

Workers! This Is Not Our War!
It Is a War for Boss Profits!
Join Hands in Independent
Labor Action Against the War!

LABOR ACTION

We Say—
Conscript War Industries
Under Workers' Control!

AUGUST 4, 1941

ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

THREE CENTS

GREETINGS TO THE UAW CONVENTION

ORGANIZE AIRCRAFT!

Unfinished Business!



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS OF AMERICA-CIO:

Your international convention, which convenes at Buffalo on August 4, will meet in the most crucial period in the entire history of the international labor movement. You meet in the midst of the SECOND WORLD IMPERIALIST WAR. You meet at a time when the working class of every country in the world is being pressed into the various national armies for service in that war. The United States, the country in which you live and work, is pushing ahead, with giant strides, for active participation as a shooting belligerent in this SECOND WORLD IMPERIALIST WAR.

Even those of us in the ranks of labor who will not serve in the army are nevertheless involved in this war. It touches us at every point in our lives. The war penetrates our homes; we pay more for the food we eat and the clothing we wear. The taxes we pay, both "hidden" and direct, increase and cut into our meagre incomes. The war lays its hands on us in the factories where we work: we are busy producing instruments of death and destruction, while production of the things which bring comfort, happiness and life to mankind decreases from month to month. Our hours of labor are increased, the work week stretches out. We have difficulties with the boss, who despite his big profits, shows slight inclination to pass on to us a decent portion of the wealth which we produce. The men in Washington, who make and execute the laws of the country, hamper us in our legitimate efforts to produce a decent standard of life for ourselves and our families.

The rulers of the country, in the government and in industry, have only one interest in labor: sacrifice for the war! Fill the battalions and regiments and be ready to die! Toil away at the bench, the lathe and the production line! Close ranks and be resigned to your fate! Fold your hands and turn the other cheek—this is another war to make the world safe for democracy.

YOU HAVE A POWERFUL UNION

You know these things; you have felt the bosses' lash, and the drive into the IMPERIALIST WAR. You have organized and fought back. You didn't fold your hands and you didn't turn the other cheek. All the way from Vultee to Ford's you have carried on and won. And what a victory you wrung from the old scoundrel on the River Rouge!

You have a powerful union today, 458,413 paid up members. The income of your international for the past year was over a million and a half dollars. Your interna-

tional secretary-treasurer announces that for the coming year the income will amount to over two million dollars. Such a large membership and two million dollars can accomplish a lot in your industry. You have already done an excellent job, but you have more to do in the future than you accomplished in the past.

The annual report of Secretary-Treasurer Addes announces that there are, or soon will be, 500,000 unorganized aircraft workers. This industry is expanding at an unprecedented rate. Only the CIO can organize these workers. They really don't want the AFL. They want an industrial union and not a hodge-podge of craft unions with high initiation fees, high dues and frequent jurisdictional quarrels. They know that this is no way to get effective organization. Furthermore, these relatively young workers don't want to be in an organization infested with racketeers and gangsters. They don't want strikebreakers like Frey (your international can make some improvements at this point) and FBI stooges like Dan Tobin.

AIRCRAFT IS THE NEXT BIG JOB

We agree with your international that the next big job before the UAW is the complete organization of the aircraft industry. There are Fords in the aircraft industry that you haven't cracked yet. This is a big job; they will hold out and dodge as long as they are permitted. They will stall around with "mediation" and all the other tricks available to the bosses with their high priced lawyers and the advantage of a friendly government, interested only in getting into the IMPERIALIST WAR.

Therefore the organization of aircraft is a big job. It will require all your resources and ability. It will require a great deal of determination and courage. It will require militancy. You will have to fight. This is the main war industry and Roosevelt has already demonstrated in a most vicious manner what he thinks of strikes in aviation. When he turned North American Aviation back to the company, he said that he would take the same step again if he felt it to be necessary.

But you have no other course but to go through with this campaign to bring the aircraft workers into the CIO. It seems to us that this must be the chief organizing drive of the UAW in the months to come. Martin, Douglas and Curtis-Wright are no tougher than Ford, Bethlehem and old Tom Girdler. They will tumble like all the rest if you show them that you mean business and are not to be turned back.

We believe that you have other work to do. Wages are not as high as they should be or can be. There is an organized ten-

(Continued on page 3)

If Auto Production Is Cut - -

The proposed plan of the government to change the automobile plants from peacetime to wartime production of material has caused a great deal of uncertainty in the ranks of the automobile and related industries. The industry has two billion dollars in war orders. Automobile producers have already been ordered to reduce production of passenger cars and household equipment by 20 per cent beginning August 1. Leon Henderson, price administrator, says that production may have to be cut 50 per cent.

If this change-over is carried out abruptly and in any drastic manner it will throw thousands out of employment, at least temporarily. Such a lapse in employment will work hardship on these workers and their families. No one can say now, neither the government nor the manufacturers, just how long the layoff would last.

This would be one other instance of placing the cost of the war on the workers. It isn't their war and there is no reason that labor should bear any of its burdens. The workers prefer to continue with the production of implements of peace, equipment that promotes the peace, comfort and happiness of mankind. But the bosses are at war and they need military planes, cannons and tanks. Then let them bear the burden and foot the bill.

There is only one correct demand for the automobile workers to make in this situation. Demand that THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EMPLOYERS PAY THE REGULAR WEEKLY UNION WAGE TO EVERY WORKER IN THE INDUSTRY FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF THE LAYOFF. This will be a sort of special unemployment insurance for the period that the workers are waiting to return to their jobs. This is a simple demand that even the bosses and the government can understand.

A Point for the UAW Agenda

Jobs for Negroes!

One of the most serious and pressing problems that should occupy a part of the sessions of the convention of the United Automobile Workers is the plight of the Negro worker in industry. This problem can be stated very simply: Negroes are either barred from the "defense" industries, given the most menial jobs or discriminated against in other ways after being hired.

This is a fact despite all the agitation that has been going on, and despite the recent "executive order" of President Roosevelt dealing with this vicious discrimination against Negro workers by the employers' handling billions in government war contracts. Roosevelt has appointed a commission to deal with this question. It is to make an investigation and go through all the rigmarole that usually is the habit and practice of government commissions. This is not enough and nothing will come of it.

THE FACTS ARE KNOWN

There is no need for long and ponderous investigations. The facts are known: Negroes are not given jobs in the factories and plants. A few corporations hire a handful of Negroes just to be in position to say they hire Negroes. This is fakery and everybody knows it. After turning over heaven and earth, numerous intercessions and pleadings with some big corporation head, he agrees to put on a few Negroes. Thousands of white workers of all races and nationalities are free to walk up to the factory gates and be hired on their merits. A few Negroes, however, are slipped into the plant only after special negotiations. They are not free to walk up to the plant, like any other American citizen, apply for a job and be accepted or rejected on the same basis as any other worker.

A few Negroes get in, we say, because someone finally decides to make some token placements, or because they have been recommended by the National As-

sociation for the Advancement of Colored People, the Urban League or possibly by some prominent humanitarian white person who assures the management that Negroes won't walk off with a lathe, or get drunk on Saturday and fail to report for work on Monday morning. This is the practice of corporations today. It is a means of covering up and protecting the company against the charge of Jim-Crow. But Jim-Crow goes right on and thousands of Negroes are barred from employment.

WHAT IS NEEDED NOW IS ACTION

The solution of this problem and the bringing of genuinely changed conditions rests with the trade union movement, particularly with the CIO. We say particularly with the CIO for the reason that the AFL does not come into court with clean hands. The AFL can not agitate against Jim-Crow because this organization is one of the most disgraceful Jim-Crow outfits in the United States. It would be quite a sight to see Bill Green, Matthew Woll or the head of the machinists' union demanding that the employers cease their Jim-Crow practices.

The CIO can tackle this problem and it can get results. The fundamental platform of the CIO for industrial unionism and its repeated emphasis on the admission of all workers to its ranks, irrespective of race, creed or color lays the base for effective practice. What is needed now is action: strong and insistent demands on industry that Jim-Crow cease, that Negroes be hired in the same way that white workers are hired and that they be given the same classifications, the same rating and the same opportunity for advancement as the white workers.

CIO MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE

The CIO must take the initiative in this. This question should be placed on the agenda of every CIO convention and in the meeting of every CIO local. Local executive committees, grievance committees and shop committees should be alert to this problem. The CIO unions must begin by seeing that Negroes are drawn into the union leadership, local and international. They should be given responsibility and there should be insistence on their carrying responsibility as good loyal union people.

This matter should have a prominent place on the agenda of the UAW convention in Buffalo. There are thousands of Negroes in the automobile industry. There are thousands more who would like to get in. The UAW has jurisdiction over aircraft and this is the chief sore spot in the matter of Negro exclusion from industry. Only by some such procedure as we outline can we develop the solidarity of labor in the United States. No one will deny that solidarity is necessary if labor is to win against the employers.

The Strong Right Arm of the UAW

made this record in the aircraft industry since its convention a year ago—

1. Victorious Vultee strike sets pace for 225,000 workers in entire industry, debunking "national defense" hokum.
2. Brewster, Briggs, Ryan, Harvill and many other contracts follow militant UAW organization.
3. North American workers win 75-10 demand, in spite of strikebreaking by government and CIO leaders.
4. Douglas and Consolidated on the agenda.

Labor Needs Political Action Too!

Wherever you turn, you come up against the political arm of the bosses.

You come up against it when anti-labor bills are considered by Congress. You come up against it when Roosevelt uses bayonets to crack a strike. You come up against it every time you try to better your conditions in militant, organized action. Yet, in meeting this problem, labor has lagged far behind the gains it has made in economic action.

