

Independent Class Action Is Only Road for Workers Despite War Labor Board

AN EDITORIAL

The honeymoon period for the War Labor Board is already over, and it has been in existence hardly more than a month.

This body, created by President Roosevelt to settle "peacefully" the issues between capital and labor, is rocking precariously on the dispute over the closed shop.

The board has over 20 cases in which CIO and AFL unions are asking for either union or closed shops.

The SWOC is seeking a union shop agreement covering 175,000 steel workers at the Bethlehem, Republic, Youngstown and Inland Steel companies. While the SWOC stands some chance of getting its wage demand of one dollar a day increase in pay, the union shop issue is expected to go before the War Labor Board.

The issue of the Kearny shipyard strike, the union shop, rests, after all these months, at the doorstep of the board, with the union pressing for an immediate answer.

And the CIO auto union has before the board the problem of maintaining the union standards of double time for Sundays and holidays.

FIRST DECISION A PRECEDENT

Naturally, the first major decision that the War Labor Board renders will be used as a precedent in future cases. If the War Labor Board decides against the closed or union shop, it will be very difficult for the AFL and CIO men on the board to justify their remaining on it. For such a decision would clearly prove that the War Labor Board was merely a stale rehash of the National Defense Mediation Board which the CIO angrily denounced in the captive coal mine strike dispute.

On the other hand, any decision giving the unions their recognized right for a closed or union shop would hardly be welcomed by big industry.

Washington reports are that the board is seeking to find a weasel-worded compromise formula to save face on this question.

In any event, the War Labor Board finds it impossible to accomplish its main task, to "eliminate" the antagonism and clash of interests between capital and labor. What LABOR ACTION has said time and again remains valid today a thousand times over: Labor cannot depend on any governmental board to win its victories for it; labor must continue in most active form the struggle for improvement of its conditions and the growth of its ranks.

LABOR'S NEEDS IN WARTIME

The bosses—more realistic and class-conscious than many labor union leaders, who take the bosses' talk about "national unity" a bit too literally—realize that it is necessary, from their point of view, to continue a militant struggle for their privileges. Labor must understand the same thing from its class point of view.

The class struggle is not suspended by virtue of some noble phrases. It continues irrespective of anyone's wishes or speeches. It is an inherent part of capitalism. What is at question is: Which class will win the given battle?

Labor must prepare for this struggle. There are many tasks ahead: organization of the South, Little Steel negotiations, organization of the oil workers, stepping up the aircraft organizing drive, getting a general wage increase, and many others. These must be the real pre-occupations of labor, not the vague phrases about "mutual trust" of the soft-soapers who would fool labor into believing that the War Labor Board can solve its problems.

THE WORLD AT WAR

Long War Based on Military Stalemate Foreseen if World Imperialism Continues Rule

By SENTINEL

The man in the street is beginning to be disturbed about how long the war is going to last. He sees that Japan is no pushover. She has conquered Malaya and part of the Dutch East Indies. She has besieged Singapore and the Dutch naval base of Amboina. She has invaded Burma, captured Moulemein and threatens the Burma Road.

Then there is the booty that goes with these victories. Oil, rubber, tin and the other riches of the Southwest Pacific are falling into the lap of Japan. That isn't going to make the Japanese any weaker, and it looks like the Allied blockade that was supposed to bring Japan to her knees is a thing of the past.

On the other side of the world, in

Libya, the Germans are also showing that they are far from finished. Despite the German retreat in Russia, they did have the reinforcements and supplies to send to General Rommel and he promptly turned around and made the British retreat.

It is indeed a lucky thing for the Allies that Hitler forced Russia into the Allied camp. One can just imagine where the Allies would be now if Hitler had not blundered into the vastness of Russia. Space, manpower, equipment, the terrible Russian winter and determination to resist have combined to force a German retreat. Already the stubbornness of this retreat, for it is definitely not a rout, is worrying the Allies. They see the spring only six weeks away and with it the next German offensive.

Axis Still Strong

There is no mistaking the strength of the Axis powers. After two and a half years of war their military position is still stronger than that of the Allies. The Allies have not yet even achieved military equality—despite their potentially superior strength. And equality alone can hardly overcome the Axis.

In this war far more than in the last, the Allies must have, in order to win, such a superiority in forces that it staggers the imagination. Since America is the most potentially powerful country in the world, she is the one that will have to produce these forces in the main. Is this possible, even for the United States?

To get an idea of what this problem involves we have only to look at the World War map of today and compare it with the map of the last World War.

