What's This About Taking The Profits Out of War?

Despite higher reserves for taxes and other "contingencies," profits continued their staggering rise, according to the National City Bank's

Tabulating reports for 360 leading companies, the report shows a combined net profit, less deficit, of about \$785,000,000 in the first half of 1941-after taxes had been deducted.

Below we list 27 of the profit makers-not necessarily the biggest

ones:			
	1st half	1st half	Per Cent
Company	year, 1940	year, 1941	Increase
Alleghany-Ludlum Steel		\$4,169,347	120
Amer. Radiator and Standard	Sanitary 1,535,905	3,271,009	112
Amer. Rolling Mill	2,084,599	6,667,976	220
Anaconda Wire & Cable	497,259	1,410,519	184
Blaw-Knox	602,717	1,220,496	102
Budd Mfg. Co.	965,350	1,840,972	91
Calumet & Hecla Consolidated	Copper 315,167	498,058	58
Chicago Railway Equipment	147,737	352, 50	138
Curtiss-Wright		10,664,338	71
Fruehauf Trailer	519,583	1,137,977	119
Gar Wood Industries	302,289	533,321	76
General Steel Castings	72,958	1,690,900	2,216
B. F. Goodrich		6,626,033	388
Holland Furnace	262,384	465,003	77
Jones & Laughlin Steel	3,276,256	8,098,227	147
North American Aviation	2,367,638	3,900,745	65
Pittsburgh Steel	379,407	1,678,859	343
Republic Steel Corp	6,449,453	13,618,716	111
Rustless Iron & Steel	430,537	1,164,460	170
Sharon Steel	388,903	813,241	109
Simonds Saw & Steel	758,372	1,188,704	. 57
U.S. Pipe & Foundry	783,018	1,816,700	132
U.S. Steel	36,315,003	61,374,746	69
Wheeling Steel	1,664,078	4,689,196	182
Bendix Aviation	4,295,419	6,672,574	55
International Silver	230,191	660,061	185
Crucible Steel	1 917 909	2.924.430	61

You've read a lot about how the British have taken the profits out of war (even more than here!) and how the whole nation is working in perfect national unity for the most idealistic of reasons. The British statesmen have made much of this. And, of course, all their two-bit columnist stooges in the American press (Dorothy Thompson is one) have been perfectly ecstatic about how everybody is pitching in there with no benefit or profit to anyone.

PILOTIC OF P	LOWE TO MILL OTTO
	Well, the British New Leader, organ of the
DRON	Independent Labor Party, reports, for example,
8,300	that the various rubber companies are doing very
21,327	well for themselves. Says the New Leader:

"The hekels are filling their coffers as never before. Dividends are going up. Increases of 300 per cent in profits over the pre-war year of 1938 are not uncommon, the financial correspondent of the Daily Herald tells us. For example, the Gopeng (Perak) Company made well over 31,000 pounds during the year just ended, compared with only 8,700 pounds during 1938.

"Latest company to issue its figures is the Straits Rubber Company. After all taxation, it netted 78,319 pounds, compared to 43,319 pounds in 1939. The ordinary dividend goes up from 41/2

In the column alongside we give some comparative figures of profits of leading companies." (Editor's Note-The right-hand figures represent pounds sterling.)

cannons. No doubt the Germans too

have used up tremendous quantities.

The fact remains, however, that in-

dustrial and technically efficient Ger-

many can more easily replace the tre-

mendous losses of blitzkrieg war than

can Russia. The loss of Russia's in-

dustrial centers makes this disparity

In this war of mechanized weapons

equipment plays a major role. Es-

pecially is this the case with a state

that is unable to replace its deficien-

cy in this field with revolutionary

political weapons. This we have

pointed out from the very beginning.

It is not enough, in a desperate mo-

ment, for the Soviet bureaucrats to

remind the Leningrad workers of

their revolutionary traditions. The

imperialists in London were just as

"revolutionary" in their broadcast to

the Leningrad workers. The politics

of Stalin are the politics of the Roose-

velt-Churchill eight points which

Stalin acclaimed. The promise of a

new Versailles, of a Germany in

chains, can only heighten the morale

of the German soldier. What chance

then does the Russian soldier stand,

if, besides this, the Germans also

have a crushing superiority in equip-

And what has the Russian worker

to look forward to in case of an al-

(Continued from page 3)

all the more serious.

- THE WORLD AT WAR ---

Allies Seek Way to Speed War Supplies to Russia As Nazi Armies Advance

By MAX STERLING

LANADRON

MALAKOFF

NORTH MALAY

SAPONG

REMBAU JELEI

TREMELBYE

1940 21,181

1940

16,085

... 10,738

20.182

... 34,237

10.243

... 18,875

36,206

32,622

The optimism that was generated in the camp of the "democracies" because of Russian resistance is giving way to a new mood of pessmism. There is serious concern over the latest German advances in the Ukraine, Crimea. Kiev, the third largest city in Russia, has already been taken and Leningrad is under a withering

Russian morale shows no perceptible change from that high note which was struck at the very beginning. What, then, has given cause to the new dangerous situation with respect to Russian arms? Answer is found in the almost unanimous reaction to this situation by the spokesmen of Russia's allies: "No stinting of arms to Russia."

At the moment that the Anglo-American commissions find themselves in Moscow, the German threat to the great industrial region of the Don promises to reduce considerably the essential output of Russia's war industries. The commission are urging speedy shipments of the maximum in war and even raw materials to keep the Russian army fighting. England has inaugurated a "Tanks for Russia week." Maisky says: "Tanks, tanks and more tanks are

needed." Such urgent requests are testimony to only one thing. The Russians are rapidly using up their tremendous accumulation of tanks, airplanes and

Ford Instrument Workers Vote to Authorize Strike

By a virtually unanimous vote, at a meeting last Sunday, 1600 workers of the Ford Instrument Co., members of Local 425 of the UERWMA decided to strike if all other means failed in obtaining the 20-cent hourly wage increase demanded by them.

The vote, taken by secret ballot, followed a thorough discussion by the membership on the proposed new contract, in which the stalling tactics of the company and its unsatisfactory answer to the union's negotiating committee were denounced. It

(Continued on page 3)

LABOR ACTION

SEPTEMBER 29, 1941

ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

THREE CENTS

"LOWER LIVING STANDARD, LONGER HOURS' - - KNUDSEN

Committee Asks Funds For Indicted Militants

With trial of the 29 indicted militants set for October 20, the Civil Rights Defense Committee, recently organized to fight the conspiracy against labor in Minnesota, has issued an urgent appeal for funds (see page 4). James T. Farrell and John Dos Passos, well known novelists, are chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of the committee. Carlo Tresca is also a vice-chairman. George Novack is secretary.

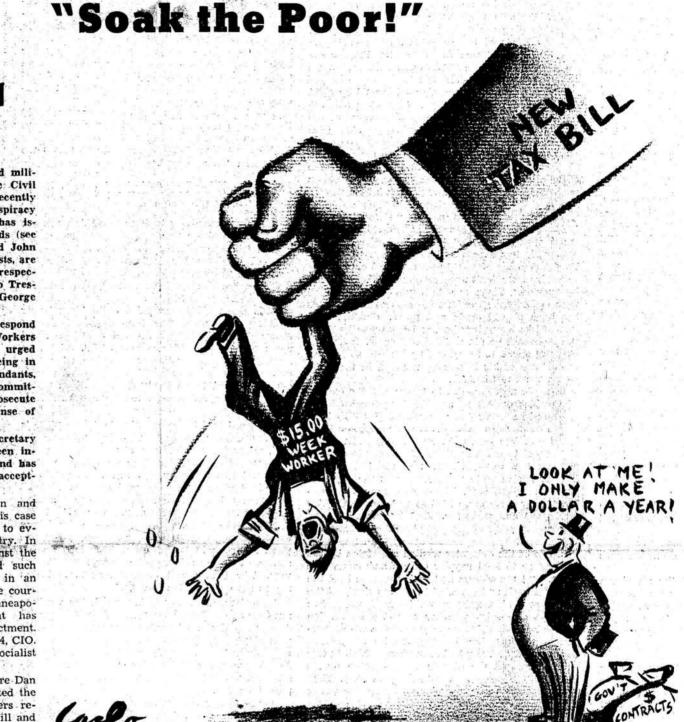
Calling upon its friends to respond heartily to the appeal, the Workers Party, which has constantly urged the widest united front as being in the best interests of the defendants. greets the formation of the committee in the hope that it will prosecute its activities in the truest sense of united front action.

Max Shachtman, national secretary of the Workers Party, has been invited to join the committee and has notified the committee of his accept-

As we have written again and again in LABOR ACTION, this case is one of extreme importance to every working man in the country. In an unprecedented action against the right of individuals to hold such opinions as they wish, and in an obvious attempt to destroy the courageous teamsters union of Minneapolis, the federal government has placed 29 men under indictment. Some are members of Local 544, CIO. Others are members of the Socialist Workers Party.

Arrayed against these men are Dan Tobin of the AFL, who initiated the persecution when the teamsters refused to submit to his jingo will and switched to the CIO, the bosses, the

(Continued on page 4)



First Day of Shipyard Convention Given Over to Pro-War Speeches

By DAVID COOLIDGE

ATLANTIC CITY-The Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers (CIO) opened its seventh national convention here with 200 delegates in attendance representing approximately 80,000 paid-up members. The convention began its sessions with the address of John Green, international president.

President Green set the tone and gave the line for what is to follow in the next few days. His opening speech revolved around the war and what, in his opinion should be the attitude of the shipbuilding workers. "Yes, we support Roosevelt's foreign policy," said Green. "We agreed with his pronouncements, with the eight-point program he and Winston Churchill gave to the world, and we. agree with his actions to implement these pronouncements, and we say there is no turning back. If the Neutrality Act stands in the way, and I believe is does stand in the way, let it be wiped off the statute books."