The CIO has led many brilliant and historic strikes—some of them in recent months. By actions of this kind, for example, the CIO has licked Girdler, toppled Ford from his open-shop throne, and won splendid wage concessions at North American—despite government strike-breaking.

These were actions carried out as class against class—worker against boss. Thus, on the economic front, labor, and especially the CIO, has won victories through using its independent might.

Politically, however, labor has been tied by its leaders—including the leaders of the CIO—to the boss machine and to the boss system.

POLITICAL SERVANTS OF THE BOSS CLASS

At this very moment, Hillman is serving in the boss government—and serving the bosses, of

course. Hillman is a part of the Roosevelt Administration. As such, he supported the use of bayonets against strikers; as such, he is Roosevelt's top sergeant in the ranks of organized labor; as such, he is a boss flunkie assigned the task of whipping labor into line behind the war program.

So, too, at this very moment, Roosevelt is paying off a POLITICAL debt to the AFL's Tobin by persecuting a group of Minneapolis unionists who sinned, in the bosses' eyes, by holding fast to the principles and practice of labor militancy and, holding fast to these principles, quit the AFL to join the CIO.

And not so long ago, when labor had an opportunity to make its own political record, its leaders in the union movement combined in pitching the working masses to either one of the boss parties. Hillman and Tobin took the stump for Roosevelt. Lewis and other CIO officials took the stump for Willkie. But is there a trade unionist today who has not realized that Roosevelt and Willkie are both cut out of the same boss cloth, that both, in moments of important decision, will act ruthlessly and forcibly against labor.

We repeat: every day we come up against problems which are basically political—be it a bill to seize plants, be it a political stab at unionists, be

it a bill to compel "mediation" board jurisdiction in economic disputes.

In fact, the CIO recognized this at a recent conference. This conference was organized to discuss the political issues arising out of the many anti-labor bills now pending in Congress. At this conference John L. Lewis clashed with Potofsky of the Amalgamated (acting for Hillman) on the Roosevelt-Hillman labor policies.

The clash indicated a difference of POLITICAL approach to labor's needs and interests, although very confused, incomplete and half-hearted on Lewis' part, and very clear on Hillman-Potofsky's part. Hillman-Potofsky are foursquare for "playing politics" on the bosses' side. Lewis acts like a man stumbling through uncharted land, sometimes swerving this way, sometimes that way.

THE BASIC ISSUES ARE POLITICAL

Now let's be clear about it: the basic issues, which confront us are political issues. The whole business of the "defense" program and labor's participation in it is a political as well as an economic issue.

A wise man once said that wars are an extension of politics; and that obviously goes for war (Continued on page 4)

JUST A SAMPLE LIST OF PROFITS -- FIRST 6 MONTHS

	1941	1940	Per Cent Increase
General Motors	\$286,537,905	\$168,470,460	70
Bendix Aviation (9 mos.)	9,507,894	5,694,308	70
Republic Steel	13,618,716	6,449,453	111
Western Union	3,044,721	935,701	220
General Tire	1,004,443	280,563	250
Jones & Laughlin	8,098,227	3,276,256	140
B. F. Goodrich	6,646,033	1,362,691	478
Crucible Steel	2,924,430	1,817,293	60

Of Special Interest To Women

By Susan Green

The primary purpose of the furious campaign AT THIS TIME to collect aluminum is NOT AN URGENT NEED FOR THAT METAL.

The false impression has been created that there is a shortage. The fact is that there is, and will be, plenty.

Not only are the present needs of the imperialist war machine being amply met, but huge quantities of the metal are being stored up for the future. When the workers of the monopolist Aluminum Company of America were striking some months ago, they accused the company of a merciless speed-up not only to meet the demand of the market but to pile up tons of reserves to be sold in the future—AT WAR PRICES, of course.

With the government policy of allocating supplies and cutting down civilian consumption, it will be a very long time before the present supply will be used up!

Furthermore, according to the New York Times: "Oxidized aluminum is among the most abundant things in the earth's crust. If we are efficient enough about arranging the energy transaction with nature, we will be repaid with all the pure aluminum we can use."

Why, then, at this time, the rush to collect old pots and pans?

Here is the answer: The war-makers are using every trick in the bag in an effort to make the people WHO DON'T WANT WAR, think they do!

By hook or crook Washington is trying to stir the overwhelmingly anti-war population into war activity. An all-out aluminum campaign is as good a pretext as any other. Hitler is not the only would-be master of mass psychology.

But I have my doubts. A working woman may give a Woolworth aluminum pot that has been used until it became bent and burned through. But that is not going to make her feel she has enough of a stake in the boss war TO SEND HER SON OR HUSBAND TO FIGHT FOR IT.

In America the ruling class is just starting to "sell" the war to the common people. In England, Germany and the other belligerent countries, they are still at it and have not yet succeeded.

Mrs. Jean Knox, the new major general in command of the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service in England, thinks she can knock them down and drag them in by promising women more dates.

By the simple lure of a snappy uniform she hopes to increase her force from 50,000 to 200,000, to do cooking, secretarial and other work in the army.

She says she has designed a four-paneled skirt and a tailored jacket in which her troops will look so ravishing that they will get all the dates. This in turn is supposed to act as an inducement to more young women to join up and wrap themselves in that magic uniform.

"JOIN THE ARMY AND GET MORE DATES!" Don't laugh! You can't expect the British war-makers to shout: "JOIN THE ARMY AND FIGHT FOR OUR PROFITS IN INDIA!" Have a heart!

At the fruit and vegetable counter in the A&P two women were picking out oranges and bitterly complaining about rising prices.

"Yesterday these oranges were fifteen for twenty-five cents; today they are thirteen. I suppose tomorrow they will be eleven."

"They tell us to eat vitamin foods," replied the second woman. "That's fine if you have the money. Look at this head of lettuce. Imagine paying fifteen cents for a few leaves of lettuce in the summertime. Honest it galls me."

"Heaven knows they're not putting oranges and lettuce into airplanes. I suppose they raise the prices of everything—just on general principles."

The general principle on which the prices of the necessities of life are being boosted daily is that WAR IS A PROFITEER'S PARADISE.

For the bosses, financiers, food brokers and big merchants, war is an El Dorado.

Mr. Henderson, who is supposed to be curbing the appetites of these pay-triots, is too busy with other matters to do anything about the prices of oranges and lettuce.

Just now he is occupied with cutting down the output of automobiles in favor of bombers—thus threatening masses of workers with unemployment and the general dislocation of their lives.

As was to have been expected from a boss politician, Mr. Henderson is giving too much attention to the war needs of the bosses and too little to the vital needs of human beings.

I have an idea that thousands of organized working class housewives, assembled in Washington from all over the country, picketing OPACS, would make Mr. Henderson sit up and take notice of the prices of oranges and lettuce and a few other things!

At Southampton and Newport, where the rich go for the summer to escape from the stuffiness of their air-conditioned penthouse apartments, the price of food is, if possible, of less concern to the dowagers and debutantes than ever.

They fete each other at brunches, lunches, dinners, dances, beach racetrack and garden parties. Turn to the society page of any paper any day and read something like the following:

"The 400 guests danced under a huge marquee erected on the lawn. The interior of the marquee was lined with turquoise blue with white pleating, and blue and white were used in the other decorations."

This gives you a rough idea of the style in which the "haves" enjoy themselves.

That the price of food has gone up 15 per cent since the beginning of the war does not give these women of the boss class any gray hair. Skyrocketing prices which to the working women spell malnutrition and poor health for their families, to the wives and daughters of the war profiteers mean MORE LAVISH PARTIES!

THAT'S AMERICAN DEMOCRACY IN A NUT-SHELL!

LABOR ACTION
114 W. 14th Street
New York City

Dear Friends:
I am interested in learning more about the Workers Party and its fight against the bosses' war plans.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____

For Workers' Control of Price-Fixing What to Do About the Rise in Prices

By FRANK DEMBY

The developing war economy in the United States has finally reached the point where every person in the country will feel its effects in the most direct and immediate sense. It has been announced from Washington that price-fixing legislation will be introduced into Congress this week. The immediate reason for this drastic step is that the inflationary movement of prices is threatening to get out of hand. This would cause a tremendous increase in the cost of the armaments program, as well as a serious weakening of civilian morale. The experiences in World War I and since have taught the capitalists that rapidly rising prices must be prevented at all costs, if they would preserve their system from social disintegration.

LABOR ACTION has repeatedly pointed out that the capitalists are face to face with a dilemma that free, competitive capitalism cannot solve. The spending of billions and billions of dollars for war purposes means either inflation or totalitarianism. There is no escape from this dilemma under capitalism. Leon Henderson, director of the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply, has already admitted that voluntary control of prices is breaking down. Many corporations simply refuse to abide by the price ceilings, that is, the maximum prices, set by Mr. Henderson. Others are getting around the price ceilings by producing articles of inferior quality—without, of course, advertising this fact to the consumer or to the government. Still others are developing a very refined illegal or bootleg trade, especially in certain key raw materials. All of this is perfectly natural and inevitable under a capitalism where the urge to obtain profits takes precedence over everything else.

MORE MONEY TO BUY LESS GOODS

If a manufacturer finds that his costs have increased due to (1) increased wages as a result of labor's drive to improve its standard of living or simply to maintain living conditions at existing levels (2) higher prices for raw materials, as a result of higher shipping costs imposed by the war and higher prices for agricultural raw materials as a result of the government's farm program, or (3) higher taxes, as a result of the government's attempt to defray somewhat the cost of the war program, he will not voluntarily content himself with a reduced profit. He is in business to make the maximum profit possible, and his concept of patriotism gives him the moral right, and even the

obligation, to pursue his profit-making instincts to the utmost. Moreover, if he should attempt to curb them, he will soon find himself swallowed up by a bigger capitalist. Consequently, he raises the prices of the things he produces and sells.