The United States came into the last World War fresh against an exhausted opponent. The AEF landed on friendly soil and fought on a front to which both the Allies and Germany had established relatively short lines of communications. Even so, the task of transporting this man-

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Tricky Bookkeeping Hides U.S. Steel's Vast Profits

Every steel worker is interested in hearing about the vast profits which the steel corporations are making on war orders. These figures must be known by every steel worker; they are his answer to the lying, hypocritical complaints of the bosses that they can't afford higher wages.

Let's take a look at U.S. Steel as a typical example. It announced that its net profits, AFTER tax deductions, were \$116,019,518. This is an increase over the net profits of 1940, when U.S. Steel made \$102,181,000. But if we take a glance at the tricky bookkeeping used in calculating the net profit figure for 1941, we realize that Big Steel really made a lot more than \$116,019,518.

U.S. Steel put \$25,000,000 of its profits into a "contingency reserve" and arbitrarily increased its charges for depreciation and amortization by \$24,846,000. So, on any true comparison with 1940, its 1941 net profits, AFTER taxes, increased by 82 per cent to \$165,866,000.

LABOR ACTION

FEBRUARY 9, 1942

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

DOLLAR-A-YEAR BIG SHOTS RETAIN WAR PROGRAM HOLD

REMEMBER SIKESTON, MISSOURI!



Despite the tumult created by the reports of the Truman and Vinson congressional committees which disclosed the stranglehold big business' dollar-a-year men have on the war program and the skyrocketing profits big business is coining out of this program, Donald Nelson, new war production czar, disclosed last week that the dollar-a-year men would be retained and none of their power shorn. This announcement, made in testimony before the Truman committee, is a virtual guarantee from the man who is now to take full responsibility for the war program, that big business will remain in the saddle "for the duration."

Nelson, the former \$70,000 a year Sears, Roebuck executive, declared the dollar-a-year men to be an "extremely useful adjunct—possibly an even indispensable one—to the war program."

It's All Coming Back!

"Since 1937 we have sent Japan one billion dollars' worth of supplies, 64 per cent of which were war materials. In 1940 we banned shipments of high octane gasoline and aviation lubricating oil, but still our export of oil to Japan increased in that year by ten million dollars. In the same period the export of iron and steel semi-manufactured rose 100 per cent. In the first three months of 1941 we sold Japan more than four and a half million dollars' worth of copper and \$11,706,000 worth of gasoline and oil."

The New Republic.
(July 14, 1941.)

3,000 Attend St. Louis Anti- Lynch Meeting

Special to LABOR ACTION

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 5—Close to 3,000 enraged people attended an anti-Sunday, February 1. This attendance is unprecedented for this city. lynching mass meeting held here on toppling the attendance of recent patriotic meetings.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. All of the Negro audience and some of the speakers understood that this was more than an ordinary, "accidental" lynching; that it was part of an organized campaign of terrorism and violence against the Negro sharecroppers and workers of southeast Missouri. They understood that this lynching is integrally connected with the bosses' attempts to stop the growing solidarity of Negro and white sharecroppers.

Next week we shall send more details of this unprecedented mass meeting, as well as additional information on the lynching itself.

However, this much LABOR ACTION readers should know: The Negro workers of St. Louis are infuriated about this lynching as nothing else. They will not be satisfied by smooth talk; the blow of Sikeston has left an irreparable dent in their memories.

In the face of this declaration of governmental policy—undoubtedly made with the previous knowledge and approval of President Roosevelt—the "liberal" Truman committee timidly backed down and agreed not to "interfere" with or criticize Nelson's plans.

Nelson did not answer one of the criticisms made in the original Truman report. He did not deny that the dollar-a-year men acted in the interests of the capitalists, nor that these capitalists were making tremendous profits out of the war program.

If anything, his testimony threw a bright spotlight of confirmation on the original revelations. When asked why he opposed the original Truman committee proposal that all dollar-a-year men be either fired or made to sever their connections with their company and work for the government (at the pitiful wage of a mere \$8,000 a year!), Nelson replied that the dollar-a-year men would refuse to work at such "low" salaries since they are accustomed to a "high standard of living" and it would be "extremely hard for them to adjust themselves abruptly to a much lower income."

This Is Dynamite

There is dynamite in these words! Here is a true picture of those sterling citizens, the captains of industry, the dollar-a-year men, the big business executives, who are so "indispensable!"

