

# LABOR STRIKES FOR LIVING STANDARDS AS ARMY CHIEF SEES WAR IN A MONTH

## War Entry Nears as F.D.R. Asks for Partial Mobilization

WASHINGTON, June 4—General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, testifying before the House Military Affairs Committee, told the country today that the United States may be in the war within the "next month or two". He gave this as the reason for granting the President full control over the National Guard, including the right to send the men outside the country. Saying that there is a possibility of "trouble" in the near future in the Western Hemisphere, he added that the army had to be prepared for military intervention in Latin America.

President Roosevelt last week pushed his drive to concentrate all war-making powers into his own hands.

On Friday, in his speech to Congress, he shocked the nation by his sudden request for full control over the National Guard, a step equivalent to partial mobilization for war, involving 235,000 men now working in offices, factories and mills, and 15,000 officers.

The proposal indicated that the President is preparing for immediate military actions. It was accompanied by the boosting of the proposed war appropriations an additional billion dollars, thus making a grand total of about five billion dollars allocated to the war machine for the coming fiscal year.

The President's demand, supported by General Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, in a war-mongering speech, was unfavorably received in the country. Despite the war hysteria created by Roosevelt, the latest Gallup poll reveals that the overwhelming majority of the people are still against the U.S. entering the war.

Under present laws, the President has the power to call National Guard units in case of invasion or insurrection, and has control in other cases only if Congress declares a national emergency. Roosevelt gave no explanation for his unusual request. General Marshall stated that the emergency power was necessary so that the National Guard could aid the regular army in Latin-America, if necessary.

According to Raymond Clapper, Scripps Howard Washington commentator, the purpose of the proposal is to prepare for American intervention in Mexico in case of civil war. "It was mainly with this situation in mind that the request for authority to call out the National Guard was made, although officials hesitate to say so," he writes in the *World Telegram* (June 3, 1940).

According to a United Press dispatch from Washington on the same day: "Some (members of Congress) expressed the opinion that Mr. Roosevelt desired complete control over reserve forces at this time so that they could be used as weapons against any sitdown strikes in factories making defense supplies." The President alone knows exactly why he wants immediate control of the National Guard, but he re-

(Continued on page 2)

## Shachtman Speaks at Series of Successful Meetings in Chicago

The first series of meetings in the middle west, scheduled for the anti-war speaking tour of Max Shachtman, national secretary of the Workers Party, has been completed.

Following the successful debate with Professor Albert Hyma, of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor (reported elsewhere in this issue), Shachtman spent a very active week in Chicago. The highlight of his tour there was a meeting in Washington Park, sponsored by the Negro forum. Over two hundred Negro workers were present to hear Shachtman speak on the war and the United States.

On the evening of the same day, Shachtman spoke at a south side meeting organized by the Workers Party branch in that area. More than fifty workers, the majority of them, Negro, were present. In addition to these meetings, the national secretary of the Workers Party addressed a fine meeting organized by the Socialist Club at the University of Chicago. One other meeting, a city-wide gathering in Chicago's Loop, remains scheduled before Shachtman's departure for the west coast.

Prior to the Chicago and Ann Arbor meetings, Shachtman, spoke at

## Use "Defense" Screws To End Shipyard Strike

KEARNY, N.J.—The first big strike under the new national defense program was called off when Local 16, Industrial Union of Maritime & Shipbuilding Workers, CIO, voted to return to work Monday morning, June 3, for wages which they had rejected last Thursday. The strike involved 6700 workers in the shipyard here of the Federal Shipbuilding & Drydock Company, subsidiary of the U.S. Steel Corporation. It held up for several days all work on \$36,000,000 worth of U.S. naval craft—two cruisers and two destroyers.

The strikers defied not only the Roosevelt Administration but also their own top union leadership, which opposed the strike. Quoting John F. Dempsey, president of Local 16, the *N.Y. Times* stated:

"Mr. Dempsey said that he, William J. Carney, regional director of the CIO, and John Green, president of the union, realized that the strike would put the workers in an unfavorable light in view of the defense program, but the men had argued that the strike was necessary because of the rising cost of living." The men asked for 10 cents an hour increase in wages and a week's vacation after one year of employment. The company countered with 2½ cents to 4½ cents an hour increase and no other concessions. Yielding to pressure from all sides, the strikers gave in on Sunday. But it was a great strike while it lasted.

On Friday morning there were 2000 to 3000 on the picket line. Saturday morning, the same powerful line blockaded the shipyard gates. Nobody was at work in the plant. 6700 men were out.

Stettinius Embarrassed  
All of this must have been very embarrassing to E. R. Stettinius, chairman of U.S. Steel Corp. and  
(Continued on page 2)

## ILGWU Delegates Subjected To Barrage of Pro-War Talk

NEW YORK—Plans for organizational campaigns and reports of past activities in the out of town silk dress, cotton and knit-goods trades were placed before the convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, meeting in Carnegie Hall here during the past week.

A demonstration of workers newly organized in out of town shops was one of the most colorful and impressive events in the entire convention. With banners bearing the name of towns scattered throughout the entire nation, the new members paraded through the hall and on to the platform singing the stirring ILGWU songs which had cheered them to victory on the picket lines. Massed on the platform, they pledged their devotion to the union and their determination to carry on until the industry was 100% union. The convention and the packed galleries gave the new members an ovation.

While the convention sweltered under a barrage of pro-war oratory, committees were grinding out reports which will be voted on in the last days of the convention. Resolutions on war, constitutional amendment, affiliation to the AFL and the presidential election are among the most important items to be dealt with.