This development is clearly shown by the fact that wholesale prices have risen almost 50 per cent since the outbreak of World War II and by the current rise in retail prices which is rapidly threatening to equal that of wholesale prices. This development is absolutely irresistible as the war economy expands in size and scope. For it has meant a tremendous increase in available consumer purchasing power, accompanied at the same time by a considerable decrease in the production of consumer goods. The shift from consumer goods industries to war industries is only beginning to get under way in this country, but it will now proceed at a very rapid rate. Putting the matter in its most simple terms, more people have more money with which to buy less and less goods. Prices must go up under such circumstances unless controlled by the government.

ALTERNATIVES UNDER CAPITALISM

Government control of prices, however, is not a simple matter—as the British and American governments have already learned. If done on a piecemeal basis, it is incomplete and only serves to create antagonisms and dissatisfaction without preventing inflation. "It is realized by the Administration," says a dispatch to the New York Times of July 18, "that unless prices are strictly controlled or consumer buying is kept down by some other means, inflation can scarcely be averted. A study of German methods of price control recently published by the Commerce Department indicated, however, that control of prices is not effective unless (1) all prices are controlled, (2) wages, rents and dividends are also controlled."

Here the capitalists run squarely into the second horn of the dilemma. If prices are not controlled, there will be inflation, with all its catastrophic consequences. On the other hand, if prices are controlled, it must be a strict and complete control in order to be effective. Half-way measures will not suffice, as the experience of England clearly shows. The only way that inflation can be prevented under a capitalist war economy is to follow the German method. Rigid control of all prices means complete government control of the entire economy. The government will decide how much profit the capitalist will make, how much

rent the landlord should receive, how much wages the worker should get. The government, in effect, will decide where industries are to be built, whose capital and how much of it will be used to build the necessary war industries, what workers will work and where they will work, and under what conditions they will work. Such a complete ordering of people's lives by a government, in this era of capitalist decay, means totalitarianism—no matter how pleasantly it may be dressed up by clever propagandists. In other words, the only way that inflation can be prevented under capitalism is through the adoption of fascist, totalitarian methods.

This is already understood by certain sections of the population. It will soon be understood by everyone with eyes to see, for price-fixing means arbitrary control of the dollar. Arbitrary control of the dollar means an attempt to freeze the class struggle. At present, each class in society and each group within each class uses its own peculiar methods of struggle to obtain more dollars. The dollar, so to speak, organizes the class struggle in an orderly manner. If the dollar ceases to have this function, as would be the case under complete price-fixing, a substitute must be found; otherwise, the existing society disintegrates. The only substitute that can be found under existing conditions is the armed might of the state. Soldiers with bayonets and policemen with clubs and revolvers, backed up by the courts and the prisons, will enforce the price-fixing decrees.

To be sure, a workers' state, that is, a state organized and controlled by the majority of the population in their own interests, could take care of production and price problems through the method of democratic economic planning. This is not in any way to be confused or identified with the barbaric, bureaucratic and totalitarian planning that exists in Stalin's Russia. In fact, a genuine workers' state in this country of virtually unlimited natural resources and a very highly developed technique of production based on a high productivity of labor, could probably maintain a war economy, necessitated by the requirements of the struggle against Hitlerism, without any decline in the standard of living whatsoever. In fact, a proper utilization of our immense resources, both human and natural, would probably witness a rising standard of living—even under a war economy.

BIG BUSINESS DEFENDS ITS INTERESTS

Unfortunately we do not have a workers' state at present. Mr. Roosevelt heads a capitalist state. Under a capitalist state, the whole program becomes transformed into one of getting the prices in which you are interested favorably fixed in relation to all other prices. This explains the heavy influx of dollar-a-year big business men into various governmental posts in Washington. "If there must be price-fixing," say the capitalists, "we'll do it. Then we can be sure that there will be no interference with our profits." Senator Bankhead, a representative of the big cotton plantation owners, is reported in the press as having challenged any move toward pegging (fixing) prices of agricultural commodities unless controls were fixed all along the line on wages, salaries, rents and industrial commodities. He also warned that any effort to put a maximum price on cotton, either by direct action on the staple or by fixing a price on manufactured cotton goods which would operate to depress the price of raw cotton below 20 cents a pound, would meet "strenuous and determined opposition from the friends of the farmers in and out of Congress." The price of cotton, it must be added, is at present about 16 cents a pound, having risen about 6 cents since the beginning of the year. This represents the highest price raw cotton has reached in a decade.

Thus we see the representatives of capitalists and farmers descending on Washington in droves to defend their respective interests in this all-important matter of price-fixing. What are the workers and their representatives, especially the leaders of the trade unions, doing about the matter? So far, except for some pious declarations by Murray and Green against control of wages, the working class has been absolutely silent, as if it were totally unaware that the problem exists NOW.

WHAT THE WORKERS MUST DO

The workers cannot take the position that there should be no control of prices, for the workers suffer more than any other section of society from inflation. And yet, of course, the workers would be the real losers from a totalitarian development. This does not mean that the situation is absolutely hopeless. Certain actions can and must be taken—at once.

First of all, the workers must be educated to understand what is involved in this question of price-fixing. This is primarily the responsibility of the trade unions. They, if they are to do this educational job properly, must immediately get away from the absolutely fatal notion that a totalitarian system developed as a result of the necessity to fix prices will disappear once the war is over. This is 1941—not 1918. The war is clearly going to be a long and costly one. Even if American imperialism emerges the victor, it will be far too weak to give up the totalitarian controls instituted during wartime.

Secondly, the workers must send their delegations to Washington to defend their own interests in regard to the fixing of prices. The trade unions clearly have the power to do this, provided they have the will.

Thirdly, and most important, the workers must insist on workers' control of price-fixing. After all, the workers represent the overwhelming majority of the population. Why shouldn't prices be fixed in the interests of this vast majority, rather than (as is now the case) in the interests of a small, exploiting minority? Big business men will never fix prices in the interests of the workers. The democratic method would have the majority fix the prices—since they must be fixed—in the interests of the majority. This could be done very simply in the case of commodity prices, by having a price control board for each commodity or each group of related commodities on which the majority represents the workers. Again, for the fixing of basic prices for wages, rent and interest, there must be a general price control board firmly controlled by the workers. Only in this way can the workers have any guarantee at all that the twin evils of inflation and totalitarianism will be avoided. Of course, in the long run, as I have tried to make clear, the real solution of the problem calls for an end to capitalism and the establishment of a workers state as a necessary transitional step on the road to socialism.

Organize Aircraft - -

(Continued from page 1)

dency to drive hours up. To be sure you get time-and-a-half and double time for work beyond 40 hours. But you'll soon discover that you can't stand the grind. Even in Germany, Hitler had to reduce the hours because the workers could not hold out. Furthermore, an increase in hours isn't necessary. Numerous plants today are not working three shifts. As the speed-up increases you will discover that even eight hours are too long. Then you can demand a six-hour day with four shifts.

You are accepting the longer work week now because you want to make more money. But that is a shortsighted view. You are entitled to higher wages right now with no increase in the work week. A recent report of AFL economists shows that ten leading airplane corporations which make most of the airplanes could have increased the wages of each of their workers \$544 in 1940 and yet have enough left to pay 8 per cent dividends to each stockholder. This means that each company could have increased the wages of its workers over \$10 a week in 1940 and still pay big dividends to the stockholders. Instead you got an increase of only a few dollars a week, and you had to fight like hell for even that.

The New York Stock Exchange reported that airplane companies listed on the exchange increased their dividend payments for the first half on 1941, 106 per cent over the first half of 1940. Dividends increased 106 per cent and wages only about 10 per cent.

The money is there; you are creating tremendous wealth by your labor but the majority of the folks getting this money are people who have never even seen the inside of an airplane factory. There is no need for you to be working yourself to the bone in order to make a half-way decent living. A militant organization drive in aircraft such as the Ford drive will bring results to the aircraft workers and to the union.

YOU WILL FACE GREAT OPPOSITION

You will face opposition when you go forward with the campaign to organize the aviation industry. This is the chief of the IMPERIALIST WAR INDUSTRIES. In breaking the strike at North American with the Army, President Roosevelt demonstrated what the imperialists have in mind for keeping production going. Your only course when you face a stubborn boss is to strike and stop production. You know now that these must be militant mass strikes. The bosses only learn when they see thousands of determined and courageous workers on the picket line. This is a lesson that every worker must learn.

There will be attempts made to hold you

back. You will be told again and again that all of us must "sacrifice for defense." Some of this advice will come from the leaders of your union and of the CIO. Your leaders will take this position because they are supporters of the imperialist war. They talk about the present war program being a defense program just like the boss does. These leaders run into all sorts of trouble and difficulties when they try to support labor and the boss government war program at the same time. The bosses are out for profits; Roosevelt wants to become "President" of the world after the war is over.

We want to defeat Hitler and we must defeat Hitler. But there are some Hitlers here too that we must defeat and this is our first job. We aren't going to defeat the Hitlers here by joining the bosses in the war which they are fighting for profits and world domination. Most of your leaders give full support to the war. This puts them in the hands of Roosevelt and the bosses. It is impossible for them to serve two masters: the Roosevelt-boss government, and labor. They must choose one or the other, and it is the business of the masses of labor both in the CIO and AFL to insist on this.

To carry through a real effective campaign for the organization of aircraft and other industries requires militant, democratic unions. The leadership must be democratically elected and under the democratic control of the union membership. On all important questions the leadership should be under instructions from the union membership. Union leaders are not responsible to Roosevelt or some "mediation" board, but to the membership of the union. This is what trade union democracy means.

WHERE WILL WE WIN OUR BATTLES?