This pronouncement of Green's can only mean,

of course, that it is his opinion that the decks should be cleared for the full active participation of the United States in a "shooting war," with all that means, including an AEF. Since this came in the presidential address in the first hours of the convention and since no resolutions have been presented, it is too early to say what the reactions

of the delegates will be. Green said further that workers in American unions know "in their hearts that unless we stop this spread of Nazism, this cursed system will engulf us all, and the workers will be the first and last to suffer." He is evidently attempting to clinch his argument for full support to Roosevelt when he asked: "Is there any American worker toay so bdlind, so deaf, so unknowing as not to realize that the fate which Hitler imposed upon labor in Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and France is the same fate which he holds in store for us if he has his way with the

"Is there any so blissfully unconscious as to

think that we can pursue our leisurely course in this country and live happily afterward while the rest of the world is under the heel of the Nazi tyrant? If there are any such, I have never met them among the shipyard workers."

HILLMAN INFLUENCE STRONG

The position advanced by Green was carried forward by Charles Irvin of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, who spoke to the convention. Irvin was evidently present for Hillman, whose influence is very strong in this convention. Irvin spoke as a "radical" who was warning the shipyard workers against the present-day Republicans and Democrats. That is he warned the delegates against all Democrats except Roosevelt, who "is the only President since Lincoln who recognizes that there is a working class in the United States."

Irvin told the delegates that the workers must get "power" but they must do it without "violence." All this communist stuff, he continued, is only the

(Continued on page 2)

Union Action Is the Only Way to Beat This Scheme

OPM's William Knudsen can not understand dollars-all he can understand is "man-hours —two hands working an hour, and we can all work a little longer."

That's what he told 1,400 business men and "civic leaders" at Chicago's Union League

And he understands manhours so well that he roused the enthusiasm of his listeners with a forecast of LONGER working hours, and a LOWER standard of living.

He would! There aren't, so far as we know, any workers in the Union League Club. You have to make at least a dollara-year, Knudsen style, to get into the lobby.

It pleased the Union Leaguers, but it ought to send every last worker in the country chasing down to his union hall with plans to meet this assault.

Like Bill Knudsen, we understand man-hours, too. A man wors so many hours a dayand those man-hours of work eat into his life, exhaust him. But he has to work them-in order to live.

In payment he gets enough to keep him alive so he'll be ready for the next day's work. The rest of the wealth he produces by his toll and skill goes into the pockets of those who spend their "man-hours" clipping coupons or exerting themselves strenuously in the luxuries of wealthy idleness.

You see, we understand manhours. But we also understand the back-breaking toil, the tired muscles that go into these man-hours of work. AND WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THE DOLLARS-the dollars we get that harely keep pace with rising prices; the dollars the boss gets to salt away in bulging bank accounts.

The truth is that Knudsen understands all this too. That's why be told the business men gathered to hear him that "it is up to us . . . to see the job through, regardless of the sacrifices we have to make in our comfortable standard of living?"

Whose standard of living is comfortable? The Union Leaguer's? We don't doubt it. But the laborer's? Comfortable, indeed!

In short. Knudsen informed his business colleagues that the government was behind an all-out drive to raise the work day, to cut the standard of living. THAT'S HOW THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED IT. Oh, yes, it wasn't directed against

(Continued on page 4)

Mass Resistance in Nazi-Conquered Europe

Starving People Destroy Food So Nazis Won't Get It!

NORWAY

From Stockholm it is reported that the lifting of the 'state of emergency" has not changed the actual situation in Norway. Mass arrests continue in Oslo and other cities. The entire country has been put under a slightly

modified form of martial law, including court-martial. Several hundred trade unionists have been arrested in the city of Bergen in recent days, it is reported. Quislingists are attempting to move into the unions of Bergen and Trondheim, as they have been doing in Oslo. In some quarters it is expected that the Nazis will stage a gigantic "trial" of the hundreds of trade unionists under

"Go slow" tactics by Norwegian workers in factories, road construction and other important projects appear to constitute very effective sabotage. In a decree issued by the Nazi authorities, strikes, lockouts, industrial sabotage and "wanton decrease of work" are included in the list of acts for which severe penalties are provided.

The extent of Norwegian unrest may perhaps be gauged by the fact that ex-King Haakon and other runaway "leaders" are broadcasting from London appeals to the people to be CALM AND PATIENT-presumably until these ex-masters can safely return to reap the benefit of the people's victory over the Nazis.

FRANCE

Paris was put under a three-day curfew in an effort to check acts of violence against the Nazis. All cafes, theaters, restaurants and motion picture houses closed at eight. At nine, patrols were sent out to pick up all persons circulating on the streets.

While Petain issued an appeal for "standing together" -with the Nazis-four more French were condemned to death and thirty-one, including nine women, were sentenced to prison terms. The four death sentences were imposed on former CP leaders, according to reports. Forty-one executions have taken place in Paris alone since August 14, when the Nazis imposed the system of executing hostages in reprisal for attacks against them.

As a contrast, comes the news that twenty-four imprisoned trade unionists have been released on Petain's orders. Previously forty more were freed by like order. No explanations are given in the reports. One wonders what very dirty work Petain has laid out for these men in return for their so-called freedom.

People arriving in America from France describe conditions there as unbearable. The French people have little food. They are literally dying of hunger. Of course, the working people suffer most.

An American, formerly connected with the French

Ministry of Propaganda, estimated that the Germans hold 60,000 French hostages. He expressed the opinion that "even if the Germans shoot all these hostages, it can't stop the French people."

Railroad sabotage continues in spite of the measures by both the French and German authorities to guard against it. In Eure-et-Loire, a department in the wheat country, night patrols have been instituted to check arson aimed at the destruction of the harvest. Starving people are destroying food so that the Nazis cannot get it

BELGIUM AND NETHERLANDS

Twenty-five Belgians in the town of Tournal will be shot in reprisal for the killing of two German police officials last Wednesday night, if the assailants are not discovered in ten day. The two German policemen killed

(Continued on page 2)

Of Special **Interest** To Women

-By Susan Green

Do you fondle an egg and think twice before you

The confinement of a hen is no more expensive now than before the imperialist war started. Why should the by-product cost almost FIVE CENTS EACH? But such is the stark white fact.

We are told that eggs are being shipped to England and to the starving Europeans. To what extent the victims of imperialist war-ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ENGLISH CHANNEL—are being fed by shipments from this country, is a very well guarded secret.

BUT WE DO KNOW THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF EGGS. THERE ARE PLENTY OF THEM-AND THEY

ARE PLENTY DEAR. If ever there was an open-and-shut case for Mr.

Henderson's price-fixing attention, HERE IS ONE. As was to be expected, MR. HENDERSON IS A MUCH BETTER FRIEND TO THE WAR PROFITEER THAN TO THE WORKING WOMAN.

To clothe a family this fall requires an amount of financial genius that even the resourceful working class housewife does not posses.

Underwear, stockings, shoes, dresses, coats, suits, sweaters, hats bear price tags that make shudders go up and down the back.

In stores that catered to the puny purse, and even in bargain basements, a look at the prices makes one wonder if one got into the wrong place by mistake. But all the stores are accommodatingly offering facil-

ities for the purchase of war bonds and stamps. When the cold breezes begin to blow-JUST WRAP YOUR FAMILY IN PATRIOTISM.

And you haven't seen the beginning of inflation yet. You haven't seen the beginning of consumer goods scarcity yet, either.

WHAT YOU SEE TODAY IS MERELY A DRESS REHEARSAL OF THE GRUESOME DRAMA ABOUT TO BE ENACTED.

But the planners in Washington are nothing if not comprehensive. They foresee the time when a workingman's wage

will be able to buy much less than today. Don't think they are not providing for this emergency in Washington. In their own peculiar way, they certainly are.

"Oh-ho!" they say down there. "If wages won't buy much anyway, we might just as well relieve the workers of the trouble of taking all their pay home. Thus we will have more money to spend on this war that the workers don't want"

So next on the program will be FORCED SAVINGS. The bosses will be instructed to lift right out of the workers' pay to turn over to the government-WHAT THE LAWMAKERS DECIDE THE WORKERS WON'T BE ABLE TO USE ANYWAY BECAUSE PRICES WILL BE TOO HIGH.

Readers of LABOR ACTION may remember that the recent drive for old aluminum pots and pans was called a fake in this column.

It wasn't the pots and pans the war-makers needed, BUT A PRO-WAR PUBLIC SENTIMENT-which does not exist now and did not exist then.

The high-pressure psychology behind the aluminum drive was: Get everybody to do something for the war. Then they will want to get into it on all fours. Get a poor woman to give an old pot and she will visualize that pot in a bomber, and her boy at the wheel-and everything will be hunky-dory for the imperialist war-

That the war frenzy did not materialize was amply demonstrated by the way in which the extension of the draft was squeezed through Congress BY ONE VOTE.

That the war program did not depend on your old pot is now very difinitely proved by a report from Washington. The United States will be producing the unheard-of amount of 1,500,000,000 pounds of aluminum per yearwhich is more than the combined output of the rest of

the world. LABOR ACTION has a remarkably good record AT BEING RIGHT.

If you look in the right quarters you can already see

the beneficial effects of the "good neighbor policy." Mrs. Roosevelt has accepted the "invitation" of the Pan American Coffee Bureau to broadcast a weekly program over a nation-wide hookup of the National Broadcasting Co. The bureau represents coffee growers in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Cuba

How much the First Lady will cash in on this deal has not been made public. You can be sure she will get HERS. Her broadcasts, it was estimated about a year ago, totaled nearly a half million dollars.

"Oh, but she gives it all to charity," protests a wide-

eyed admirer of the First Lady. Maybe she does. I DON'T KNOW.

However, I do know that she cashes in on her reputation as "A GREAT PHILANTHROPIST"-as all philanthropists of the boss class do. They all bleed copiously for the sake of humanity-don't you know-while taking very good care of their own class interests.

In her broadcasts for the Cuffee Bureau, Mrs. Roosevelt will be commenting on CURRENT EVENTS.

BOY! WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY THAT WILL BE TO MAKE PROPAGANDA FOR THE BOSSES-ALL UNDER THE CLOAK OF CHARITY!

In Nazi Europe--

(Continued from page 1)

were from a detachment of police officers sent to patrol the streets after the assassination of the Belgian Nazi leader of the Tournal district.