Low Point  
A resolution praising part of the work of the Dies Committee, but criticizing it for not pushing an investigation of anti-Semitic agitation, called for its dissolution and for the continuation of its work by a new Joint Congressional committee on "subversive" movements. The passage of this resolution constituted a

## The Same Old Tune!



## Wilson Case Goes to Trial

Politicians Seek to Obscure Issues with Red-Herring Humbug

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—The politicians, responsible for the beating of James Wilson, unemployed mechanic, answered the growing popular resentment against their conduct by framing Wilson on a charge of assault.

Ralph H. Hamilton, local political figure, and Emile "Wacky" Lauziere,

Hamilton henchman, appeared in court as witness and plaintiff against Wilson. According to the story they told in court, it was Wilson who assaulted them, rather than they who assaulted Wilson. Exactly how this tale squared with the fact that Wilson had to be sent to the hospital where doctors asserted he was in serious condition, and then was ordered to remain in bed for 10 days in order to recover from his wounds, was not established by the lawyers of Hamilton and Lauziere.

As a matter of fact, when the trial was first begun, Wilson was unable to appear in court because of the injuries which "Wacky" Lauziere had inflicted on him. Yet the Hamilton-Lauziere crew had the gall to accuse Wilson of assaulting them!

The final payoff on the matter came when Kirkor Torigan, owner of the garage in which Wilson was working and in which he was assaulted by Lauziere, testified that he had heard Wilson tell Lauziere: "I'm not looking for any fight now." Torigan told the court that when he turned around again he saw a fight taking place.

This attempt of the Hamilton gang to absolve themselves of the responsibility for the near-fatal beating of Wilson is being met head-on by the Wilson Defense Committee, composed of unemployed workers in the

Cambridge area who are supporting Wilson's struggle for a chance to live.

Not Intimidated  
The political big-wigs of the Cambridge area are still on the anxious seat. They did not expect anything like the wave of popular resentment that arose in Cambridge as a result of their brutal treatment of the unemployed worker. According to the commentator of the *Boston Observer*, the Wilson Defense Committee is being "thoroughly investigated." The politicians are trying to put the squeeze on the members of the Defense Committee through this investigation.

In addition to this maneuver, the Hamilton crew is utilizing the old "red scare" technique to obscure the real issues involved. The real issue, of course, is the right of an unemployed worker to receive relief without at the same time being victimized and exploited by the politicians connected with the relief machine.

The Hamilton gang and their political masters can yell from today till doomsday about "reds" and "fifth columns", but the fact remains that the Wilson Defense Committee intends to continue its fight to assure the right of Wilson, and other unemployed workers like him, to get unemployed relief without having to serve as a stooge for a phony politician and his mobsters.

## Los Angeles Loses Anti-Labor Witch Hunt Under Cover of "Fifth Column" Investigation

LOS ANGELES, May 29—Southern California's witch hunt was inaugurated last night with a blare of publicity when District Attorney Buron Fitts of Los Angeles met with some 300 law enforcement officers in the so-called Hall of Justice.

The nature of the meeting and of the plans laid can be gathered from a list of those attending. Included in the 300 guests were chiefs of police of more than 50 southland cities, members of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, as well as representatives of military and naval intelligence and various other Federal agencies.

Announced purpose of the meeting was the setting up of an organization

to fight "fifth column" activities.

Aimed at Workers  
Workers must be on guard, for the witch hunt is on. And it is not a hunt primarily against agents of Hitler. It is a witch hunt aimed particularly against workers and all others who don't want to die in an imperialist war, who oppose Roosevelt's frenzied war preparations and all those misguided individuals who still believe they enjoy the rights of freedom of speech, press, and assembly.

Following yesterday's meeting, the District Attorney declared that some 6,000 additional trained investigators have been added to the constituted

## Knudsen, Stettinius Faces Red

CIO Top Leaders  
Blow Hot and  
Cold on War Issue

The big news of this week is that American labor has begun to fight for its rights and interests against the anti-labor offensive now being launched by the Roosevelt Administration under the cloak of "national defense". The two mightiest industrial corporations in the country were involved—U. S. Steel and General Motors.

Furthermore, by one of those dramatic "coincidences" that seem to happen so often, it is to the executive heads of these very corporations that Roosevelt has entrusted the job of preparing U.S. industry for war. Chairman Stettinius of U.S. Steel and President Knudsen of General Motors had hardly moved into their handsome offices in Washington, to exercise semi-dictatorial powers over American industry, when the news broke of the "labor trouble" in their respective companies.

In Kearny, N.J., six thousand shipyard workers in the huge plant of Federal Drydock & Shipbuilding Co., a U.S. Steel subsidiary, staged a four-day strike for better pay and working conditions that it took the combined efforts of the Federal Government and their top leaders to call off. (See story on Kearny strike, by special correspondent of LABOR ACTION).

In Detroit, Mich., the General Motors Council of the UAW-CIO rejected the company's counter-proposals for next year's contract and threatened to call out on strike 135,000 automobile workers if the company refused to grant wage increases and other demands. On Tuesday, June 4, the Union's executive board met in Washington and took a further step towards possible strike action by

(Continued on page 3)

## King Gives Up Sundays to Watch Workers Labor

"The King had given up his Sunday at home to see the workers in this big arms factory, which has been open day and night, seven days a week, ever since the start of the new production drive."

—New York Times  
June 3, 1940

Federal authorities already delegated to deal with "the situation." This is another way of saying that 6,000 additional government spies are being loosed upon the workers. These spies will be placed in factories and workshops, will be delegated to keep tabs on their neighbors, to listen to telephone, street car and cafe conversations,—and to report back any criticisms of the government.

This system is one of the recognized means of suppression and terror adopted by totalitarian states.

"Patriotism"—for What?  
While steps to set up similar systems are being instituted through-

(Continued on page 2)