These and many other questions discussed in this issue of LABOR ACTION will, or should, come up in your convention. The Workers Party believes that the position we express is one that more and more workers will come to accept as the weeks and months go by. The main question is the SECOND WORLD IMPERIALIST WAR. The Workers Party advocates that labor oppose the war. It is not a war for democracy and against fascism. We don't want to fight for the profits of the bosses. We want to fight for our own liberty and freedom from boss exploitation and oppression. This fight begins in our unions: for complete organization of all labor, for a fatter pay envelope, for shorter hours.

Right now is the time to intensify this fight against the boss while he is making the biggest profits ever known. This will lead to a thousand picket lines. We can not shrink from this: that's the place and the only place that labor can win its battles.

Take It Up - - Higher Wages For Draftees!

A Union Problem

We want to propose another point for the UAW agenda, if it isn't already there: namely, the problem of the draftees.

Most of these draftees are young workers. Many, if not most of them, were working at their first decent job in years when the government yanked them into the army. And, of these, a good many were union men.

What we want to propose is that the union consider the needs of the draftees and then work out a program to help them and to keep in touch with them.

It doesn't take much investigation to learn that conditions in the camps are worse than miserable. Even the capitalist press has published reports of draftee discontent—and the basic issues of discontent are two in number: they don't want to fight in the bosses' war, and they want higher wages while they are compelled to serve in the bosses' army.

There are a great many others, but these are the principal beefs. For the present, however, we will merely take up the second one: the matter of higher wages.

A TRADE UNION WAGE FOR DRAFTEES

As everybody knows, the bulk of the draftees are getting \$21 a month. A few get a little more. It doesn't take much reckoning to figure out how utterly puny is that "wage." Out of that money they have to entertain themselves, buy extras in food (no small item) and meet a great many other expenses, including fare on furloughs, and a few bucks for those who depend on their income at home.

Why shouldn't these men get a wage somehow equivalent to a trade union wage—estimated on a MINIMUM of \$30 a week? That works out to about \$60 a month PLUS ALL EXPENSES. In fact, they ought to get an allowance for each dependent at home, but right now we'll limit ourselves to the basic wage demand.

This is certainly the job of the unions! Who else can be expected to fight for this? True, a few scattered journalists have proposed a higher wage, but their columns carry less than little weight. The only kind of campaign that can bring results is a campaign organized and carried out by the labor unions.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT REASON

Apart from the elementary solidarity which we must show members of our class, whether they are in the army or the factory, there is another important reason of especial concern to the unions. Every time workers in a factory strike, the brass hat jingoes try to whip up a spirit of resentment in the camps: here we are getting only \$21 a month, and "those guys" want 75 cents an hour or more.

Well, every trade unionist knows what's wrong with that argument. The beef of the draftees should be directed toward getting higher wages for themselves, not lower wages for labor.

But the unions must show the draftees where they stand on this issue and, by doing that, win them and keep them on the side of labor. Up to now it has been the union man in the camp who has countered Administration efforts to direct draftee resentment against labor and the unions. But we must give them help from the outside, that is, give them help by organizing a campaign in their behalf.

We know that many union men in the camps keep up contact with their union—either through correspondence with the business agent or by paying dues—yes, paying dues out of the lousy twenty-one bucks they get. Let us show these men that the union fights for their interests wherever they may be; let us show the others who did not belong to a union that the union is the only place they can go for help.

Put it on the agenda. Discuss the wage problem and other problems of the draftees. Organize a campaign for: Sixty dollars a month minimum wage for conscripts—the last employer to pay the wage differential between the \$60 and what the worker was earning.

A Dispute Over What? AN EDITORIAL

The New York Herald Tribune for July 30 says that the strike of Local 3 of the electrical workers (AFL) was called in a "jurisdictional dispute with the Consolidated Edison System of New York." It is interesting that the papers do not say that this is a jurisdictional dispute between the IBEW and the Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees, which there is every reason to believe is a company-controlled organization. The Brotherhood claims jurisdiction, so it seems that if there is a jurisdictional dispute it would exist between the Brotherhood and the IBEW. The Herald Tribune says, however, that it is a jurisdictional dispute between the company and the IBEW. Does the Herald Tribune mean by this that the Brotherhood represents the company and that the Brotherhood and the company are one big happy family. Both the IBEW and the CIO will probably agree to this.

But if the Herald Tribune would say that it is a jurisdictional dispute between the Brotherhood and the IBEW it would still be wrong.

They would be wrong despite the fact that the Brotherhood won an NLRB election. This Brotherhood is not a real union. They don't even pretend to be in spite of the blarney of their attorney that it is a "well organized industrial union." Why does the Brotherhood remain outside both the AFL and the CIO? Why do the electricians of the Brotherhood work for \$1.00 an hour while the IBEW gets \$2.00 an hour. Why do they work a 40 or 50 hour week when the IBEW works only 30 hours? The IBEW works a 30 hour week and gets \$60. The Brotherhood electricians get only \$50 when they put in 20 hours more than the IBEW. There is plainly something wrong in the Brotherhood.

We have to say a word on the chair warming, brass-hat admiral at the New York Navy Yard. This Marquart sent word to the union that "In the Navy things happen fast, and it takes only twenty seconds to fire a gun." This blarney of a little Mussolini added with a smile: "Of course we're not going to fire any guns."

As was to be expected, the whole pack is howling about holding up "defense production." The workers of Local 3 have their own defenses to look out for. They must maintain their wage scale and their working conditions so that they and their families can have some security. These workers want a little "defense" in their pockets.

No Government Contract Without a Union Contract!

THE WORLD AT WAR

Japan Rests Fate on Hitler Victory as Indo-China Move Brings U. S. War Challenge

By MAX STERLING

Last week we discussed the Japanese move into Indo-China. We said that this attempt would be made so that Japan's southern flank would be protected when the Japanese start their moves against Russia's Maritime Provinces. That was our interpretation of Japanese policy after the fall of Matsuoka.

Tokyo's plans for the occupation of Indo-China were so carefully concealed that only last week Washington speculated on Japan following a "conciliatory" course upon the fall of the Matsuoka-Konoye cabinet. The Japanese prepared their blow with the usual blandishments and sabre rattling. It is possible that this Japanese adaptation of Teddy Roosevelt's "speak softly but use the big stick," threw official Washington off its guard.

NO TIME LEFT

However that may be, Roosevelt certainly lost no time as soon as the Japanese move became a fact. Severe economic reprisals were ordered. Japanese assets in the United States were immediately "frozen". In quick succession, the entire British Empire and the Dutch East Indies followed suit. While this does not establish, of itself, a complete economic embargo on Japan, it is nevertheless a terrific body blow to Japanese economy. Goods can be released to Japan now only by special permission of the governments that have taken this "freezing" step. The economic noose is now around the neck of Japan. The "democracies" need only to tighten the rope.

In order to get an approximate idea of what these reprisals may mean to Japan, one need only know that the United States supplied her with most of her oil, cotton and steel products; that is, with precisely those products that are absolutely essential for the war industries.

From the Dutch East Indies the Japanese were to take 1,800,000 tons of oil per annum, according to an agreement arranged last November. Originally this figure was 494,000 tons and the increase measures the extent to which the Japanese have been stocking up on war materials.

It is true that the Japanese have retaliated by "freezing" United States, British and Dutch East Indian assets, but this will have very little effect on the economies of these countries since the Japanese trade with them represents only a minute part of their total trade and the Japanese products are of a kind that is not basic to their industries.

WHY THE STEP?

The question that arises is: Why did Japan undertake the move into Indo-China, knowing that it would bring such dire results? It may not be fair to say that the Japanese knew that such reprisals would follow. However, of this at least one can be sure: Tokyo reckoned with the probability of such reprisals. Why, then, did Tokyo decide to face the prospect of being cut off from the world's trade? Where will she now get the oil, the steel, the cotton and all those other products without which Japanese economy, already on the skids, cannot possibly function? Even Latin America will close the door to her if Uncle Sam applies the necessary pressure. As for her partners in the Axis, very little help can come from them, now that Russia is on the other side.

It may be said that Japan has stocked up considerably for just this occasion. If true, that can only mean one thing: the Japanese are aware that the next six months will decide their destiny. Thus Japan has finally decided that the period ahead offers the most favorable prospect for the realization of her ambitions. The Japanese have crossed the Rubicon. There is nothing left for Japan but to push on, fervently hoping that Hitler will prepare the way for her. If in the next six months Hitler fails to score decisive victories over the Russians and fails to engage the British and possibly the Americans in tremendous battles in the Mediterranean or the British Isles, then the Japanese face inevitable disaster.

The urgency of Japan's present situation, economically and militarily, is exposed by the new Japanese Finance Minister, Masatane Ogura, who said: "The primary thing for Japan to do is to push ahead with the construction of the Greater East Asia self-sufficiency, co-prosperity sphere. Fortunately, the vast region of Greater East Asia, with Japan, Manchukuo and China as the center, is blessed with an abundance of men, materials and resources."

Finance Minister Ogura insisted that the Japanese government had foreseen the American and British

actions and declared that "the government left no stone unturned in taking counter-measures, so there is no need for concern over the Anglo-American step." His final words were: "In the face of the super-emergency confronting Japan, I hope that the entire nation will cooperate with the government in the execution of its policies."

For what Japan has set out to do—the conquest of the vast regions of the Pacific with which they hope to attain a measure of self-sufficiency—Mr. Ogura will indeed need the complete support of the Japanese people. The fate of Japan lies with events and forces outside of her boundaries. Should these fall her, the last explosion will come from within, from the war-weary and long-suffering Japanese masses. The imperialist chain may break at her weakest link, and the weakest link is Japan.