According to Nazi practice, all political prisoners are to be considered hostages and at least five are to be shot in each case of attack on a German.

On September 18 Berlin announced that eleven Belgians had been sentenced to death by a German field court-martial for espionage, printing of pamphlets against Germany and "assisting the enemy."

On September 19, twenty-two Amsterdam citizens accused of instigating strikes in February and March received prison sentences ranging up to twelve years.

Sabotage and anti-Nazi demonstrations are reported on the increase in The Netherlands. Resistance has reached a point where the Nazi-controlled press appeals to the people not to be influenced by the slogan, "The More Chaos the Better.'

POLAND

Eighteen former Polish policemen at Poznan have been executed for murdering Germans.

A special court at Warsaw sentenced to death a Pole accused of butchering two pigs and fifteen calves and selling the meat on the "black market"-which is quite an institution throughout Nazi Europe.

Six CIO Conventions This Week - -Hodcarriers Hold on to Racketeers

By DAVID COOLIDGE

The International Hodcarriers, Building and Common Laborers Union held its first convention in thirty years in St. Louis last week. The president, Moreschi, was re-elected in the first election held since 1926. The main issues that came before the convention were the matter of holding conventions more frequently, stricter accounting for union funds and racketeering. On all of these important matters the convention acted as though they were of no importance and that everything derogatory said about the union and its officers was nothing more than slander and an attempt of some unnamed evil forces to destroy the international. Of course anyone who knows anything about this international is well aware that this is not the case.

To begin with, any union that holds a convenvention only once every third of a century has something very fundamentally wrong with it. Why do the officers of this international refuse to give the members the opportunity to review the stewardship of the leadership oftener than once in 31 years? Why do these same international officers refuse to give the membership indubitable proof that the funds of the organization are conserved and properly disbursed? Why did these same leaders refuse to take steps to clean the racketeers out of the international?

It was Bill Green who clapped the lid on tight and made it impossible for the insurgents in the convention to get to first base. Green praised the officers of the international for cooperating with him and for raising wages, but was silent on the little matter of holding a convention only once in 30 years. Also, Green wasn't interested in the charges that the officers were not as "efficient" as they might be in the handling of the international's funds.

Green made the astounding statement that of 5,000,000 members of the AFL, "4,999,999 are honest and law-abiding men." If we understand simple arithmetic this means that there is only ONE dishonest member of the AFL. Who is he, Bill?

Perhaps we don't understand what Green means by "honest," There are AFL unions shot through with racketeers, gangsters, thieves and crooks. This has been proved again and again. Green knows this and he knew that he was lying when he made the statement he did to the hodcarriers. But racketeering seems to be all right with Bill so long as the officers of his internationals turn in their per capita taxes to the AFL.

It made no difference to Green and the officers of the Hodcarriers International that the officers of one of its locals had squandered \$200,000 of the local's funds from 1933 to 1940 and now has a bank balance of less than \$108. Furthermore ,the financial report to the convention gives only two items, receipts and exepnditures. The receipts for the 30 year period were \$1,062,575.34 and the expenditures were \$534,539.65. The delegates and the membership were given no hint as to how the \$528,000 was spent and what for. And this was a report covering 30 years of the administration of the present officers!

Some of the delegates wanted a decision by the convention to hold regular conventions every five years. But the officers and their machine beat the proposal back and defeated it. They submitted the provision that a referendum be held every five years to determine whether or not a convention should be held. It is easy to guess what would happen in a referendum if conducted by the present administration. They had such an easy time in this convention that the officers will probably decide not to hold a convention until the year 2,000. They don't want to report on finances every five years; thirty-year reports are better. Even if you get kicked out at the end of 30 years you are sure to be pretty well heeled by that time.

Under the whip of the Moreschi machine the convention voted against barring from office those found guilty of racketeering, embezzlement or larceny of funds. Moreschi generously agreed to a resolution CONDEMNING racketeering. The racketeers and thieves in the international are therefore free to go on plying their trade as before. They can steal from the union, embezzle its funds or racketeer to their hearts' content, and yet re-

(Continued from page 1)

wildest fantasy. If the workers learn to look out

for themselves they can get "power" and all their

rights by using the democratic means already pro-

vided. Irvin's idea was that the workers must be-

gin to make the Declaration of Independence work.

Also labor should learn what Lincoln said about

the priority of labor and take advantage of Lin-

member of the British trade union delegation now

touring the United States in the interest of in-

creased production of war supplies for England.

Mr. Findly is a member of the United Pattern

Makers Association, a past president of the Engi-

neering and Shipbuilding Trades Federation and

has been generally prominent in the British labor

Findly explained that his delegation, although

appointed by the British General Council of Trade

Unions and approved by the British government,

did not officially represent the General Council

of Trade Unions. The reason for this is that the

official British movement is formally associated

with the AFL in the United States. It is probably

The next speaker was Allan A. H. Findly, a

coln's position on this question.

movement for many years.

main eligible to run for office even though, as in the case of Scalise, they have been proved guilty and sent to the penitentiary.

The delegates who came in for a real raking were not the racketeers and crooks, but those who wanted to democratize the union, establish an honest system of accounting and make a real working class union of the organization. They were accused of "insubordination." The New York Sandhogs Local will be brought to trial for "constitutional irregularities." This local, along with a West Coast local, wanted to bar the racketeers and have more frequent conventions. This, to the Moreschi machine, is "insubordination" and "constitutional irregularies."

As far we know, this convention was the lowest point reached in any labor convention this year. Compared to the UAW convention one would never know that both of them were conventions of workers' organizations and that both are integral.parts of the labor movement in the United States. In no CIO convention has even the faintest whisper of racketeering, embezzlement or larceny been heard. The UAW delegates unanimously voted down a proposal for biennial conventions. Their convention was run in a democratic manner and no strong-arm tactics or procedure were in evidence. No officer of that international would have dared, even if he had been inclined, to conduct himself in such a manner.

The hodcarriers and building laborers should think about this. If they can't get a democratic union, an honest union in Bill Green's outfit, they don't have to stay there and neither do they have to remain "independent."

Rubber Workers Gain in Membership

The six conventions taking place this week are the United Rubber Workers at Indianapolis, the Marine and Shipbuilding Workers at Atlantic City, the Oil Workers International Union at Baton Rouge, the Transport Workers Union at New York City and the County, State and Municipal Workers at Lansing, Mich.

This year's URW convention is the biggest ever held by this union. The international increased its membership by 28,000 during the past year and the membership now numbers 82,000. The first sessions of the convention were consumed in listening to war speeches by Sidney Hillman, who is getting around to all the CIO conventions which will admit him, Allan Haywood and President Dal-

Haywood told the convention that "the "CIO is for defense-absolutely." The industrialists, he said, "have taken advantage of the nation's effort to defend themselves" and pile up huge profits. Haywood told the convention: "There's got to be organized planning for national defense. It can't be done by the employers alone-they will commit hari-kari and take the nation with them."

Haywood's idea is that since the employers can't win the war it is the business of labor to pitch in and win it for them. This is what his statement means although he doesn't put it that way. The bosses will commit suicide and this means the death of the "nation."

Therefore, according to Haywood, the workers must step in and save the "nation." But Haywood doesn't say to the rubber workers that to save the present "nation" is to save the employers and the capitalists. That's exactly what the bosses want from the workers. That's why they passed the conscription act and forced the workers into their imperialist army. Labor should save the nation from Hitler. But

IT SHOULD ALSO SAVE THE NATION FROM ITS PRESENT OWNERS; that is, the workers should take the nation away from the present owners and then defend the nation against Hitler. The working class should possess the land, mines, mills, factories, power houses and banks. They should save what is good in capitalist democracy and incorporate this into real workers' democracy based on the ownership and control of the wealth and the machines that produce wealth.

Vice-President Thomas Burns, who has the big

law" organization. Findly said that it was difficult

for the British unionists to understand why there

was a split in the American movement; they can

not understand the lack of unity. He suggested

mildly that it would be a fine thing if the two

organizations would get together so that produc-

From Findly's remarks it was clear to the dele-

gates and others that he did not understand the

nature of the differences between the AFL and

CIO. Also, that he did not understand the his-

tory of the CIO industrial union movement and

the intense feeling of rank and file CIO members

A DAY OF PRO-WAR, POLITICAL SPEECHES

with the first day of this convention because these

speeches represented the important and significant

part of the first day's sessions. This is especially

true when it is taken into consideration what it is

that these speakers represent and what it is they

The Hillman point of view prevails in the con-

I have emphasized what I have in connection

tion of war materials could be increased.

against the AFL.

title of "senior labor consultant" in the OPM, announced that he would not be a candidate for reelection. Presumably he will give all his time to OPM. This is a correct step. All the labor leaders should either resign from government boards that deal with labor questions or resign from their union posts.

Oil Workers to Organize Standard Oil

The UAW organized Ford and voted at the last convention to begin a real drive on aircraft. The Oil Workers International voted to tackle its biggest boss, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. President Knight told the convention that the No. 1 job is the organization of the 65,000 Standard Oil workers. Michael Widman, who led the Ford drive, has been appointed to head the Rockefeller drive.

Union officers reported that the main accomplishment of the international, aside from raising wages \$156,000,000, was defeat of a plan by the oil companies to increase the work week from 36 to 40 hours. On the matter of the Ickes oil shortage, Knight told the delegates that the union would not hamper "national defense in order to promote our own welfare" but by the same token "we are determined that the industry shall not take advantage of the national defense program to retard our progress. . . .

The report also took up the alleged oil shortage. Knight said that behind the alleged shortage was a scheme of Standard Oil to get permission for a refused pipe line from the Gulf to Norfolk, Va. He also told the convention that while the U.S. is transferring tank ships to the British Empire, England has 500 tankers, many of which are being used by the British oil companies to carry on "business as usual" for private profit.

Hillman to Speak to Shipyard Men

Sidney Hillman didn't get to the oil workers convention, but according to announcements he will be on hand to urge the shipyard workers to whoop it up fervently for the imperialist war. These workers certainly have something more important to attend to than listening to Hillman tell them that he has the full confidence of Roosevelt. The delegates might concede that and turn their attention immediately to the pressing problems of their industry.

