he makes no reference to any trade in par-ticular, I surmise that he means the needle trades. In checking up, however, we find that, in the needle trades generally, security on the job is recognized thru an agreement with the employers for all workers in the industry after a week or two trial period; that temporary workers are allowed only in cases where a worker falls out because of illness or because of important union activity-otherwise there are no temporary workers in these trades. Once a worker finds a job and works thru the trial period, he or she becomes a first-class citizen in the shop, for the duration of the agreement, the worker is a member of that shop. In the fur trade, only those fortunate enough to find employment before May and continue to work in May will be entitled to the division of work up to December 31 of the same year. After this date, even these lucky ones will be at the mercy of the boss and may be discharged at his will. This will always leave the majority out and only the minority will be taken care of for eight months.

The administration of the union claims that the wage increase is a victory. Nobody can deny that one or two dollars more is a gain. But in our industry even the old agreement provided for higher wages in extraordinary situations. And the present is an "extraordi-The little boom narp" situation. during 1935 and 1936 raised the cost of living much too high for the seasonal fur worker. The industry had to consider this, and l am sure that it would be a big consideration in negotiations. ly, no fifteen-week strike would have been called for the sake of a gain of one or two dollars in wages. However, since the main demand security on the job, was lost, the administration now lauds this little gain as a big victory.

#### The Collective July Increase

A collective July increase is real ly something new in our industry Usually, some of the fur workers would strike a few days and then bargain collectively for a July increase; in other cases, the increase was obtained without a strike. The increases obtained at that time ran from \$2 to \$15, in some cases even \$20 and \$25 per week. These gains were claimed by the administration its own credit. I remind President Gold that I was criticized by him, at an office staff meeting, that in shops under my control I got July increases of only \$5 and \$6. Now, the collective July increase gives the workers from \$1 to \$6-and that only to the permanent workers! The majority of workers again are not taken care of. They will have to fight their own battles. The idea of a collective July increase is not at all bad, even tho we consider this increase very insufficient, provided it is applied to all fur workers alike. Our agreement, however, in this instance as well applies only to the "permanent" workers who constitute a minority. Here, again, the bosses got a concession from the union.

The points about older workers, foremen and contractors are embodied in the old agreement, paragraphs 11, 15, 16, 18. Surely the administration has no reason to

agreement.

#### The Partnership Clause

Something more astonishing is the point about partnership. Here, again, the union claims a great victory inasmuch as this year only two partners will be permitted to work and in 1939 only one will. I maintain the administration gave the bosses a concession for another year. To prove my point, I quote the old agreement which provides: "27.a) Only two partners or members of the firm or corporation are permitted to do productive work; b) the conference committee shall set up a joint commission composed of an equal number of representatives to be designated by the Association and the union to study the effects of this provision and in case the union is in a position to prove to the satisfaction of the commission that the majority of the manufacturers in the City of New York not under the collective agreement are complying with this provision, and that the union is enforcing same, then the commission shall regard this finding as justify. ing the establishment of a rule by the conference committee limiting the productive work to one partner from the year beginning January 1, 1937." At the end of 1936, the union did prove its case but the Association refused to grant the union this justified clause in the agreement. Now, the union, instead of affirming this point after a bosses permission to work also in

#### False Orientation I maintain that this state of af-

fairs is a result of the entirely wrong orientation of the union leadership before and during the strike. It is true that the leadership did not want a strike but was precipitated into it by the bosses who were looking for a holiday in the trade in order to settle their accounts with the dealers and get rid of their accumulated stock. The union strategists were apparently assured that such a lock-out would not be prolonged. Our union burocracy, true to their policy of class collaboration, played ball with the bosses in the negotiations until the bosses locked out the remaining workers in the shops. In this case, contrary to union traditions, the officials of our union did not answer with a strike. This game continued for seven weeks; in the meantime, the bosses finished up whatever work they had in the independent shops, which were permitted by our union to continue work. When the situation became very serious and the workers threatened to revolt, the union burocracy was forced to call a general strike. Here, again, contrary to all traditions, the union announced the calling of the strike ten days in advance, thereby giving the manufacturers the final ance to finish their work From the very beginning, the union leadership let the bosses know that they were not going to press hard for the main demand-security on the job-tho they repeatedly assured the workers they would sooner resign than sign an agreement without this provision.