WAR CHALLENGE

Next on the Japanese schedule is Thailand. Like Indo-China, it will be incorporated by "agreement." It is possible that after this undertaking the Japanese may offer the olive branch to the "democracies," especially if Hitler should fail to weaken the Siberian frontiers. This is possible if the Russians continue with their stiff resistance in European Russia. It is certain, however, that the "democracies" will remain adamant. The action of the Dutch East Indies in cutting Japan off from its oil is a guarantee of that. That action was a war challenge on the part of the Allies. They have dared the Japanese to invade the Dutch East Indies, an invasion that will most certainly mean war.

It is equally certain that the Japanese will not accept this challenge at the present time. They hope that Russia will be ripe for them first. If this does not happen, then the attack on the Dutch East Indies and Singapore will come as an act of desperation.

In the meantime, Anglo-American imperialism prepares for the day. A nucleus of an American Far Eastern Army has been organized, based on the Philippines and headed by General MacArthur, former chief of staff of the United States Army.

In Congress the Far Eastern situation has had the effect of assuring the passage of legislation which will extend indefinitely the term of the draftees and the limits of the army. A Russian military commission has arrived in the United States which will now receive more sympathetic consideration as a result of the Japanese move on Indo-China.

In China the Japanese course is being followed with the closest attention. The Chinese military intelligence reports large Japanese troop movements toward the Siberian frontiers. The Chinese Stalinists have made their peace with Chiang Kai-shek. It is reported that they have agreed to place themselves under Chungking supervision and to disband the Fourth Route Army. In return the Chungking government agreed to subsidize the Communists by more than 2,000,000 Chinese dollars and to extend slightly the territory under Communist control. The Chinese Communist Party issued a proclamation asserting that in the event of a Russo-Japanese war, the Chinese Communist armies must engage the Japanese troops in China at all costs and must join Russia in fighting the Japanese on a common front.

Thus the stage is set. Events in the Far East are moving with incredible speed. A great battleground is being prepared in which Russia and the imperialisms of Japan, Great Britain and the United States will match their destinies.

Brewster Trial

Jury Ousts 4 Union Men

LONG ISLAND CITY—The leaders of the alleged wildcat walkout of the aircraft department in Brewster Aeronautical Co. received the verdict of the trial jury last Friday. These men were charged with leading a walkout of the department, the settling of whose grievances was being stalled by the union, the company and the Labor Board.

Four of the men were expelled from the union and fined \$100 each; three men were suspended for a period of 60 days and three were acquitted. None of the evidence was presented. There was no discussion. The members present were asked to approve or disapprove the verdict of the jury without knowing how the verdict had been reached.

Very little democracy was shown in this case from beginning to end. Most of the members of the union are still very hazy about the whole business and should realize that it is their right to challenge the methods used by the union officials.

The Auto Workers Convention and the CP Line

The Stalinists Swallow Their Tail

By DAVID COOLIDGE

In the Daily Worker for July 14, 1941, the Stalinists state their revised confession of faith for the trade union movement, in line with the 1941 edition of the People's Front. The party "line" for the convention of the United Automobile Workers is stated in an article by Roy Hudson. In line with their general policy since Stalin and Hitler ceased to be friends, the Stalinists are out to prove that they are ready to go along with even the most reactionary elements in the unions provided only that they are willing to help Stalin save himself and his fellow murderers in the Kremlin.

Hudson, speaking for the Communist Party, begins his article with felicitations to the UAW but soon gets down to the real business: "The UAW convention will, of course, have to devote considerable time to the discussion of the foreign policy of the government and steps to assure the full mobilization of its membership to influence and determine the course of the government in the direction of the adoption and execution of policies guaranteeing the defeat of Hitler and Hitlerism."

What, specifically, is that foreign policy of the government that the Stalinists want the UAW members to be concerned with? They want the members of the UAW to be concerned with the war. "The UAWA membership . . . has shown in the past that it was opposed to the United States becoming involved in the war . . . the workers saw no practical way of defeating Hitlerism by supporting the Anglo-American bloc of imperialists."

"But now with the Soviet Union . . . battling Hitler's hordes, the workers know that the character of the war has changed. They know that

Strike Wave Sweeps Over Los Angeles

By JACK WILSON

LOS ANGELES—A wave of 22 strikes swept through this city in the past two weeks, highlighted by the walkout of 3,200 members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Eighteen of the strikes quickly brought at least partial victories for the workers involved.

Fifty thousand aircraft workers here expect to obtain higher wages and much better conditions soon as a result of the North American Aviation strike victory that achieved a 75 cent minimum and a ten cent general pay raise.

While the North American victory served as an inspiration, behind this fresh wave of strikes is an even more potent force: the skyrocketing rise in the cost of living.

Discontent Deep

How deep-seated the discontent has become is shown by the ILGWU strike where the workers, after remaining dormant for a long time under the burden of a bureaucratic leadership have rallied into militant action.

Downtown Los Angeles gives an impression of a general strike going on, since every street corner is dotted with picket signs. In the garment center, mass picket lines hold sway. Minor skirmishes with scabs added zest to the militancy of the ILGWU strikers while nearby 500 employees of the Owl Drug Stores paced up and down in front of the many chain stores located downtown.

And there is the threat of 1,500 workers at the Aluminum Corporation of America plant here to strike under the CIO banner unless the company comes through with a real contract—signed, sealed and delivered.

On to Union Town

Each strike or threatened strike serves to expose the horrible conditions for employees in this once open-shop center.

The wage-hour division of the U.S. Department of Labor issued a blast against the garment manufacturers for violating the low minimums set up under the law.

Many of the women employees are working for \$12 and \$14 a week in the sweatshops here, when the law provides for at least a miserable \$16 weekly. And the hours are long, six days a week.

The ILGWU is demanding a 15 to 20 per cent wage increase for unionized shops. It is also trying to organize many non-union shops, especially in sportswear, which employs 5,000 workers. Failure of the ILGWU top leadership to create a real strike organization jeopardizes the possibility of winning a total victory.

An important factor aiding these strikers and other workers is that the war boom has created enough of a competition for labor among the bosses. Raising between plants, promises of higher wages, etc., are used to get workers.

Los Angeles is moving rapidly toward becoming a union town.

the dangers to their own freedom and independence have increased immeasurably by this attack on the USSR."

What Hudson Means

Mr. Hudson, of course, doesn't stop in his flow of eloquence to explain his reasoning. According to Hudson, the workers saw no way of defeating Hitler by supporting England and the United States. But now that Russia is fighting against Germany there is a way of defeating Hitler. Does Hudson mean that the workers saw no way for the Anglo-American bloc to defeat Hitler and therefore refused to support this bloc? Is he saying that since another country, Russia, has joined the Anglo-American bloc, that bloc, now has a chance to win and therefore should be supported by the workers in the United States? Furthermore, how have the dangers to the workers in the United States increased by the attack on the USSR? All of the capitalist statesmen and capitalist newspapers say that the danger to the workers and others in the United States have lessened due to the Hitler attack on Russia. They mean that while Hitler is busy with Stalin, England and the United States have an opportunity to make further preparations. Also England can attack Germany from the rear. It is a fact, too, that the mass of the workers take this view of the matter.

This of course isn't what Hudson means. He hints, only hints, at his real meaning when he writes: "but now with the Soviet Union . . . battling Hitler's hordes, the workers know that the character of the war has changed." Hudson doesn't attempt to explain to the workers why the Stalinists hold that the character of the war has changed and that therefore they should now be for the war, for the Lend-Lease Bill, for aid to imperialist Britain and why such aid should "be carried out with the greatest speed."

Hudson and the Stalinists are a little shame-faced about the participation of Stalinist-Russia in the war changing the character of the war. They should be; for in order to demonstrate to any worker with two grains of sense that the character of the war has changed they must prove that the participation of Russia in the war has a progressive character, that such participation aids the cause of the workers of the world. Hudson hints that Russia is still the workers' fatherland as it was in the days of Lenin. The Communist Party tries to make it appear that the Stalinist gang in the Kremlin still fights for world socialism and for the liberation of the peoples of the world from capitalist oppression. Hudson wants to make workers believe that the Communist Party in the United States has a clean and consistent working class record of militant revolutionary activity in behalf of labor. He forgets that some of us can read and that we can remember what we read.

Stalin's Record
We remember that Stalin framed up and murdered the old Russian revolutionists, the leaders of the October Revolution. That he sent thousands of militant and revolutionary workers to concentration camps; that he destroyed the trade unions and the workers councils; that he destroyed the workers' revolutionary party of Lenin and Trotsky.

We remember that Stalin and his gang set up a criminal and cruel bureaucracy in the Soviet Union; destroyed all civil liberties; established forced labor and put the GPU in charge not only in Russia, but sent these murderers and spies roaming all over the world to destroy all those who opposed Stalin.

We remember, the Stalin-Hitler pact that gave Hitler the green light to march into Poland and start the Second World Imperialist War. We haven't forgotten either that Stalin marched into Poland, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia on a grabbing expedition.

We know that none of these things was in the interests of the world working class, but solely in the interest of the Stalinist bureaucracy. Such actions could not serve the working class and socialism because Stalin was working hand in hand with Hitler and the most reactionary people inside the Soviet Union. Furthermore, Stalin did not and does not have the confidence of the workers because he had betrayed them

and sold them down the river.

The Communist Party in the United States has carried on all the anti-working class policies and activities of the Stalinists in Russia. They jumped backward and forward through the hoop any and every time Stalin cracked the whip. They have put the Internationale on the shelf and poured forth the Star Spangled Banner whenever the "line" changed. They have been militant or reactionary in the unions, depending on the particular intrigues Stalin and the GPU were engaged in at the moment. Their activities have not been determined by the interests of the working class in the United States but by the position the stupid and treacherous Stalin found himself in.