The most important of these is the situation at the Federal Shipbuilding & Drydock Co. at Kearny, N. J. This situation is not clear yet. Secretary Knox announced in a Navy Department statement that "the government has not yet decided on the course it will pursue. . . ." In the meantime, however, according to the statement, should any dispute arise over the status of any worker the matter is to be referred to the "Mediation" Board for action. The union considers this a victory, since this board had already made such a recommendation before the government took over the plant.

Roosevelt expressed doubt that the granting of the "maintenance of membership" is in accord with provisions of the National Labor Relations Act. He wrote to the board chairman, William H. Davis, expressing such doubts. The reply of Davis was that there was no violation of the National Labor Relations Act and this was concurred by the general counsel for the NLRB.

The officers of the IUMSW do not seem to consider this one of the pressing problems to come before the convention. They evidently think the matter settled and want to forget it. But obviously this is not the case. The question arises and may come up for discussion in the convention, on the correctness of a union inviting the government to take over plants as a means of settling a dispute the union is having with the bosses. What is the difference between negotiating with the government and negotiating with the owners of the plant? Does the union believe the government will be softer and more pliant, more reasonable than the bosses? That wasn't true in the North American affair. The union officers may escape from the Kearny trap but they had better think it through the next time they face a similar situa-

Shipyard Meet Democratically Run true that the CIO is looked upon as a sort of "out- to the shipbuilders convention. The first day was a Roosevelt pro-war day, a day of pro-war POLIT-ICAL speeches. This is interesting when I remember how often I have heard workers in unions and other workers' organizations resent "politics" coming onto the floor of the union meeting. But today the convention opened with "politics" from the international president; more "politics" from Charles Irvin of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and then pro-Churchill "politics" from a vir-

tual representative of the British government. But

no one took the floor with any anti-war, pro-work-

ing class politics. No one should get the impression that this convention will do nothing but yell for Roosevelt and Churchill. That isn't the situation at all. There are important matters to come before the union that are the business of the shipyard workers. They will certainly give attention to these matters as they have in the past. This will be reported on in the next LABOR ACTION.

One thing must be commented on: this is another democratic convention. It is not so well organized as the UAW convention, nor as efficient, vention. This is clear. It is a Roosevelt to Hillman but operated by the officers just as democratically.

Ford Workers Authorize Strike

(Continued on page 2) was pointed out that the Sperry Corp., which owns the Ford Instrument Co., wade a net profit of \$7,854,-176 in 1940 after payment of all taxes, and \$4,084,907 in the first six months of 1941, and could well afford to pay far more than the increases demand-

ed by the workers. On Monday morning the union's negotiating committee began a series of meetings with the company and a member of the New York State Mediation Board in an effort to get the required terms without resorting to

The company's meager proposals of 5, 8, 10 and 12 cent increases were angrily rejected by the workers. Under the company's terms, the majority of the plant would receive the nickel increase with a much smaller proportion of the workers receiving the other increases. The 1400 learners in the plant, who are the group most abused and discriminated against, would receive the nickel raise. It was explained that incompany.

Other demands of the union include a 65-cent per hour minimum wage for new employees, sick leave with pay, double time for all work on Saturday and retention of the

closed shop. In all discussions in the union meetings and in the plant, the workers have clearly demonstrated their determination to fight for all

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Uruguayan **Trotskyists** For WP Line

-A Letter

After a certain period of forced inactivity, the Fourth Internationalist movement in Uruguay has succeeded in reorganizing itself and starting a new life. They have reorganized the Ligo Socialista Internacional and are publishing a new paper, the Contra la Corriente (Against the Stream), having as its editor Comrade J. L. Lopez Solari. The first issue of this paper was for the celebration of the first of May.

This group holds the same position that the minority held during the factional struggle in the SWP, which resulted in the split of that organization and the constitution of the WP. They maintain themselves on the basic program of the Fourth International. In the July issue of their paper they came out in an editorial for a "defeatist" position in the Russo-German war.

We heartily greet our comrades and wish them the best success in their fight for socialism and the liberation of the Uruguayan workers.

The following letter has been received from the International Socialist League of Uruguay by the American Committee for the Fourth International which has been transmitted by it for publication in LABOR ACTION:

Dear Comrades:

We have received the number of LABOR ACTION in which is published the declaration of the Workers . Party. We translated and published that declaration in the latest issue of our newspaper, August 20, which we

The LSI (International Socialist League of Uruguay), in session on June 23, adopted a resolution against the German-Soviet conflict, taking the identical position as the WP. It can be seen in No. 3 of Contra la Corriente that appeared in the first days of July.

We believe it absolutely necessary to build a strong international movement, with sections in all countries, that can work in a coordinated manner and in the future hold international congresses and conferences or, at

least, inter-American conferences. Our newspaper is well received in the populous suburbs where we sell it. But we must struggle against the imperialist and Stalinist propaganda. The latter, like the socialists, alarmed by our growth, attack us im-

It has cost us plenty to maintain the newspaper, but now our costs have risen 25 per cent. We are making a great effort to maintain it, as a Trotskyist publication is absolutely necessary in this country, where until now there has been no serious propaganda in this sense. In addition, this is actually the ONLY propaganda against

We would like to regularly receive articles to publish or to read when we obtain time on the radio. Like your correspondence, these can be written in English and translated by us. Equally in French. What we consider necessary for our militants and sympathizers is an information bulletin published in Spanish, as the only ones we receive now are from the other faction.

On August 20 we were able to have a radio program in homage to Trotsky. The program was an hour long and at the same time we dealt with Trotsky's personality. We made good propaganda for our movement.

Awaiting quick news from the comrades, we send our best revolutionary greetings.

For the LSI.

RECEIVE ARGENTINE PAPER

LABOR ACTION is regularly receiving the Union Sindical, organ of the Union Sindical Argentina, which is a trade union center defending a revolutionary class struggle line and fighting against the domination of the Stalinist bureaucracy in the trade unions. On the first of May they held a great mass meeting which was tremendously successful in Buenos Aires. Some trade unions led by men who share the position of the Workers Party participated. One of the speakers at the meeting was Pedro Milesi, who was elected secretary of propaganda in the new central committee of this body.

"Financial circles saw the nation headed more definitely toward that complete war effort which, it is felt, leaves no alternative but an open declaration of war." - From the New York Times of September 22, in the column, The Financial Week.

Report Jim-Crow Terror in Army Camp

Three Negro draftees who fled AWOL to Chicago reported to the Chicago Defender, Negro newspaper, the killing of two of their comrades and the general reign of terror in camp.

In affidavits furnished the Chicago Defender, the three youths, members of the Fourth Cavalry Brigade, described a savage pogrom inflicted on the Negro soldiers by civilian police in Bastrop, La., in which two soldiers were clubbed to death. Williams and Goodman, the murdered men, were beaten by six white policemen, according to the affidavits. As Williams sank to the ground under the rain of blows, blood spurting from numerous wounds, one of the cops directed: "Keep beating that Nigger."

The terror had begun before they reached Bastrop. Before that, they had been stripped of all weapons in camp after several clashes. Friendly white soldiers tipped them off one night that a band of southern white soldiers were planning a raid in camp that night. None of them went to sleep that night. Nothing happened until they broke camp on September 1 and camped outside Hamburg, Ark. There the Negro soldiers continued to be harassed. On the slightest pretext they were punished. One of these was so severely beaten with a pick handle, on the orders of Colonel Richards, that the boys broke ranks and rushed to the rescue.

The pogrom in Bastrop was the last straw. An undetermined number of Negro soldiers went "over the hill" to get away from the intolerable situation.

The Chicago Defender has presented the facts, of which the above is only a bare summary, to Judge William H. Haste, civilian aide to the Secretary of War. Judge Haste has promised action. But while here and there a sergeant or a cop may be punished for his inhuman treatment of a Negro soldier—AND THAT'S DOUBTFUL-there is not reason whatsoever to believe that Jim-Crow brutality will be in the least abated.

For Jim-Crow is the official policy of the national government!

creases in the cost of living have already more than absorbed the proposed wage increases made by the

What Is It the Sharecropper Fights For?

We must get some clear idea of the type of workers who made the demonstration and what they have developed into.

These southeast Missouri Negroes are unique. All the statistics in the Bureau of Commerce will be useless unless we understand what type of people they are and the conditions which have

THE LIFE OF A SHARECROPPER

Let us begin with one characteristic cropper. He is in the early thirties and was born in Mississippi. He went 21/2 miles to school every day and left in the fourth grade. He can read. He is also familiar with automobiles and machinery. He is no pro-war monger. At 14 he came to southeast Missouri. He first worked in the cotton field, plowing behind a team. That was in 1924. He got \$1.25 a day, from March until April 30. How many hours a day did he work? The reply is concise: "All."

In June the cotton chopping began. Again he got \$1.25 a day. This lasted until the middle of July. There was no more work until the second week in September, when the picking started. This was piece work. Every 100 pounds, 75 cents. Some strong fellows picked 200 or even 250 pounds. The average man picked 150 pounds. The women would pick about 100 pounds. This stopped in December and there was no more work until the next March.

He lived in an old shack. When it rained he couldn't sleep, for the water came in, summer and winter. This was his life from 1923 to 1937.

In 1935 he heard of the NAACP through the local preacher. He joined. There were about 100 members in his local. In 1938 he heard of the union for the first time. As soon as he heard of it he joined. Whitfield came to speak to a meeting and there were 150 present. In 1939 he took part in the demonstration, was one of the

After the demonstration he went back to work. This time he and his family lived with two other families in three rooms. The pay was \$1.00 a day. The landlord was using tractors, not horses. He needed labor only for chopping cotton and picking. Where one man used to do 10 acres plowing in a day, the tractor does 33. The pay is still \$1.25.

WHAT ABOUT CROPPING?

He and his wife made a crop in 1938. They farmed 11 acres. Starting January 1 they got \$12 a month for five months. The landlord furnished mule and plow and fed the livestock. In September they started to pick. The price of cotton was 10-101/2 cents. The landlord paid him 81/2 to 9 cents. He made nine bales at 500 pounds a bale. The total amount was \$405. His share was therefore \$202.50 minus an advance of \$60 and other minor advances.