During the strike, the Communist Party members of the union and their sympathizers were put in charge of every committee. other union members, with the best abilities and traditions in union work, were disregarded. Factionalism swayed the strike leadership. One person, who was given a post on the hall committee as a sort of cover for a fake united front, was removed in spite of his devoted work only for the reason that he refused to take part and to urge the strikers to take part in the Communist Party May First demonstration.

Since the union has been united, boast of these as gains in the new it has collected over a million dol-

lars in dues, taxes and initiation fees. Once a year for the past three years, a day's-wage tax was collected. But, when it came to paying benefits during the strike, only 15% to 20% of all strikers could get from \$4 to \$5 benefits and the rest did not get anything. During the entire strike, the union paid out no more than \$80,000 in benefits. In view of the fact that there was little activity during the strike, it is surprising that the officialdom claims an expense of \$220.000.

#### Trying To Cover Up In order to cover up such a

situation, they shout at the top of their lungs about the great victory scored at a time of crisis such as this. But the fur workers know better. They know that the union, despite its big income, entered the strike financially unprepared and with low morale; they know that, only a few weeks before the strike, the union leadership invested \$50,000 in cash in the building it occupies. The same officialdom paid out thousands of dollars to its own committeemen. This was done in order to prepare a oiled machine for after the strike. A system of espionage was introduced. This G.P.U. was given the task of following up the "Love stoneites" and the others who dared disagree with the administration. The leadership knew in advance that the outcome of the strike fifteen-week strike, gives the would not be favorable to fur workers. It therefore prepared its people to try to make the "Lovestoneites" the scapegoat. They began to spread rumors that the "Lovestoneites" were trying to break the strike, that the "Lovestoneites" were agitating the strikers to make a rush on the union treasury for benefits, etc., etc. The fact, how-ever, is that we were instrumental in holding back the workers in this respect. We served as an example. Not a single "Lovestoneite" received a single penny in benefit during the entire strike. Shops in which we worked were model shops in every respect. The workers had confidence in us and, against the will and in spite of the administration, elected us to important committees But the union officials have to cover up their misdeeds so they are trying to put the blame on the "Lovestoneites." The officialdom knows that the workers do not pay any attention to their statements so they are aiming to impress people on the outside. But here, too, it will not

> (This is the second of a series of two articles by B. Baraz on the recent furriers strike. The first appeared in the last issue.—Editor.)

### Labor Day Anti-War Day in Harrisburgh

Harrisburg, Pa.

For the first time in many years, Labor Day will be celebrated in this city. The initiative in reviving the custom was taken by the Keep America Out Of War Committee in response to the request of the Labor Anti-War Council that Labor Day be turned into an anti-war day.

The Harrisburg Peace Council, an independent federation of peace groups, has just voted to join the K.A.O.W.C. and become its local affiliate. I. Zimmerman, K.A.O. W.C. organizer, recently spoke over the local radio station, under the auspices of the council, on the results of the Washington Con-

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# SOUTHERN FARMERS

(Continued from Page 3) move into towns and cities of the South, there to seek relief. They constitute a threat to the labor standards of the industrial workers who will have employment and they stand ready at any time to take the places of those back on the

Last year, these thousands of dispossessed farmers found a little employment during the cottonchopping and picking seasons. The current wage rate was around a dollar a day. In spite of the tractors, there was a demand for wage labor because there was a large acreage planted in cotton. This year, of the thousands who are willing to work for any wage, only a few can be used at the wage of 75c per day.