Workers in the United States remember these things and more. That's why Hudson can not explain how and why the character of the war has changed. The Stalinists can't say that the entrance of Russia into the war has changed the character of the war because the workers' fatherland has been attacked, because the "land of socialism" is being assaulted, because the Stalinist bureaucracy is leading the world working class to victory. Labor would throw this monstrous lie back into their teeth. They know that the Stalinists have betrayed labor all over the world.

A Little Shame-Faced

There is another reason the Stalinists are a little shame-faced in explaining how and why the character of the war has changed because Russia is in it. It is very noticeable that they do not talk at all now about socialism, the class struggle and the world revolution against capitalism. Russia is fighting only for home and fireside, for national independence; the same thing that England is fighting for. One Russian poet said that the Red Army was fighting for "humanism." According to Stalin, there is not fighting for socialism; there is no call on the workers of the world to overthrow their own national imperialist masters. On the contrary, the Stalinists of the world are now calling on the workers in England and the United States to support the war, support the bosses who only yesterday they were calling imperialist bandits.

Thus they say that the character of the war has changed; that it has changed because Stalin and his GPU gang have changed camps. They have quit stooging for Hitler and are now stooging for Churchill and Roosevelt. First, they betray the workers to Hitler, now they are ready to betray them to the Anglo-American imperialists. And all this to save Stalin and his gang, to keep them in power. This is the real meaning of what the Stalinists call a change in the character of the war.

In the Unions

How do the Stalinists attempt to carry out their new (also old) line in the trade unions? First on the matter of Stalinist wrecking tactics in the unions. Here is what Hudson says: "The Communist Party as an organization never did, does not now, and never will attempt to dominate a union." This, of course, is a barefaced lie. They have attempted to dominate unions in the most vicious anti-working class manner. They have planted their GPU agents in workers' organizations. Wherever the

Stalinists got control all democracy was at an end in that union.

They have given up "fraction" work in unions. They used to have "fractions" for the purpose of making certain that all Communists behaved as the best union members and did nothing that would hurt the union or discredit the Communist Party." These scoundrels seem to think that every worker is a dope. The Stalinists never gave up "fractions," they only substitute GPU control of the party trade unionists for fraction democratic procedure. Also, why do the Stalinists apologize for having fractions in the unions? Why do they lie? What's wrong with a working class political party attempting to win trade unionists to its political point of view. The Democrats and Republicans have "fractions" in the unions. Quite often the boss party "fractions" are composed of the union officers. The function of the working class party "fraction" in the union is to combat the propaganda of the boss party "fraction" in the union, demonstrate to the workers how to carry on the class struggle and lead labor to a complete break with the Republican and Democratic Parties.

Why should any real working class political party make apologies for such procedure? It doesn't have to unless it is a party of betrayal, union wrecking, and a party that subordinates the interests of labor to the interests of the Stalin gang. This is what the Communist Party is.

But the Stalinists are not through crawling yet. Hudson explains their attitude on strikes. "Communists do not always favor strikes. They are not for strikes for the sake of strikes . . . its members are often able to judge even better than the workers in a particular plant, if the time to strike is ripe, if other methods of struggle might not be better under the circumstances." What does all this ducking and dodging mean? It means that Stalinist attitudes today on the strike are not going to be determined by the conditions in any plant. They will be determined by conditions in the Kremlin. They will be against strikes today because their blood-stained hero, Stalin, has ordered them through his GPU agents to adopt "other methods of struggle."

The Stalinists, according to Hudson, support strikes if the workers insist on going through, but after the strike is over, "then, naturally, the Communists try to bring the lesson home to the workers, showing them that often other forms of struggle can be adopted, that there is need to be not only militant but FLEXIBLE in the application of the tactics of struggle." We want to emphasize again that this flexibility is not determined by the concrete conditions that the workers face and their degree of preparation; but by the conditions that the Stalinist gangsters find themselves confronted with.

The Stalinists will be bringing a lot of lessons "home to the workers" these days. Yes, there will be "other forms of struggle" proposed!

More Fakery

The Stalinists are astounded that anyone should attempt to "speak in our name and try to divide the UAWA with lies about our leader . . ." But since the question has been raised, the Stalinists admit that they are for the re-election of Thomas.

Here is more fakery and fraud. Who was preparing a fight for the UAW convention, if not the Stalinists? The only reason that they have changed is that Stalin is now a partner of Churchill and Roosevelt, who yesterday were imperialists but now, along with Stalin, are champions of "democracy."

They urge a stop to all discrimination in the unions "because of political opinions." The Workers Party urges the same thing. But the Stalinists have been the chief offenders in this. They have persecuted and hounded militant workers out of the unions who refused to follow the Stalinist political line. They are prepared to follow the same course today. They will support the most reactionary forces in the unions. They will yell for support of the "defense" program. They will support the war all down the line and will join with the FBI to hound and harass all militant workers who refuse to bow to the will of the warmongers.

The workers therefore are face to face again with Stalinist treason and betrayal. LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party months ago warned workers about this. We said that if the Stalin gang fell out with Hitler, the Stalinists in the United States will turn around and become supporters of the imperialist war. Now it has happened. Labor must turn a deaf ear to all the pleas and proposals of the Stalinists on the war. They should defeat them for every union office, including membership on leading union committees and boards.

How Fight Them?

This is not what the Stalinists call "red-baiting" and no worker should be taken in. The Stalinist party is not a revolutionary party, not a party that struggles in the interests of the workers of the world but against their interests. All their power and influence should be washed from the labor movement.

Does this mean that the Stalinists should be barred from union membership? Most emphatically, NO. But they should be barred from office and leadership. NOT BY UNION CONSTITUTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS, BUT BY REFUSAL OF THE UNION MEMBERSHIP TO SUPPORT THEM FOR OFFICE IN UNION ELECTIONS. No worker should be barred from union membership except for concrete anti-union actions. This should apply to Stalinists, Republicans and Democrats alike.

Also, what we say about the Stalinists should give no support to other reactionaries and warmongers in the unions. There are Hillman and his group of bootlicking war shouters. Some of them will be present at the UAW convention. They are real "red-baiters" and should get no support. They also will attempt to tie the convention to the Roosevelt imperialist war chariot. They will be against the Stalinists despite the fact that both groups will be supporting the imperialist war. The convention should give no support to the war, no support to the imperialist war plans.

AGAINST ALL THE IMPERIALIST WAR CAMPS!

CONSCRIPT THE WAR INDUSTRIES UNDER WORKERS CONTROL!
FOR A WORKERS' GOVERNMENT AND A PEOPLE'S ARMY!
NO CONFIDENCE IN THE ROOSEVELT GOVERNMENT!

8,000 Electrical Workers Strike Con-Edison

Local 3 Takes to the Picket Line to Smash Company Union

By SUSAN GREEN

NEW YORK CITY—The 8,000 skilled electricians in Electrical Workers Union, Local 3, AFL, are out on a general strike, the first general strike in the industry since 1907.

By unanimous vote and with great enthusiasm, the men have undertaken to smash the Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees, a company union which is being used by big-boss Con-Ed in an attempt to undermine Local 3.

So strong has been the stranglehold of Con-Ed on its employees that, at an NLRB election held a year and a half ago, the Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees, a stooge union, won against Local 3 and the CIO. With the company's

nerve strengthened by the results of the election, it went further and took away from Local 3 the construction jobs on its new \$1,000,000 power plant at 39th Street and First Avenue, Manhattan.

For 20 years Local 3 men had been getting the work on all construction for the Con-Ed system—at the union scale. But the 600 construction jobs on the new plant were filled by members of the stooge union—at an average wage of \$1 an hour, instead of the \$2 paid union men. And, whereas the union week is 30 hours, the 50-hour week was instituted. It was only after Local 3 began its agitation that the company was compelled to shorten the week to 40 hours.

The strikers claim that these 600 construction jobs belong to Local 3 at union wages and conditions. They say if they let Con-Ed get away with this union-busting ruse, other employers will soon follow suit, and union standards, won through long and bitter struggles, will be permanently undermined.

On Tuesday morning, when the strike began, more than 3,000 men congregated at strike headquarters and threw their mass picket line about the new plant. This was at 7 a.m. Later the pickets divided into groups and went to other construction jobs to picket, leaving about 600 at the First Avenue plant. Several hundred strikers picketed the main office of the company on Irving Place.

At the union meeting held at Manhattan Center Monday night, at which the strike vote was taken, rank and file members were the ones who urged the strike. It is a well

know fact among Local 3 men that it costs the big monopolist of the light and power of New York City only half a cent a kilowatt hour to make power which it sells to the public at 7 cents a kilowatt hour. When this aristocrat of profit-makers goes in for breaking down decent union standards by means of its stooge union, bona fide union men have something to say about it, and they did.

Because electrical construction workers are key men on all building jobs, the general strike of Local 3 involves some 250,000 building workers. Walls and floors cannot be completed in new buildings without electrical installation. Local 3 expects many of these building trades workers to strike in sympathy.

Before the workers voted to strike, there had been futile conferences with the company and with the State Mediation Board. The Electrical Contractors Association, with whom Local 3 has an agreement, was considering applying for an injunction to restrain the union officers from calling the strike. However, Harry Van Arsdale, business manager of Local 3, told the men: "Your officers may be restrained from telling you to strike. But there is no injunction on earth that can compel you to work." The men liked that.

Meanwhile William Green, one of the labor leaders more worried about the boss war than about the protection of union men, was singing his theme song down in Washington: "Strikes must be avoided at all costs." Local 3, however, has a reputation for not pulling its punches.