However, in December when he was paid off he got \$4.55. Parity payment he got none of, because the landlord, before paying off the crop, insisted that the parity payment be turned over to him. If one were writing fiction it would be necessary to change the \$4.55, make it a little more reasonable in appearance. In fact, the actual truth is worse. The cropper's brother was making a crop of 11 acres for the same landlord. In June he got a job on the WPA at \$8.00 per week and left the crop. The cropper took it over and made nine bales of cotton. THE \$4.55 HE RECEIVED WAS FOR BOTH CROPS.

In another area, a hundred miles off, it was stated that the croppers got what was due to them. The practice of stealing by the landlords varies from state to state and district to district. But

Among the one-third of the nation that lives in direct poverty and greatest misery are thousands upon thousands of sharecroppers, Negro and white . . . in Arkansas, Missouri and other states. Ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-fed, they daily feel the severest lash

of landlord and government. But, despite the most vicious exploitation, despite terror-yes, actual, real terror-despite starkest oppression, these are men whose spirits have not been broken, who stand ready to fight with every worker against class tyranny. They hunger for bread and they hunger for freedom. And, a fighting militant as every one of them is, they mean to satisfy these hungers, however great the odds against them, however dangerous the battle. They know their enemies and they will not yield. This is the second of three articles on the Missouri sharecropper by J. R. Johnson.

there is scarcely a Negro in the area who does not know that he must work a few months of the year, all the hours of the day, for \$1.25 a day (when it does not rain) or do share-cropping and be at the complete mercy of the landlord.

The recent case where a landlord shot a cropper dead because he dared to argue with him is no ordinary murder. It typifies the economic relation between ruler and worker in the process of pro-

THEY HAVE HAD THEIR FILL!

This was the experience behind the demonstration. And it would be a grave mistake to underestimate it. Three generations of Negroes have suffered it and they have had enough. Today the Negroes in southeast Missouri wish neither to be day laborers nor share croppers. They have had their fill of both.

Even in those areas where the croppers admitted that they got their share, they do not want to be sharecroppers any more. Share or no share, the economic and social conditions are such as to create a permanent poverty, misery and degradation which have made thousands of them ready for anything. There are about 20,000 day laborers in this part of the state and about 5,000 took part in the demonstration. Its importance is that it is the first attempt at mass action to remedy an intolerable situation.

The proportion is very high. Everything now starts from the demonstration. They think in terms of it. A careful account of it should be written. The good points emphasized and the mistakes and weaknesses pointed out. The action has given them a sense of power and a consciousness of solidarity.

Naturally with their dispersal and the passing of time, this cohesion may seem to have been dissipated. It is not so. It is there, as can be seen from conversations with any half dozen separate individuals. It forms a practical and psychological basis for the organization of the sharecroppers to take industrial and political action. The masses learn best from the examination and analysis of their own common experience.

The more farsighted of them know what the demonstration has done for them. There were actual concrete results. Just before it took place certain landlords were plotting together to change the proportion in which the crop was divided and rob the cropper some more. In the present system the cropper gets one-half of the crop. The landlord, who actually owns the land, gets one-quarter and the entrepreneur, who rented from the landlord, gets the other quarter. The new scheme that was being hatched aimed at giving the landlord one-quarter of the crop. That left three-quarters, which was to be divided between the entrepreneur and the sharecropper, each getting three-eighths. Thus the sharecropper would lost one-eighth of his previous share. But when the demonstration took place landlords and entrepreneurs retreated.

THEY KNOW THE MAIN ENEMY IS AT HOME

class as these sharecroppers hate their rulers. They know that the main enemy is at home. They can see it. The enemy is not a trust, nor a corporation, nor figures in a bank. He is there, visible. The burden of the sharecropper's complaint is that the landlord sits in his house, does nothing and gets everything, while they do all the work and get nothing. There is Walter Richardson, for instance, owner of a cotton gin and land owner, who says that no "Niggers" will get any parity payments from him and, left to him, he would run every Negro out of southeast Missouri. The croppers state that they have put him where he is, and this is the way that he is talkinb about them now.

They know where the surplus value comes from. There is J. B. Conrad, prosecuting attorney of New Madrid County, who makes it known that no Negro is to come to him to prosecute any white man. There is P. M. Barton with 55,000 acres, who employs 5,000 day laborers and sharecroppers. He is a millionaire many times over and the contrast between his wealth and their misery is too much for the Negro worker. The experience of generations has taught them that there is no salvation from that side. As far as the landlords are concerned, the sharecropper knows that he has no future, either as cropper or day laborer. Once the worker has turned his back on capitalism he instinctively finds his way to socialism and these croppers are no exception.

Such is the development of capitalism that it disciplines, unites and organizes the workers and shapes their thoughts in the direction of socialism. It is the capitalist state itself which has taught the croppers. The Roosevelt government, fooling the workers and to some degree, fooling its more naive supporters, has made a great deal of fuss about the La Forge project. This typical piece of liberal window-dressing consists of a settlement for both Negroes and whites, although as usual in the South the two are kept apart. Each farmer has 60 acres of land to farm. The government supplies livestock and machinery for common use. Each farm has a good five room house attached to it. Each racial group has a school for the children. There is a co-operative store, where at the end of the year a good percentage on the goods purchased is repaid. Best of all, the government undertakes to buy the crop at a good price. In press and pulpit, on the radio and on the political platform, this wonderful piece of work by the Roosevelt government has been trumpeted as one of the outstanding achievements of the New Deal and the beginning of the sharecroppers' paradise on earth. In reality it is one of the greatest pieces of humbuggery that you can find. For, of the 20,000 Negroes who work in southeast Missouri, there are about 60 families on the La Forge project. There is a similar number of whites. Maybe when Roosevelt is finished with the war he will think about extending the project; but if the croppers all get farms, where will the landlord get labor? The croppers will get farms when they take them.

One important result, however, has come from the project. It No working class or section of the working class hates the ruling has turned the mind of the most advanced of the sharecroppers in

a certain direction. They know what they want. They want sixty acres of land. They want the government to supply the livestock and the tractors and the other machinery to work, to "co-operate," as they phrase it. They want the school and the co-op store. It is a complete social program and it is a socialist program. Though they live and work under conditions which they cannot change by any means that they can see, what distinguishes them from so many workers elsewhere is that they do not aim merely at higher wages and better conditions or honest landlords. They do not want to have anything to do with the old system at all.

The economic and social conditions have driven them far forward in political understanding. They formulate a position on the war with an almost Leninist simplicity. "If we get the farms and the schools and the co-op store, then we will fight for our country.

Otherwise we have nothing to fight for."

Take the following dialogue. A farmer is asked if he isn't concerned about the fear that Hitler may bomb his house. "That shack!" he replies with scorn. "That shack should have been bombed 50 years ago." "But the bomb may kill you." What does it matter, I get six bits a day, when I work." All would not be able to reply so clearly. Among any group of people living in the same conditions there are different levels of development. But that most would respond immediately to these ideas if clearly and powerfully put before them is unquestionable.

NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT ROOSEVELT GOVERNMENT

If they understand the landlord and what he stands for as far as they are concerned, they have no illusions about the Roosevelt government. How could they? Roosevelt has been in power for nearly ten years. What have they to show for it? THEY KNOW THEY HAVE ONLY THEMSELVES TO DEPEND UPON. Many of them have at various times joined the UCAPAWA but the locals are not functioning. Periodically Whitfield goes around and makes a speech here and there. But that is about all.

Government relief is given from August to September and consists of beans and graham flour and at other times of graham flour and beans. The graham flour at times is absolutely uneatable even by starving people. At long intervals they will get a pair of overalls or some fat sow belly as meat. Roosevelt gives them fireside chats, nothing more. What they will get they will have to fight for. For the time being they want \$2.00 a day for an 8-hour day when they work as day laborers. They want better relief. They want either money or an order to the store.

Such is their temper and their disillusionment that at the back of their minds most of them are ready for anything. What they need most is organization, the age-old need of the working class. They respect the union, and if the union took any interest in them they would respond. If ever there was an opportunity to start work with the certainty of building a large and powerful organization, to struggle for immediate demands and at the same time nourish a consciousness of the new society, it is here. Despite their many limitations, these workers, in a fundamental

sense, are among the most advanced in America. For, to any Marxist, an advanced worker is one who, looking at the system under which he lives, wants to tear it to pieces. That is exactly what the most articulate think of capitalism in southeast Missouri.

"If only the white sharecroppers will join with us, we could tear this country to pieces."

Copies

New York City.

of the August New International are extill available. The issue contains a host of exceptionally interesting articles, including an editorial estimate of the war as it enters its third year, a continuation of the Russian

discussion, and an analysis of the

UAW convention. Get your issue im-

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ternational, 114 West 14th Street,

Two thousand Childs Restaurant

employees, assembled in enthusiastic

day and night membership meetings,

passed unanimously motions calling

upon their leaders to make all nec-

essary preparations for a general

strike of the New York Childs chain.

by the negotiating committee on the

persistent stalling of the company.

As one business agent summed up

the feelings of every member-"We

can't accept any settlement of \$100,-

000 in increases as we did two years

ago. If we can't get big increases

now, we might as well throw our

The meeting instructed the officials

to call another membership meeting

before September 30, expiration date

of the contract, in order to take final

action to enforce the union's de-

local into the river."

mands. .

Their action came after a report

Childs Workers

Prepare Strike

(To be concluded)

The Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor

Draftees Don't Like Being in the Army

Dear Editor:

In a recent issue of LABOR AC-TION I read a very interesting letter about how the draftees beefed about life in the army and about how the USO, which is supposed to do a lot for the men, is actually doing very little. Well, I live near a camp, and it occurred to me last week-end that I ought to run down and see for myself whether all this talk about bad morale, etc., was really true. Well, you can take my word for it: IT IS!