The youth of the nation are drafted and sacrifice their lives for \$21 a month. They, too, leave debts behind them—debts more difficult for them to meet than those of the dollar-a-year men. Yet the people running the government in Washington see nothing wrong about this. But to draft a dollar-a-year man for a job at \$8,000 a year—exactly 24 times as much as the average draftee makes during an entire year—that is "impossible." Or so Donald Nelson says.

A Fact to Ponder

Does not this fact tell more about the character of this war, the interests the war is being fought for, and

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V. R. Dunne Tours For Minneapolis Defendants

V. R. Dunne, leader of the Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544-CIO and one of the 18 leaders of 544 and the Socialist Workers Party convicted in the Minneapolis labor case, will tour 21 cities under the sponsorship of the Civil Rights Defense Committee. He will speak on the meaning of the Minneapolis convictions.

His tour begins on February 2nd in Milwaukee and will take him on a swing through the major industrial cities. In Cleveland, his meeting has been endorsed by the Auto Council of the CIO.

The CRDC received this week the endorsement of the New England Joint Board of the United Retail and Wholesale Employees of America, CIO. This union body strongly condemned the convictions and declared itself shocked that "liberties and human rights... can be so totally annihilated."

The CRDC also received this week a contribution of \$100 from the CIO Briggs Local 212 of the United Automobile Workers, located in Detroit.

Respectable Business Men Led Missouri Lynch Mob!

LABOR ACTION prints below an exclusive, first-hand report on the recent lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Mo., written by a usually well informed correspondent in Missouri. According to the sensational disclosures in this article, prominent in the lynch mob were a police officer, Patrolman Dace, and a number of the leading "respectable" business men of the town: Joe Rimes, the Sikeston druggist; Lon Noll, the local liquor store proprietor; and Pete Medley, owner of the local theater; and others named in the article.

MISSOURI, Feb. 1—It is possible to disclose certain facts about the horrible lynching of Cleo Wright which were hitherto either unknown or hushed up by the boss press.

The bare outline of the facts is already known to LABOR ACTION readers. The charge that Wright "raped" Mrs. Sturgeon; the fact that he was shot three times by a policeman before he was brought to jail; his abduction from the jail by a crowd of shouting whites; and the tortures inflicted on him—towing him behind a car speeding 70 miles an hour, and then burning him with gasoline.

Here are some additional facts, which I have been able to obtain, which throw some further light on the case: There is much more to be discovered, but every-

one is trying to hush up the case.

It is significant that as Negro after Negro heard the story they declared at once, "the man and woman were friendly..."

Now, Sergeant Walls and Patrolman Dace, of Sikeston, both white, have admitted, according to a published report in the St. Louis Argus of January 30, that there was an exchange of letters between the lynched man and a white woman! It doesn't take any great powers of deduction to figure out the name of the woman!

Furthermore, another press report states that when Wright entered Mrs. Sturgeon's home he saw one more woman than expected, for he exclaimed: "There are two of you tonight..."

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Eire Protests Neutrality Violation

By HENRY JUDD

"So far as we Irish are concerned, the landing of Americans in Northern Ireland is the same thing as the landing of the Germans in Norway. We consider the landings an aggression against the Irish nation." (Patrick Maxwell, Nationalist member of the Ulster Parliament.)

When Hitler's troops sneaked past the defenses of Norway and planted themselves in that country against the will of its people, the world protested this criminal act. "I did it for your own good, to protect you from the English," proclaimed the Fuehrer. How everyone laughed and ridiculed this lie! And correctly so.

When Hitler's partner, Il Duce, sneaked up on Albania one dark night and occupied that country, he told the world: "I am the friend of

Albania. I did it to save the country from the democracies." And again every honest man laughed up his sleeve and called Hitler's stooge a liar. And correctly so.

When the Japanese Mikado five years ago hurled his troops against defenseless China, he said: "I am doing this because I love you and want to save you from the white devils who are ruining your country." Every worker knew that he too lied in his throat; that the only result of Japanese attacks upon China has been to lay waste that country—just as the attacks upon Norway, Albania, etc., have had the same result.

And even if we were to use the most high powered microscope, it would be well nigh impossible to discern any essential difference between these actions and the occupation last week of Northern Ireland by an American AEF. The fact that

it was done by those who preach that this is a war for "democracy" only makes matters worse. It was aggression against the national independence of the Irish people.

Why do we say this?

Because the Irish government was not consulted in the matter, and knew nothing about it—as Roosevelt has admitted—until the troops had begun to land. How do such actions differ from Hitler landing in Norway and then announcing—Boys, here I am!