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Editorials

OUR PROGRAM AGAINST THE WAR

1. Against both imperialist war camps! For the third camp of World Labor and the colonial peoples!
2. For the right to strike! For the defense of civil liberties and all workers' rights! Stop the persecution of aliens. Against the M-Day plans and war-time dictatorship.
3. Thirty hours a week; thirty dollars minimum pay! Time and a half wages for overtime above 30 hours. For increased wages to meet the rising cost of living.
4. Let the people vote on war! For the right of youth to vote at the age of 18—old enough to fight, old enough to vote!
5. Not a man, not a cent for Wall Street's war! A capital levy to cover the costs of imperialist war. No indirect taxes on the people.
6. Conscript the war industries under workers' control!
7. Expropriate the "Sixty Families"—the three per cent of the people who own ninety per cent of the wealth!
8. No government contract without a union contract!
9. Abolish secret diplomacy! Open the files of the State Department.
10. Full workers' rights for conscripts—the right to organize and to bargain collectively with the officers, the right of free speech, press and assembly.
11. \$60 a month minimum for conscripts. Former employers to pay the wage differential and guarantee return of the job.
12. Withdraw all armed forces from territory outside the United States. Free the colonies. Hands off Latin America.
13. Down with Jim-Crow and anti-Semitism! For full social, economic and political equality for Negroes. End discrimination against Negroes in industry and in the trade unions.
14. For Workers' Defense Guards against fascist and vigilante attacks!
15. For an Independent Labor Party.
16. For a workers' government and a people's army! No confidence in the Roosevelt government.
17. For Peace through Socialism. For the Socialist United States of the Americas, for the Socialist United States of Europe, for the World Socialist Federation.

Prices Zoom

As if to symbolize what is happening to the workers' cost of living, the price of the humble cabbage steps up to the head of the ladder and climbs 7.9 per cent in two weeks, thus leaving behind it the reputation of being the vegetable that everybody can afford.

Since the beginning of the war, the average price of food alone has gone up 15 per cent. Many individual items have ballooned much higher. Clothing and household necessities are also spreading their wings.

A basic group of 28 raw materials and agricultural products are now up 42.6 per cent at wholesale. Retail prices are reflecting this upward swing.

Rents will not lag behind. When rent goes up, the working man has to take it out of his food and clothing budget.

Surveys have shown that even a SLIGHT increase in the cost of living translates itself into a higher mortality rate for low income groups, due to insufficiency of proper food, clothing, housing and medical care.

But this is no slight increase in the cost of living that the workers are confronted with! What the workers are up against is WAR PRICES!

According to The Annalist, conservative sheet of economic facts, during the war years from 1916 to 1918, the commodity price index showed an increase of 100 per cent! This is what happened to living costs during the last boss war.

Today prices are following the same pattern. Reports from Washington are all to the effect that at least a 10 per cent further rise is to be expected in the next few months. That will make 25 per cent before the end of the year. Living costs next year, says a business sheet, will be WELL ABOVE the 10 per cent increase of the next months.

A substandard level of existence is in the cards for the workers UNLESS THEIR WAGES GO UP!

Wage increases must not only cover the rise in the cost of living, but also the taxes and forced loans the government will take from the workers.

New contracts must provide for an upward sliding scale of wages, keeping pace with the week-by-week and month-by-month upward swing of prices.

HIGHER AND STILL HIGHER WAGES MUST BE THE BATTLECRY OF THE WORKERS!

At Long Last

India has a known history of almost 6,000 years and the United States is 165 years old. Yet the United States has never recognized India as a country until last week! It was only then, for the first time, that "we" sent a United States commissioner with the rank of Minister in exchange for India's sending an Agent-General to the United States.

What accounts for this long-delayed recognition of a country with 400,000,000 people living in it? LABOR ACTION has often explained how the United States is rapidly making inroads into various parts of the British Empire. India is no exception. American engineers and technicians are going there, Henry Ford is building an assembly plant at Bombay, another company is building an airplane factory in South India. Almost every day American freighters carrying munitions for the British Middle Eastern armies sail from East Coast ports. At the Indian ports of Bombay, Karachi and Calcutta they pick up the rich raw materials (jute, rubber, tea, manganese, cotton, etc.) produced by that country. Trade between India and America is growing and flourishing. **But at the expense of the British imperialists!** "We" are taking over their business and trade routes. Already a former well known pacifist, Pierre Van Paasen, advocates that the U.S. send an AEF to northern India!

So "we" finally come around to recognizing India! Behind this recognition lies the fond hope that some day it will form a part of the great American Empire that Roosevelt aims at building up (at the expense of our "allies" in England).

Naturally, this recognition is extended only to the British officials and imperialists who rule over that country. In India itself these officials are "recognized" only as enemies, as tyrants who must be driven out by the masses of workers and peasants. As for anti-imperialists everywhere, their recognition goes to the members and leaders of the Indian Nationalist movement—men and women who fight for their country's independence from British—and American—rule.

"\$1.00-a-Year"

In June there were 265 dollar-a-year men working on the various government war boards. But a dollar a year isn't quite the sacrifice you might think—not after you look into the contracts handed out by the government.

At least two billion dollars in war orders had gone, by the first week in June, to concerns which are represented by controlling officers in the dollar-a-year set-up. For example:

American Brass Corp.—with James H. Madden and James T. Kemp in the OPM, got contracts totalling \$6,857,101.

Bethlehem Steel Co.—George F. Hocker, OPM, \$77,449,442.

Chrysler Corp.—Edmund S. Chapman, Chief, Light Ordnance Unit, OPM, \$34,179,529.

Crucible Steel Co.—Frank E. Spencer, OPM, \$14,184,446.

Dravo Co.—Alex W. Dann, Office of Transportation, \$10,830,481.

General Electric Co.—F. B. Cliffe, Carl M. Lynge, OPM, \$106,754,743.

General Motors Corp.—Frederick C. Horner, Office of Transportation; William Knudsen, E. F. Johnson, Benson A. Waderlow, Bayard B. Kunkle and John L. Pratt, all OPM, \$324,403,069.

International Harvester Co.—Richard E. Evans, \$9,363,738.

Lukens Steel Co.—A. J. O'Leary, OPM, \$8,000,719.

Murray Corp. of America—Clarence W. Avery, OPM, \$3,079,680.

Procter & Gamble—Richard R. Deupree, OPM, \$24,720,000.

United Aircraft & Transportation—Geo. J. Mead, OPM, \$186,439,438.

U. S. Steel Corp.—E. R. Stettinius, OPM, \$5,548,143.

Western Electric Co.—J. F. McKernan, OPM, \$22,107,520.

Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Co.—E. C. Brandt, OPM, \$37,747,430.

Carnegie Steel—Frederick P. Keppel (president), Nelson Rockefeller's division, \$65,191,582.

We don't know, because the records do not show it, whether the contracts were "open bidding" or cost plus. What we do know is that a man gets along very nicely, thank you, on a dollar a year—plus a juicy contract.

Explanation, Please!

In the pages of The Militant, organ of the Socialist Workers Party, Albert Goldman has devoted more than a column to attacks on the position of our party, particularly with reference to the Soviet Union in the war, and to explanations of the position of his party on the same question.

According to Goldman, the inside reason why our party took a position against the "defense of the Soviet Union" during the period of the Hitler-Stalin pact was because Stalin made the pact with a fascist imperialism instead of with a democratic imperialism; and we, collapsing under the pressure of the democratic bourgeois patriots, shied away from defending an ally of a fascist power. However, Goldman and his friends predicted, if Stalin were to make a pact with a democratic imperialism, which would not be displeasing to our democratic bourgeoisie and its apologists, we would turn about-face and become proponents of Soviet defensism. The theoretician of the SWP even wrote recently in its magazine that we were becoming defenders of American imperialism.

A POINT THAT PERPLEXES US

Like the other Cannonite predictions about us, this one too has proved to be slanderous and more than a little stupid. But let that pass for the moment, since we are presently interested in something else. What we would like is an explanation—please! This is what perplexes us:

In The Militant of July 12, Felix Morrow writes: "Of course the Soviet Government could have rejected Hitler's offer of a pact in 1939. The Stalinist hirelings kept asserting, in the few days intervening between the pact and the outbreak of the Second World War, that the pact was bringing peace and was a blow at the Axis—fantastic gibberish, but they had to say something—but Stalin knew perfectly well that the pact was a go-ahead signal to Hitler, insuring him against an eastern front. 'Could the Soviet government have declined such a proposal?' Stalin now smirkingly asks. Yes, it had the elementary duty to decline, in order not to give Hitler a free hand. Nor is this hindsight on our part; we denounced the pact in precisely these terms at the time it was signed."

Now, that's a lot of malarkey for the simple reason that neither Morrow nor his colleagues ever denounced the pact "in precisely these terms" or in any terms of recognizable similarity. Morrow cannot quote a single example to justify his remarkably tardy audacity. But let's let this pass, too, merely as proof that a man doesn't forget everything he learns in the Stalin school of journalism, and proceed with what's disturbing us—the explanation.

In the issue of The Militant a week after Morrow's article, Michael Cort has an article too. This Cort is a specialist on imperialism, Soviet policy and pacts, and on the side he runs a funny column where he makes the most convulsing cracks about our party. He evidently does not read Morrow, so he writes:

"It is entirely correct for the Soviet Union to take advantage of conflicts among the imperialists. It is correct for the Soviet Union now to ally itself with capitalist opponents of Germany—sad necessity, the weakness of the USSR demands it. It is false and criminal, however, for the Stalinist bureaucracy to pay off its capitalist allies by stifling the class struggle within their borders.

What has us puzzled, now, is this: Cort tells us, and he ought to know, that it is entirely correct in general for the Soviet Union to make an alliance with one imperialist power against another. He adds that it is also correct in particular for the Soviet Union to make its latest alliance with British imperialism against German imperialism.