Some of the men are pretty cagey about talking. One chap just said: "I don't have anything to say," but the way he said it was a speech in itself. I did meet one fellow who could hardly stop talking, he was so fed up. I'll just tell you what he said, without including my own interjections:

So you want to know if I like being in the Army? Well, frankly-No. Why not? Just listen:

I am imprisoned in a sandy wasteland so hot they air-condition the cows to keep them from giving steam. This desert was palmed off on the government as an Army post by grafting politicians who made a fortune on land literally not worth a cent an acre. The building of this camp is becoming a national scandal and mixed up in it is that honorable defender of democracy and champion of liberty, Senator Claude Pepper. For further details, see your daily newspaper.

I have lost track of the number of men this climate has put in the hospital, but it is not a few. The worst I know of is one man who may be doomed to blindness. He has long suffered from glaucoma and vainly sought deferment when drafted. Then he was sent to this hellhole, where the heat and glare promptly finished him off. Now he has to undergo a serious operation which, if it succeeds, may save his sight. This fellow is not from my outfit, but I know the case.

Others have fallen victim to heat or sunstroke, and I hear a couple went insane. This may not be true, but it is not impossible. One fellow who was shipped in here the same day I was had up to last week spent only one day out of the hospital. But he used that one day to good advantage. He went "over the hill" and hasn't been seen since. It's rumored that others have deserted, but his is the only one I know about for cer-

I saw one man collapse from the heat. It was during one of these marches we've been going on to condition us for maneuvers. We moved

out at high noon on a day hot enough is not the slightest doubt in my mind to give the old-timers lying mate- that there is being evolved a conceprial for the next 40 years. The sun tion of and desire for a social change. was so hot it was lost in the sky, which glowed with a glittering metshifting sand which rose in a white choking cloud, mingling with the sweat of our bodies until we were covered with slimy mud. After an hour of this, objects were beginning to blur before me and I felt lightheaded. Then the man in the ranks beside me collapsed.

He lay on his back, his face twitching, and staring with glassy eyes at the blazing sun. His arms and legs threshed about and he kept muttering: "I can't move my hands! I can't. move my hands!"

The medical detachment carried him to the shade of a scrawny pine and the column moved on. So many have passed out on these marches that it's not even a subject of conversation any more. None has died.

KP No Joke Here

KP has furnished many post-card cartoonists with a meager emolument, but it is no joke. Don't imagine for a moment that you merely sit around and peel potatoes with a silly grin on your face. You stay on your feet anywhere from 10 to 12 hours, washing dishes three times a day after 120 or 150 men. Also you scrub, wash tables, handle garbage, lift huge pots full of various scalding liquids.

I read a lot about how cheerfully and gladly the "boys" are taking army life and about their noble spirit of sacrifice, but these eager patriots have managed so far to avoid my diligent search. I hear nothing but complaints about how lousy army life is. When asked what he wanted to be in the army, one fellow replied he wanted to be an ex-service man. Everyone looks forward eagerly to the end of his time.

There is an undercurrent of fear and uneasiness as the administration more unmistakably and inevitably steers into the war. After one of the President's speeches, one of my tentmates, a soft-hearted, romantic young kid, said earnestly: "I don't want to fight. I'm afraid. I'm too young to die." Honest, these were his exact words-I didn't copy them from a dime novel. Nobody laughed at him

Lose All Freedom

About the only thing we all agree on is there's a bug under the chip somewhere. Widespread, too, is the notion that the "rich guys" are somehow using us to their advantage, not ours; and though thee ideas are all expressed in the foggiest terms, there

The Articles of War, the military arouses. code of law, forbids political discusallic hue like molten brass. We sion or criticism of the government plowed ankle-deep through thin, or its administrators. Violations of this prohibition are punishable as "a court-martial may direct." In wartime this could be, and probably would be, death-if such "criticism" were considered seditious or inciting to munity. Also the soldiers' handbook has a little pep talk on the virtues of unquestioning obedience and we are instructed not to "quibble over small details as to your 'rights.' The man who is always thinking of his 'rights' rather than his duty makes a poor soldier." In short, we are expected to be brainless automatons, trained to leap to a command.

That's the worst of army life. Not the strenuous physical activity, not the hard work-but the loss of freedom. Even when we are allowed to go to town, we must first present ourselves to an officer and stand inspection to prove we are dressed to his satisfaction. Once a day we are marched off, like convicts for an hour of recreation, and then marched back.

Until you have experienced it, you bers. The local's newspaper (I am can't possibly imagine what feeling of humiliation and resentment this

He said much more, but I don't want to go on forever. You can take it from me that army life, AND THE WAR, are mighty unpopular.

Isn't Very Pleased With Fitzgerald

Dear Editor:

The defeat of James Carey at the UER&MWA convention by Albert Fitzgerald was perhaps correct in so far as it revealed the membership's rejection of a policy of red-baiting and witch-hunting. But no one should kid himself about the new president, just because he comes fresh from the shops. Fitzgerald is also president of Local 201 here in Lynn.

Local 201 has over 15,000 members, but often we don't hold meetings because of "no quorum" of 75 mem-

enclosing a copy) is the worst in the CIO, and many company unions put out better ones. There is absolutely no union activity, education, or feeling that we are part of the labor movement. The organizer of the union and its present business agent, A. Coulthard, is an honest, efficient errand boy who has become so involved in his routine tasks that politicians like Fitzgerald control the local. The business agent is not permitted to enter any plant but must go to the bosses' office if he wants to take up anything: The UE is attempting to organize the United Shoe Machinery Co. in Beverly, only six miles away from here. Over 3,000 workers are involved and a victory there would most certainly be a tremendous step forward in cracking this giant on a national scale. All the leaflet distributing, house-to-house work and other work is being done by UE members from Boston and textile workers from Salem. Local 201 has done nothing to help. This is the type of local Fitzgerald helped develop and this is the only kind of unionism he knows.

It would take more space than your publication would permit me to go into detail on the various political maneuvers of Fitzgerald. But taking only the latest, the convention, let me say that we are convinced that Coulthard really believed the arguments of the Stalinists against Carey, but Fitzgerald is not so naive. At the last convention of the Massachusetts CIO he played around with the Lewis group until he saw that the Hillmanites had control. Then he combined with them to become secretary of the state organization. The Stalinists have nothing to fear from this man; all he wants is the title, as a stepping-stone to a government position. All the Lynn papers announced that the company officials had wired congratulations as soon as they heard of his election.

No, I am afraid your David Coolidge will not find even the next convention of the UE anything like the Auto Workers convention, unless the workers do something drastic. Our hands are pretty well tied here in 201, but give us time.

Allies Speed Supplies to Russia -

lied victory? The burdens that have

been imposed upon him by the Stalin regime will be increased by new ones so long as the world revolution is jointly fought by Stalin and the Anglo-American imperialists.

Stalin's politics are more and more beginning to resemble those of the Czar. Is the mutual partitioning and exploitation of Iran and its oil fields by Russia and Great Britain any less reprehensible than the secret deals at the expense of Iran and Turkey hatched by England and imperialist Russia in the last World War? Is the Russian worker and peasant going to be fed the pap of religion as Roosevelt promised the Pope? What sort of an understanding did Roosevelt have with Stalin on this subject that so curiously coincided with the suppression of the newspaper issued by the Society of the Godless in Russia?

Next Developments

The fate of nations depends on the battlefields of Russia. The German advance guarantees Bulgarian participation in the war. Sustained Russian resistance might have heightened the admittedly pro-Russian sentiment in Bulgaria to the point where such participation even under the pressure of German bayonets would have been extremely difficult if not

only fulfill the strategical requirements of Hitler. A crisis is now imminent over the question of the Dardanelles. The conquest of the Black Sea and the Caucasus leading to new battles in the Middle East requires the participation of Bulgaria in the war on the side of Germany.

Turkey once more will shortly face the great decision. It is only a matter of time before Hitler will demand from her that she open the Straits to the navies of the Axis. What she will do in the face of this demand will be determined to a large degree on how she estimates the relation of the pro and anti-Axis forces on her side of the world. A speedy German advance to the Caucasus will be a factor in such a reckoning.

Japanese policy will be largely influenced by the new developments in Russia. Already the German advances in southern Rusia are stiffening her in the negotiations with Washington. It is estimated that the application of the Anglo-American economic screw will snap her economy within six months. If before this the Germans will be beyond the Transcaucasus and blasting the British in the Middle East and at the Suez Canal, Japan may very well take the chance of precipitating the war against the weakened Anglo-

American-Russian - Dutch concentra- and money for Russia are gotten tion in the Far East. Thus, while negotiations are taking place in Washington, it is on the battlefields of Russia that the eyes of Tokyo are focused most.

Russia is also the key to the perspective of the war. The conquest of the Ukraine, the Don Basin, the Caucasus, together with Leningrad and Moscow, will set back for a long time the hopes and aims of the "democracies." They will still conduct the war against Germany, even if they have to do it from the Urals. However, this is not what they want. They would much rather see Hitler exhausting himself within the boundaries of Europe. Even this they know would take a long time.

The shorter perspective is possible only by the speediest bolstering of the Russian army. This fact has struck the British with great force since they are the ones who will bear anew the brunt of the struggle as the Russian armies are swept aside.

Roosevelt, too, is fully aware of the consequences of a German victory in Russia. We therefore see how determined he is that no conditions are attached to his lend-lease activities which would tie his hands should he decide to allocate these funds to Russia. At the moment, materials

from non-lend-lease sources in order to get around the still powerful isolationist and religious opposition to aid for Russia. Roosevelt's promises to the Pope to help reintroduce the Catholic religion into Russia after the war is no doubt partially intended to conciliate the Catholic anti-Russian sentiment in America.

The aid to Russia will, therefore, increase. It is only a question of what the allies themselves have to spare and the ships available for shipment. This aid will not be limited to materials. British fliers are already active over Russian soil. As the Germans push toward the British in the Middle East the latter will not hesitate to range their forces beside those of the Russians. The American Navy is already siding with the British Navy in the shooting war.

The development of the war in Russia may very well pose as a strategical necessity that the American Army join the British in keeping the Germans from breaking out of the continent of Europe. The American Legion convention's vote for an AEF is the first big indication of this possibility. If the Japanese decide for a war in the Far East we are certain to see Britain, America and Russia fighting side by side.