Because it violates one of the principles laid down in the Atlantic Charter of Roosevelt and Churchill according to which every nation—small or big—has the right of self-determination and control over its own destiny. The government of Eire didn't ask for the troops!

Roosevelt has already expressed his attitude toward the affair. When informed of the angry protest of President de Valera of Ireland, he wisecracked: "Live and Learn!" But this remark holds true for those who have a chance now to observe "democracy" in practice, including the Irish people. And Churchill informed Parliament that the American troops would do Ireland "a lot of good."

The Basic Issue

But some people will say: After all, the troops have landed in Northern Ireland, not in Ireland proper—and they came with the approval of the Ulster government, which is a part of Great Britain. Prime Minister Andrews—head of the Ulster government and leader of the majority Unionist Party of Ulster—announces

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Europe in Revolt

News from the Socialist Third Camp

THE COMING EUROPEAN REVOLUTION FACES A GREAT MENACE IN STALINISM

The recent success of the Red Army draws our attention to a most vital problem of the coming European revolution: the danger of a "new Spain"; the danger of a defeat of this revolution, not by the onslaught of the capitalist enemy, but by forces functioning within the working class itself. It is of utmost necessity that this problem be clearly faced now; failure to do so can have only serious consequences later.

It is not merely a matter of academic discussion as to whether the Soviet Union is a workers' state or not. There is more than merely a problem of sociological definition involved here. Regardless of intentions, to speak of Russia as a "workers' state" today is to blind the workers—especially of Germany—to the dangers of tomorrow.

In spite of the tremendous waves of wishful thinking produced during recent years about the "definite collapse of the Stalinist parties," it is a fact that in most of the occupied countries the Stalinist Party is the strongest if not the sole mass party of the workers. Facts are stubborn; you have to explain them but you cannot make them disappear merely because your historical analyses want them to. As long as the roots from which Stalinism springs continue to exist, it will remain as a powerful counter-revolutionary factor in Europe.

The reasons for this surprising vitality of Stalinism in Europe are many and complex. The two most important, almost as powerful today as ten years ago, are:

1) The widespread traditional linking of revolutionary action with Moscow, the capital of the first successful working class revolutionary country. The sentiment that, after all many tactics may be incomprehensible, but still "they know how to do the job." For many years, the Communist Parties had been the gathering place of the revolutionary elite, for many years all those workers who were opposed to opportunism and reformism had been almost automatically drawn to the Stalinists. Every attempt to build a revolutionary mass party outside the CP ranks failed largely because of this attraction. The whole pattern of working class ideas was completely linked with the Soviet Union, even after Stalin had usurped power.

2) The second reason is a socio-psychological one. Craving for leadership, for authority, is a deep-rooted tendency in modern man and is also present among the workers. It is much easier to transfer one's craving for authority from one powerful force to another than to stand openly in rebellion against existing society. Especially is this true of a working class that has suffered numerous defeats, that is in large measure unemployed and starving. A free trade union worker in a factory, who has acquired the feeling of independence is much more difficult to induce into unquestioning obedience toward the rigid structure of Stalinism.

IS A "NEW SPAIN" INEVITABLE?

But in Europe today there are millions of unemployed workers who work only occasionally, millions of others near starvation. Recent defeats of the working class in France and Spain, to name but two, have tremendously aggravated this sentiment of despair. Large sections have abandoned confidence in any action arising out of independent class struggle; they are looking for help from outside. (We have recently printed instances of evidence that this sentiment is gradually being overcome, but these are only the first signs.)

If these two reasons for the strength of Stalinism cannot be overcome by the new working class revolutionary movement arising today in Europe, a "new Spain" is inevitable. But how CAN these two factors be overcome?

Were we here dealing with a problem of "importing" attitudes and ideas to the European working class, our task would be hopeless. But what is rather in question is certain trends already latent in the European masses, certain facts which are the foundation for the new movement.

EUROPE DREAMS OF SOCIALISM

Oppression and semi-slavery, the unlimited reign of bureaucratic authority over the working class as well as over each individual, have created a spontaneous longing for freedom and security. These words are often used in the reports we get from Europe; their concrete meaning is often very blurred; some—certainly not the majority—may think of a return to bourgeois democracy. But for many, these words are linked to the idea of socialism (which is, of course, also thought of as a vague and blurred conception). This is where the tasks of the new movement appear. It is the job of the revolutionary groups in Europe to clarify and define these ideas. Here also is the basis upon which Stalinism can most effectively be attacked.