In Memphis, Tennessee, where several thousands of those displaced farm workers are living, truckload after truckload of workers would leave each morning from the east side of Harahan Bridge for the cotton plantations of Arkansas in 1937. Today, in cottonchopping time, only a few trucks are loading out each morning. There are hundreds who still congregate at the loading place each morning who are unable to get a job at a lower rate of pay. No program designed to overcome the present business recession or to affect greatly economic conditions in the South can hope to be successful without taking into consideration these people and planning projects for their employment. There cannot be more than a semblance of prosperity when the great masses of rural people of the South have no means of purchasing even bare necessities.

#### The Department of Agriculture Program

The program being administered by the Farm Security Administration under the Department of Agriculture for reestablishing people on the land cannot hope to reach the people who are in greatest need. The masses of southern farm laborers, whether they are tenant farmers, sharecroppers or day laborers, cannot be reached in time to speed recovery of southern agriculture, business and industry.

We feel very strongly that the Department of Agriculture is not the agency of government for handling this immediate relief problem. The Department of Agriculture is a business organization devoted to furthering the interests and improving farming methods for farmers, particularly landowners. We would not expect the Department of Commerce handle the affairs of industrial labor nor should we expect such an agency to administer relief. Clearly, this is a problem to be handled by the Works Progress Adminis-

There is no sound reason for allowing these displaced farmers to go into the cities in search of relief or to join the ranks of the migratory workers, of whom some 200,000 are said to be in the state of California now. These people are largely ex-sharecroppers and tenants from Texas and Oklahoma. The Southern Tenant Farmers Union recommends the adoption of a program to end rural unemployment by establishing the unemploy ed workers in homes upon land where they may make a subsistence living, supplemented by a publicworks program providing employment until such time as industry or agriculture can absorb excess labor and provide jobs at wages in keeping with American standards of living.

It should be the object of such a program to provide each farm family in the country with a home and land sufficient for raising its

own living. Large enough tracts of land should be purchased by the government for establishment of projects housing 100 or more families. Cooperative farming of community holdings should be encouraged under supervision of trained agriculturists. Such projects should be located near centers of population so that, should employment be available in private industry, the workers could go to and from their homes and jobs. The construction of stable bases for such unemployed rura workers would prevent them from so readily taking jobs of industrial workers at lower wage standards, to say nothing of making for intelligent and well-informed citizenry. Houses should be constructed substantially but as cheaply as mass construction will permit. The cost of such rural homes should be held to a minimum and provision should be made for purchase of livestock, cows, chickens and hogs and such equipment as is necessary for each family. Homes should be individual types but built in the form of villages around a community house, school and church and a cooperative store. One of the most serious defects of rural farm life at present is the isolation of the farm people and the lack of recreation facilities. We believe that such a rural community life is the most desirable and that it would lead to an ultimate solution of one of our most pressing problems.

#### Basis Of The Program

All farming on such projects should be on the basis of a "liveat-home" program, without such cash crops as cotton being grown to flood an already overburdened market. Cash should be provided for the purchase of necessities of life thru jobs on public-works projects, such as the building of schoolhouses, farm-to-market roads, public-marketing facilities for farmers as well as continuous construction of other rural-housing projects, all of which are needed badly in the South.

If such a program were initiated immediately, within sixty days thousands of unemployed workers would be given jobs, building materials would begin to move and additional workers called back to their jobs thruout the South and nation. At least 150,000 families should be established in homes.

In developing such a program of rural housing, we know that men with social vision would necessarily have to administer the projects and we further feel that certification of the families eligible to go on these projects should be determined by federal rather than local agencies. With certification of eligibility left up to local authorities there is always the possibility of local issues entering into the cases discrimination a and members of labor groups.

Inasmuch as the recently enacted wages-hours bill does not apply to agricultural labor nor does the labor-relations law, and with farm labor excluded from the benefits of all other social-security legislation, we believe that it is only fair and logical for the government to give some form of security to this section of the rural population. The best security that can be given the farm population is security with land and homes for those who need them.

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