LEFT OF THE NEWS

"I have often been accused of using 'hysterical' words."-Dorothy Thomp-

Don't let those accusations bother you, Dotty. . . . Go right on using

in the papers, unless it's a story I've written, and even then I have my doubts."-Walter Duranty. How naive! Here's a man who

"I no longer believe what I read

thinks he's paid to BELIEVE what he writes!

"We should have more consideration for the boys who are keeping our defense bonds from becoming worthless." - Senator O'Daniels, of Texas, speaking on draftees.

Come, come, Senator. Surely you have more tact than that. According to the Dean of Canter-

bury, Soviet aviators fly "as straight as the party line." Now we know what happened to

those fliers who were missing a while back. . . . The line changed while they were in the air.

-From The Challenge of Youth, Sep-

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 dictator-
- 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 votel
- 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!
- 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.
- \$60 a month minimum for conscripts. Former employers to pay the wage differential and guarantee return of the
- 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 peo-
- ple's army! No confidence in the Roosevelt government.
- For Peace through Socialism. For the Socialist United States of the Americas. for the Socialist United States of Europe, for the World Socialist Federa-

Mr. Churchill Is Slipping!

Uneasy sits the title of Prime Minister of Britain upon the head of Winston Churchill. The man with the bulldog face and the black cigar is running into stormy to get into he RAF for a long time. Everywaters. A stream of criticism—from Tory thing went along well until he visited the ruling circles, business men, exporters and British Air Ministry in Washington, where importers, the English working class, etc. -has begun to pour in.

The English capitalist class bases its criticism upon the fact that the war, so far as a British victory is concerned, appears to have no end in sight. The business men of England complain that Winnie has lost his dynamic fighting qualities; that he refuses to take the offensive. "When do we (by "we" they mean the English workers and soldiers) invade Europe? Why aren't we really helping Russia more?"

Likewise, they see their business-especially foreign trade—being shot to pieces by their American rivals, who take over one trade route, one shipping line after the

In Tory circles it is already reported that they are seeking a successor to Churchill. Sir John Anderson, head of the Conservative (Fory) Party, is mentioned. His record shows what they're aiming at. Anderson led the English troops that put down the Irish Easter Day rebellion; he was governor of the province of Bengal (India) during one of its stormiest nationalist periods; he was a leading figure in the breaking of the 1926 general strike. Anderson is known as a harsh militarist—that is, an English totalitarian. His name mentioned as successor to Churchill indicates the militarist plans of the English rulers—a tightening of the war regime, directed against the people of England.

Naturally, the severest anti-Churchill sentiment comes from the working class. There, the burning question is: When all this is over, will all our sacrifices and sufferings have been in vain? Will we be thrown back on the dole and unemployed lists, herded into our slums, hounded by the same high prices and shortages as we face today? In other words, what will postwar England be like?

Churchill has no answer.

He cannot give an answer because he knows that the truth would only justify the worst fears of the workers—therefore, he remains silent. But his very silence means the setting of his star among the English workers—even those who had many unfortunate illusions about Mr. Churchill a year ago.

The so-called world leaders of today burn out and fizzle away in an amazingly short time. Churchill reached the top. He was proclaimed a man of destiny, heaven sent! But already we can see the start of his long descent into oblivion. Why? Because capitalism-in its fascist or democratic form-is a doomed and dying system. Capitalist politicians and leaders inevitably go down with the system they seek

Jim-Crow Flies In the RAF!

As our readers know, we aren't very hot for this imperialist war. Anybody who VOLUNTEERS to fight on any side of this bosses' war is a poor, deluded dope. But at least it's his democratic right to be one.

The British and American governments, of course, are as anxious as they can be to get volunteers. You'd think, therefore, that in this war for "democracy" that they pretend to be fighting, they would at least cover up the less democratic features of their rule. Everybody knows about the vicious Jim-Crow which is official army policy in the United States-extending to segregation, proscription, brutality and murder. Jim-Crow in this country is an old and ugly

But England! Ah, there's a really democratic country. Inasmuch as there are very few Negroes in the British Isles proper, the British bosses have never had to exercise a deliberate and public policy of Jim-Crow. (Africa, of course, is something different. That's where the government's attitude toward the Negro means something; and that's where Jim-Crow is much too mild a word for the bitter oppression of the natives.)

Well, what happens when a Negro, misguided into believing the jingo propaganda, applies for admission to the highly touted Royal Air Force ferry command? He is shown the last point in a list of nine minimum requirements for pilots and co-pilots: "All applicants must be of the white race."

That's what the NAACP found out when it received a letter from Charles M. Ashe of 274 Division Avenue, Washington, Mr. Ashe, a commercial pilot and instructor with 2400 hours in the airs, has been trying it was suggested to him that he list his color, though there was no place for such a designation on the application. Weeks passing, he telephoned Captain J. D. Mugford of the RAF, who told him he could not be accepted. Why? For answer, Captain Mugford sent him the list of requirements.

The NAACP is properly protesting the case. In every case and instance we must fight for full equality for the Negro people. But we wonder if Mr. Ashe still thinks it's a war for "democracy."

On the SP and Norman Thomas

We read in the papers where the national committee of the Socialist Party has condemned Lindbergh. But we didn't read where they had ordered Norman Thomas to mend his ways or get kicked out.

Norman Thomas has been hob-nobbing with Lindbergh on speaking platforms and at social events. Life magazine recently reported that the only two people who visit Lindbergh regularly at his home are John T. Flynn and Norman Thomas. We know that the Socialist Party wouldn't think of interfering with the social life of the man who just happens to represent that party in the public's eye, but they ought at least make him draw the line on a fascist and avowed anti-Semite.

And another thing: In its issue of July 12, the Socialist Call, organ of the SP, condemned the persecution of the Minneapolis unionists and Trotskyists. But Thomas (remember, he's their leading spokesman) gave all but outright support to the persecution in as weasel-worded a column (September 6) as you are likely ever to read. And further: the Minneapolis branch of the SP is "strictly neutral" on the case; according to a letter in The Call of July 19.

Somewhere along the line the party ought to get hold of itself and make at least a slight attempt at consistency in matters of this importance. Or doesn't it matter, considering the state of the organization?

Economic Notes by Frank Demby

Washington Merry-Go-Round of September 19 declares that President Roosevelt was positively shocked when Representative Carl Vinson, chairman of the House Naval Affairs Committee, furnished a confidential report on shipyard profits. "One company making ordnance instruments for the Navy netted a neat 208 per cent! Some plane manufacturers are making as high as 150 per cent. Big shipbuilders are averaging 72 per cent on government contracts." Some people do surprise easily. But what else could be expected when the Vinson-Trammell Act, limiting profits on naval orders to B per cent, was repealed at the start of the war program? Rumor hath it now that Vinson will propose to limit naval profits to 7 per cent. We WILL be surprised if such a measure goes through!

"Combined net profits of 112 producers of consumers goods in the first half of 1941 amounted to \$165,734,689 after all tax provisions and other charges, compared with \$141,260,170 in the same period last year, reflecting better gains after taxes than most of the heavy industry groups thus far reviewed for the period." (Kenneth L. Austin in the New York Times, September 21.) And Mr. Austin has already reviewed the situation of some of the biggest war profiteering industries, such as chemicals. The profits of the big bosses are getting so big in all industries that they can't even conceal them any

The above items attain real significance only when compared with the 1941 revenue bill, which was signed by the President on September 20. I have previously pointed out the gross inequities in this "Soak the Poor" bill. The conference between the House and Senate over their respective versions made virtually no changes of any importance from the Senate bill, as had been universally predicted. The income tax and excess profits tax provisions were unchanged. The burden of additional taxes is thrown almost exclusively on those who can least afford to pay. There were merely a few minor changes on some of the "hidden" or excise taxes. The tax on telephone calls, for example, is fixed at 6 per cent on local telephone bills, 10 per cent on long-distance calls costing more than 24 cents, and 10 per cent on telegraph, radio and cable messages. This "fair and equal" treatment of services used by the lower middle class and the workers, such as local telephones, with those used by the very wealthy, such as radio and cable messages, is typical of the perverted sense of justice that permeates the entire bill. Unless the trade unions and workers launch a real campaign for a genuine, 100 PER CENT EXCESS PROFITS TAX, WITHOUT ANY LOOPHOLES, they might as well resign themselves to footing the entire cost of the war.

The real boss of World War I, Wall Street's white-haired boy, Barney Baruch, testified last week in connection with the pending price control bill. This outstanding representative of the ruling class in this country painted a very dark picture of what happens under inflation and what the aftermath of war may lead to. He was delightfully vague, however, on how to prevent these dire things from happening. The profit must be taken out of war. Yes, we agree, but how? Just establish price ceilings and everything will be hunky-dory. Freezing wages will not affect labor's right to strike or the right of every worker to bargain collectively. No, it would just render the major veapons of labor absolutely useless.

Fairy tales aside, what Mr. Baruch was trying to tell the political representatives of the bosses is that if you want to lick Hitler you've got to use Hitler's methods-that is, under capitalism. Said the duPonts' family adviser: "If we are to keep the war from reaching these shores or win any war into which we are thrust, it will not be done by 'business as usual' but by the full mobilization of our economic resources as in 1918 and it must not be too little or too late." That he really didn't mean the modest mobilization of 1918 but Hitler's type of mobilization, which was swiped from the American Army's M-Day plans, can be seen from the very next sentence: "Full mobilization means transforming American industry from a highly competitive economy to a practically single unitary system under which all producers will cooperate, sharing trade secrets, pooling patents, resources and facilities."

Monopoly capitalism must be placed firmly in the saddle. This is the program recommended by Mr. Baruch. Anything or anybody that stands in its way must be pushed aside, crushed. This is the program of the National Association of Manufacturers and the big capitalists. It gives the lie to Baruch's conclusion: "The status quo of all should remain until the war is ended." No, when things are changing very rapidly, as at present, no power on earth can keep the face of the world as it has been. Either the workers make up their minds to take what is their just due or the bosses will impose an American

A dispatch from Berlin, printed in the financial section of the New York Times, September 21, says: "Announcement that the Reich has sold its controlling interest in the Hamburg-American Line and in the North German Lloyd to a group of business men in Hamburg and Bremen took the financial market here by surprise. The step itself may be in line with the accepted policy of the Nazi government, which on various occasions, has stressed its aversion to government ownership and to the operation of business concerns." (Emphasis mine-F.D.) And some people still think that there is a "new" social order in Germany! It is still capitalism, to any but the blind, but it represents a further and logical development of capitalism-namely, state mo-

Ask Funds to Fight Case Of Minnesota Defendants

The most sweeping attack upon civil liberties and labor's rights in many years is the federal indictment in Minnesota of 29 people-members of the Socialist Workers Party and the leaders of Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union, Local 544, CIO.