It is necessary to point out to the masses that Stalinism (even though it functions on the basis of what can be the form of economic organization of socialism) is not socialism, but rather a totalitarian regime of the most brutal sort. Socialism, it must be pointed out, is conceivable only on the basis of economic planning and nationalized industry—plus democracy, self-determination and initiative from below. Soviet democracy in this sense must be the great idea animating the revolutionary socialists of Europe; only on this basis is it possible to effectively smash once and for all the virus of Stalinism. Class democracy as against bureaucratic authoritarianism, which takes its most vicious form in Stalinism, must become a prime issue of all the political thinking and propaganda of European socialists.

Propaganda alone cannot, of course, change history; theories can only be fertilized in the soil of action. The feeling of powerlessness and the fatal lack of self-reliance which at present characterizes so large a section of the European working class, can only be overcome by the independent action of the class itself.

Independent class action and the concept of democratic, revolutionary socialism are the poles around which the new movement will have to revolve. Without them any hope of overcoming either capitalism or Stalinism is vain. Europaean.

Ohio CIO Protests Employment of Women for Over 45 Hours a Week

By MARY BELL

The present controversy between the Ohio CIO Council and the Ohio Department of Industrial Relations on whether the state should permit industries to work women employees more than the 45 hours a week legal limit indicates a general problem.

George A. Strain, industrial relations director for the state, reported he had already issued 62 temporary permits to "industries facing emergency need of disregarding the 45-hour limit." Ted F. Silvey, Ohio CIO secretary-treasurer, vigorously protested the relaxations in the law, stating that the industrial director "is willing not only to blink at violations of the law, but has lent himself actively to set aside a law he has sworn to enforce." Strain is said to have murmured something about Pearl Harbor.

Colonel Battey, chief of the liaison division of the office of the Undersecretary of War, said: "Eventually, the only labor supply may be women. The day is past when employers may compete with the Army for physically fit men. That day ended with the treacherous assault on Pearl Harbor. Women can fill many types of jobs, not only as well as but better than men."

Whatever the proportions, there will be an influx of women into industry. Although in some areas men are being fired because of war priorities, in many the effective male labor supply is being exhausted, making the hiring of women imperative. Employers will try to cut the wages of women workers below that of men employees just as eagerly in wartime as they have in peacetime. They

will also welcome the fact that women can be sweated more than men and are not so likely to join a union.

The basic reason for the double exploitation of working class women is the capitalist system of exploitation and inequality, which encourages passivity in and takes advantage of the physical weakness of women. Unions have often reflected this pressure of capitalists to cheapen labor costs and thus increase their profits by setting up in their contracts lower pay schedules for women. This naturally causes indifference to the union. Also, in times of stress, union men often demand that married women workers be laid off first. However, it is true that married women with families are greatly in need of their supplemental earnings to provide a decent living.

Differential pay schedules for women and union discrimination erect a barrier between women workers and the union which is the only force that can fight to secure better conditions for women workers. Unions which have such barriers also risk losing the active cooperation of women in the shop, a force they need more than ever today, when taxes, rising prices and decreasing real wages make necessary a tremendous fight for higher wages. The Ohio CIO is fighting an exemplary battle for maintenance of the minimum hour law for women.

A union program for women workers should include: (1) equal pay for equal work; (2) good minimum wage and hour laws for women in those states where none or poor ones now exist; (3) no tampering with or violating laws already in effect.

And What About the Malaysans?

We read that an army of 100,000 Japanese have now laid siege to Singapore Island and the city located on it.

We read that thousands of British soldiers, Anzacs from Australia and New Zealand, and troops from India are defending Singapore.

But Singapore Island has a population of 700,000

people—400,000 native Chinese in the city alone! And 300,000 native Malaysans and Tamils in the rest of the island.

But we don't read anything about them. Are they—the people of Singapore—participating in the defense? Where are they?

Could it be that 100 years of British plantation rule and colonial exploitation by the "white capitalists" have made them indifferent and neutral toward what happens to British rule in Malaya and Singapore? Could it be that they see no difference worth dying for between the British imperialists and Japanese rapists of China?

Dollar-A-Year Men Keep Control of War Program

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who will profit from it, than tons of "patriotic" speeches by the politicians? Who cannot see the parallel between this situation and the First Imperialist World War, where the whole show was run in the interests of the capitalists and of the profiteers? Only now we don't have to wait for an investigation after the war; we have SOME of the facts already.