But Morrow told us a week earlier, and he ought to know, too, we hope, that it was utterly wrong to make the alliance with German imperialism against British imperialism, or, as Goldman likes to explain the Hitler-Stalin pact, an alliance with German imperialism against... German imperialism. In fact, Morrow always really did feel that not only should Stalin not have made the pact, but, what is more, he should have downright rejected it—"of course."

F.D.R. Aims New Harassing Actions at Local 544 - CIO

With bail posted for all the 29 militants indicted on July 15 by order of the Department of Justice, the Roosevelt Administration ordered new harassing actions directed against the Minneapolis motor transport and allied workers.

Carl Skogland, organizer and former president of Local 544, was arrested on a warrant to "show cause why he should not be deported" and held in the outrageously high bail of \$25,000.

In addition, Kelly Postal, secretary-treasurer of the union, was asked to report to the federal authorities last Saturday because another indictment, contents unknown, had been returned against him in Iowa. Postal, who refused to turn over the union's funds to Tobin, had also been indicted on July 14, together with Miles Dunne, by the county grand jury on the Tobin cooked-up charge of "embezzling" AFL funds. Postal reported on Saturday, as demanded, and was immediately freed on bond provided by the national CIO.

"Skogie" Record of Labor Activity Carl Skogland was born in Sweden and has been in this country since 1911. Like many Scandinavians, he never took out citizenship papers. He has worked in this country since then as lumberjack, miner, railroader and truck driver. Skogie, as he is known, is respected and admired by thousands of unionists in the Northwest. He was one of the founders of the rejuvenated Drivers Union, Local 574, back in 1933.

The reactionary limits to which Tobin-Roosevelt will go is especially demonstrated in the deportation charge against Skogland. With Sweden under Nazi rule, deportation would mean certain death for this man who for three decades has proved his loyalty to the working class.

Attorneys for Local 544 are trying to gain the release of Skogland. Attorneys Gilbert Carlson and William K. Thomas have written the Department of Justice asking that Skogland be released on his own recognizance or, failing that, to lower bond to \$15,000. The attorneys write that "In view of his long residence in this country and his unblemished record, we believe that the bond now fixed by your department is wholly unreasonable and greatly excessive. . . . To require prohibitive bail on this charge actually amounts to a guilty finding without affording him a hearing."

Several Swedish-American citizens, familiar with immigration proceedings, say that inasmuch as Skogland came to this country before 1915 he cannot be deported because he is no longer considered a Swedish subject. Skogland is married to an American citizen.

Last Monday the indicted members of Local 544 went to the federal building with their attorneys and were released on bond which had been reduced to \$3,500. Others, indicted for membership in the Socialist Workers Party, are now out on bond reduced to \$2,500 or on their own recognizance.

Arraignment is now set for August 11, but defense attorneys have asked for a delay in order to prepare motions to quash the indictments. Trial is tentatively set for some time next fall.

Where the REAL Conspiracy Is The current issue of the Industrial Organizer answers the government charge that there is a nation-wide conspiracy, centered in Minneapolis.

NOW, WHICH IS IT, PLEASE?

Will Goldman please clear this up, because it has us confused?

In the first place, Cort tells us it is correct for the Soviet Union to make an alliance with a capitalist state. But it is not correct, in fact it is criminal, "for the Stalinist bureaucracy to pay off its capitalist allies by stifling the class struggle within their borders." Good. But does Goldman believe that this bureaucracy—not Lenin, but the Stalinist bureaucracy—has ever made, or is capable of ever making, an alliance with a capitalist power which does not, by its very essence, stifle the class struggle in the camp of the ally? In other words, has the bureaucracy made, or can it make, an alliance which is not "false and criminal"? If the Stalinist bureaucracy doesn't and can't make any but "false and criminal" alliances (and we hope Goldman will not deny this), will he be good enough to explain what Cort means by saying that it is correct to make such an alliance? Perhaps this will put it more simply? How can it be correct to make an alliance that is sure to be "false and criminal"? Explanation, please!

Then there are a few other questions, while we still have the floor.

Was the pact with Hitler wrong because it was made with nasty fascist imperialists, whereas the pact with Churchill is okay because it is made with democratic imperialists who speak with such a nice Oxford accent? Was the pact with Hitler wrong just because the Stalinists claimed it "was bringing peace and was a blow at the Axis," as Morrow puts it? But don't they make the same claim for the pact with Churchill and Roosevelt—the pact that is "correct," as Cort puts it?

Was the pact with Germany wrong just because it gave Hitler the "go-ahead signal . . . insuring him against an eastern front"? Is the pact with Churchill correct because it gives British imperialism the go-ahead signal for attacks on Germany and insures that the latter does have an eastern front?

Was the pact with Germany wrong because it "made possible the subjugation of Europe by Hitler," as Morrow writes? Is the pact with British imperialism correct because it will make possible the, shall we say, emancipation of Europe by Churchill?

Is the pact with England correct because it helps Stalin "defend nationalized property" from imperialist attack? Then wasn't the pact with Hitler also correct, since it yielded new military outposts (Poland, Estonia, Finland, etc.) to the Soviet Union which would also help Stalin "defend nationalized property"?

Was the pact with Hitler wrong because it was "a terrible blow to their (the workers') anti-fascist sentiments," whereas the pact with British imperialism is correct because it is less offensive to those many workers who are for Britain's victory? Would then the slogan of "defend the Soviet Union" have been wrong when Stalin invaded Poland or Finland with Hitler's support and thereby also struck "a terrible blow" at the anti-fascist sentiments of the workers?

Who is right—Morrow or Cort? Or neither of them? Or perhaps there is something to be said for both of them?

WHY DO WE ASK GOLDMAN?

Why do we ask Goldman? Because he has at least two qualifications. He admits that we are middle-class idealists, while he is a revolutionary Marxian materialist. In addition, The Militant announces him as the "attorney for the SWP." We cannot honestly swear to the first claim, but we'll vouch for the second. He surely is the attorney for the SWP. So we'll take a chance on him answering the questions, although our experience has been pretty gloomy. Last time, we asked the real leader of the SWP to answer some questions about his military policy. He proceeded, after an effort at collecting his theoretical equipment, to answer questions about the policy that had not been asked by Oehler and the SLP. The effort was too strenuous and he promptly relapsed into a majestic and well-advised silence. But Goldman strikes us as having what the ancients called *cacotheca scribendi*, known in the trade as writer's itch. Maybe he will accommodate our request for—Explanation, please!

POLITICAL ACTION

It Is as Important As Economic Action

(Continued from page 1)

programs, even where they are dressed up in "defense" deceit.

But labor's leaders are still talking about "defense" measures and "defense" needs. If they stated the issues clearly and accurately, they would talk about capitalist measures and capitalist needs.

So, for example, they would be able to describe the various anti-labor bills for what they are—IMPERIALIST WAR BILLS. And so, for example, they would cease to hobnob with the political representatives of the boss class begging a few crumbs off the imperialist table, trying to "chisel" a few concessions. For, as we said in a recent issue of LABOR ACTION: "Murray's committees can talk to the Speaker, the Vice-President and the President until hell freezes over and never make a dent in the class front of the bosses."

WE MUST HAVE OUR POLITICAL WEAPON

Why shouldn't we take a leaf out of the bosses' book? They have organized their parties, their political weapons, to further their OWN special interests. By defending their political interests they defend their economic interests. Why shouldn't we do the same? In fact, WE MUST DO THE SAME!

This is especially true today in the midst of war. In their political and economic offensive against labor, the bosses are more brutal and more open now than the chips are down. The hypocrisy and concessions which they will utilize in "normal" times are shelved in wartime for unconcealed frontal attack with the mailed fist. Remember the North American strike!

Is there a worker with a sense of his own needs and an appreciation of his might who doesn't understand how important for him is the trade union—his economic weapon? How could we defend our economic interests, our standard of living without our fighting unions? WE COULDN'T!

And just as we need unions to fight for better wages and working conditions, so do we need an instrument of political action to advance our cause on the political front. AND THAT IS DOUBLY IMPORTANT IN TIME OF WAR!

WHAT KIND SHALL IT BE?

But the kind of instrument we need is not the kind that labor leaders have devised in the past. It is not an American Labor Party, nor even a Labor's Non-Partisan League. These two organizations were little more than vote-catching devices for the boss parties. The ALP, for example, merely served as a machine whereby the Roosevelt Administration could snatch labor votes. (The other section of the ALP, the so-called "left wing," was only a stooge organization for the Communist Party. It will now, probably, go back to the Roosevelt fold.)

No, it's not an ALP we need or want. It is an independent and militant party of the working class which aggressively champions labor's cause on the political front.

Such an organization will not be built by the present leaders of the union movement. Too many of them are tied to the boss parties—that is, tied to the boss system. Their program is essentially indistinguishable from the boss program, aimed as it is, at politically uniting labor with the boss class—uniting with it on the most important question of all: the war.

Such an organization will be built only if the ranks press for it, and in pressing for it, SHARPLY DELINEATE ITS INDEPENDENT AND CLASS CHARACTER.

Here then are some demands for the delegates at the UAW convention to make on their leaders: MILITANT action to defend the right to strike.

No dependence on the "Mediation" Board.

No labor leaders on government boards that deal with labor relations!

Murray must resign from the "Mediation" Board.

Hillman must get out of the boss government, or get out of the labor movement.

Break with the Democratic and Republican Parties. Break with Roosevelt and Willkie.

BUILD THE INDEPENDENT, MILITANT LABOR PARTY OF THE WORKING CLASS!

We Demand: Conscript the War Industries Under Workers' Control!

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We Demand: A Capital Levy on Wealth To Pay for ALL War Appropriations!