THIS PROSECUTION IS DOUBLY UNPRECEDENTED. Never before in peacetime has the government invoked statutes punishing the mere expression of opinion as it is doing with the Socialist Workers Party. Nor have the federal authorities ever so flagrantly intervened in a trade union dispute by instituting criminal proceedings against the members of one labor organization, the CIO, on behalf of another,

The indictment mentions no overt act to substantiate its charge of "seditious conspiracy" except the ridiculous assertion that a Union Defense Guard, organized three years ago to protect Local 544 against Silver Shirt gangs, was "designed to overthrow the government."

The prosecution has been vigorously condemned by the CIO, Labor's Non-Partisan League, the United Auto Workers, the American Civil Libertles Union, The Nation, The New Republic and other leading liberal and labor spokesmen. The Civil Rights Defense Committee, which is directing the general

vided bail and counsel for the defendants. It requires \$7,500 to pay for bail premiums, legal expenses and publicity. It must provide for 29 defendants during a trial of several months. We urge you to aid the defendants by contributing-promptly and

defense in this case, has already, together with the national CIO, pro-

generausly-to their defense fund. Make all checks payable to the Civil Rights Defense Committee, 160 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. This appeal is also endorsed by the American Civil Liberties Union

Charles R. Walker. Margaret De Silver, John Dos Passos James T. Farrell, Carlo Tresca.

For Independent Political Labor Action Against the Boss Class

Knudsen--

(Continued from page 1)

the laborer alone. Knudsen included everybody. How nice of him! Mr. Boss and Mr. Worker will both work a longer work day. Boss and worker will both "ACCEPT SACRIFICES IN THEIR DAILY LIFE."

Mr. Boss, who performs no useful labor at all, will work an extra hour or two stacking up his bank notesand maybe put in an arduous evening at a swanky night club just to show that he isn't holding out on the "defense" effort. John Worker will operate his machine an extra hour or two until he is ready to drop from fatigue-and then spend his evening at home storing up enough energy to get down to the factory the next morning.

Mrs. Boss will settle for a sable coat instead of a brand new yacht (the government needs all the steel.) Mrs. Worker will get one egg instead of two, because the price has gone up too high.

Look at the top left hand corner of page 1. There you will find a statistical summary of how the bosses have been sacrificing. Read those figures carefully. Your own plant may be among them. Remember them. You may be able to use them when the boss comes around with a story about how Knudsen said everybody has to pitch into the national "defense" effort - WORK LONGER, GET PAID LESS.

It takes unspeakable gall for Knudsen to bracket a worker and a boss together in "man-hours" or in sacrifice. But, of one thing we are sure: KNUDSEN'S PREDICTION IS TRUE. That's what he and the other members of the war administration want and are out to get.

The question then arises: What are we going to do about it?

What else can we do except get our unions ready for struggle! We will have to fight every inch of the way—and we must be prepared for it.

They will plead with us, or SEEK TO INTIMIDATE US, in the name of the imperialist war. Our answer must be a simple one: We don't care a hang about your war plans. You have pushed us into this war without our consent or discussion. We are interested in OUR needs and in OUR wants exclusively!

We refuse to kill ourselves in ceaseless toil for puny wages so that the members of the Union League Club can grow fatter on our sweat. We don't care how long Mr. Boss "works" or how much he "sacrifices." That's his business. WE RE-FUSE TO WORK LONGER HOURS, WE REFUSE TO SACRIFICE!

The bosses can't turn the wheels of industry. They don't know how. There aren't enough of them.

Why should we therefore submit? The power is ours. We need only organize ourselves, act unitedly, prepare our unions for the struggles

We can halt the schemes of the jingo administration if the unions of the nation issue a challenge:

ard of living!

We will strike to BETTER our standard of living, our working con-

Need Funds

(Continued from page 1)

government - in short those forces which despise a militant labor movement and which wish to strap it firmly to the war machine. (In The Call for September 6, Lindbergh's pal, Norman Thomas, gives implicit support to the pack who are howling for prosecution of the Minneapolis unionists. After a discussion with Dan Tobin he was convinced that the leaders of Local 544, CIO, terrorized (!) the rank and file into leaving the AFL. The best you can say about Thomas is that he is consistently wrong!)

Primarily intended as an action of the Roosevelt government to interfere in the affairs of the labor movement where a section of it refuses to kneel before the anti-labor, jingo hysteria, the prosecution has additional implications as well.

If the government and Tobin are successful in their persecution of these men, a deeper wedge will have been cut by reactionary forces into the liberties of the American worker. They will have established a precedent of arrest and conviction for HOLDING AN OPINION!

Understanding the basic issues involved, knowing the exemplary record which the leaders of 544 have established for themselves in the union movement, the national CIO has given its full support to the defense. Local union after local union has voted its solidarity with 544. Thus the CIO is behind them; and the Minneapolis workers who know that their leadership is among the best in the country, are behind them, too. These Minneapolis workers have withstood the proved gangsterism of Tobin's imported thugs to show where they stood, to fight for the life of militant unionism.

They must be joined by every worker in the country, and by every person who feels that now is the time to defend our civil liberties against totalitarian encroachment. DEFEND LOCAL 544. CIO!

DEFEND THE INDICTED MILI-

CEILINGS?

On Houses, Yes! On Wages, NO!

By SUSAN GREEN____

Labor is interested in ceilings-BUT NOT IN CEILINGS ON WAGES!

The workers have an interest in apartments and homes with HIGH CEILINGS and plenty of

But the workers cannot get such basic necessities when a ceiling is put on wages and THAT IS WHAT THE BOSS POLITICIANS ARE TALK-ING ABOUT NOW.

Another kind of ceiling that the workers are definitely concerned about is a CEILING ON

The war has only begun AND ALREADY THE BOSS PROFITS ARE ASCENDING INTO THE STRATOSPHERE.

Let the Washington big-wigs clip the wings of war profits. WAGES must do SOME SOARING to shorten that long distance between the average worker and the good things of life.

There is a federal law declaring that labor is NOT a commodity or article of commerce. In fact, a number of state statutes use the same sweet

words. Such laws are so much eyewash. When the warlords discuss putting ceilings on the prices of steel, oil, cotton wheat and hogs, they include the commodity LABOR.

According to the economic laws of the exploiting capitalist system, LABOR POWER IS A COM-MODITY-without any buts, ands or ifs.

The war-wizards in the Capital talk about putting ceilings on all prices-not only on the price man's capacity to labor.

THE WORKERS ARE FROM MISSOURI! What has Leon Henderson been doing for these many months-IF NOT FIXING PRICES?

But the result of all the "fixing" is that month by month the cost of living leaps to new heights. HENDERSON HIMSELF ADMITS PRICES CLIMBED BY 17 PER CENT ABOVE PRE-WAR

Has the commodity, labor, done as well? Only in the basic war industries-WHERE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BOSSES WERE COM-PELLED BY MILITANT STRIKES TO PLACATE THE WORKERS-have wages gone up to an average-NOT OF 17 PER CENT-BUT A MEAGER

Many hundreds of thousands of workers have received only negligible increases-MANY HAVE RECEIVED NONE AT ALL SINCE THE WAR

YES, THE WORKERS ARE FROM MISSOURI. When any "fixing" is to be done, IT ALWAYS TURNS OUT ALL RIGHT FOR THE BOSSES-AND NOT SO HOT FOR THE WORKERS.

Nobody could argue that it isn't being fixed pretty well for the bosses-WHEN THEY CAN REPORT WAR BOOTY ANYWHERE FROM ONE HUNDRED TO THREE THOUSAND PER CENT ABOVE PRE-WAR PICKINGS.

NO. THANK YOU - NO CEILINGS ON WAGES!

PUT YOUR CEILINGS ON PROFITS, YOU WAR-WIZARDS!

The worker is not exactly tickled pink with his status as a commodity along with hogs, wheat, cotton, oil, steel. He does not think it fun for human beings to be tossed about on the billowing waves of the profit-controlled market.

During the depression, when the bosses were not buying labor power, WORKERS HAD TO EKE OUT A MISERABLE EXISTENCE ON A SUB-HUMAN LEVEL.

Now, when there is a better seller's market for labor power, THE BOSS POLITICIANS WANT TO PUT A CEILING ON WAGES!

The worker is also not exactly tickled pink about the war for the benefit of the exploiting capitalist system-that system which puts him in the same economic category as hogs.

But this war between the international bandits-which the workers hate and do not want to fight-has FOR THE TIME BEING undeniably created a better market for labor. THE WORK-ERS ARE WISE TO THE SCOUNDRELS WHO WANT TO PUT A CEILING ON WAGES NOW!

Old Lady Nature is not concerned with the fact that under capitalism labor is a commodity. According to the laws of nature. THE WORKERS ARE HUMAN BEINGS. Today the worker's family is in good health.

Next month there may be sickness and death. The size of his family increases. His children grow up. Their needs grow up too. There are a hundred and one exigencies of human life that require MORE AND MORE MONEY. THERE IS NO CEILING ON HUMAN NEEDS!

Human needs must not be lost sight of in the deafening clamor the boss war-makers are raising. In the coming period of mounting living costs, burdensome taxes, compulsory "savings," increased "social security payments," HUMAN NEEDS WILL BE LOST IN THE SHUFFLE-IF THE WORKERS DO NOT KEEP THEIR RIGHT TO DEMAND AND FIGHT FOR MORE

LET THE CEILINGS BE PUT ON THE ONE HUNDRED TO THREE THOUSAND PER CENT WAR PROFITS!

NO CEILINGS ON WAGES!

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