The futility of the proposal of the Truman committee that the dollar-a-year men be forced to sever their connections with the companies they receive their pay from, was exposed by Nelson himself. The Truman committee had suggested that this proposal would abolish the evils its report had described. Nelson realistically answered by saying, according to the New York Times, "that he did not feel economic bias, developed by a lifetime of experience, would be wiped out by payment of a government salary, whether it be \$1 a year or \$8,000 a year."

A Correct Statement

That is absolutely correct. What Nelson was saying was: This is big

business' war and it's big business' government; keep your hands off and don't bother us. And the Truman committee meekly obeyed.

That is no reason, however, for the labor movement to be quiet. The startling facts disclosed by the Truman report remain valid. That report disclosed that:

- 1) The dollar-a-year men, "in a very real sense... can be termed lobbyists." "Since they represent the largest companies, this means that the defense program in all its ramifications must obtain the approval of the large companies."
- 2) The large corporations get leads from the dollar-a-year men, whose entire mentality is so constructed that they instinctively come to the aid of big business.
- 3) Profiteering was proceeding on an unparalleled scale.

There is food for thought here. Workers must understand that the government tie-up with big business is not something unusual; under capitalism it takes place during peacetime and wartime. Only in this case the connection is naked and easily seen.

Food for the Hungry Mouths of France!

Desperate Mothers' Demonstration Forces Vichy to Send Succor

Because of the courageous action of the housewives of southern France, their families today have a little more food doled out to them than they have had for many a day. The Hitler lickspittles in Vichy—those former French "democrats"—can see children starve without bat-

ting an eye. The mothers of these children could stand it no longer.

They got into action. The result is—MORE FOOD.

They got out from their houses and demonstrated in the streets of Nimes, Montpellier, Agde, Sete and other towns of the Marseille region of France.

Following this example, the men left their jobs and joined the women in the demonstrations for food.

Only then did the Vichy government stop sending excuses. IT SENT FOOD—hundreds of tons; reports the Associated Press. Fruits and vegetables were included. The meat ration per person was raised by 90 grams a week. Additional supplies of macaroni were distributed. But the Vichy diehards sent relief only when they understood that the demonstrating men and women meant business. If their rulers were not willing to give them food, the people were willing to take the powers of government into their own hands. That's what made Vichy step on the gas and send food—fast!

Workers Seize City Hall For in the town of Sete the dock workers seized the City Hall, according to a dispatch from Berne, Switzerland. Even the Ministry of Interior had to admit, though reluctantly,

that the demonstration had "a political aspect." It was also reported by the Associated Press that the angered people forced the authorities to release their arrested comrades. Whereupon those released immediately continued to demonstrate, in spite of the authorities.

However, the official communique issued by the Vichy government for home consumption denied that the demonstrations were serious. It would not be politic for the authorities to advertise the fact that the housewives and workers of southern France were serious enough to run things themselves in an effort to keep from starving.

Of course one must understand that the relief sent these people is only a temporary expedient. The Vichy government and the Nazi dictators have apparently not been convinced that people must eat—war or no war. For French newspapers are, according to reports, again talking about the diminishing supply of flour. This is interpreted to mean that a further decrease in the bread ration is just around the corner.

To teach the war-makers a permanent lesson will require action on a grand scale by the suffering people of all France, of Germany and of all the war-torn countries.

It Took Them Six Years to Discover That Youth Has No Future!

A six-year survey by the American Youth Commission on the status of youth in the United States, pre-war and post-war, has resulted in no constructive solutions or suggestions to remedy unemployment problems facing young people today.

Composed of various big business spokesmen, with the retired industrialist, Owen D. Young, heading it,

the commission recognizes the possibility of a social revolution with American youth in a leading role against capitalism at home after the war.

"Every post-war movement of social unrest will cater to this group (youth). Any movement which received their united allegiance would rapidly assume revolutionary proportions."

While expressing fear for the potential strength of young jobless Americans during and after the war, the capitalist commission can only recommend a permanent dole for the employment of youth under 21.

The most ironic element evident in the report is the recognition by the commission that the very system which they represent is in a decadent state. There can be no "improvement of the capitalist system to make it provide a job for all who are able and willing to work," as the report suggests. Capitalism and unemployment are integrally bound together; likewise they must be removed together.

The committee concludes its report with a warning. "Unless we succeed meantime in greatly improving the management of our economic system, sooner or later we shall again face economic difficulties comparable to those of the early Nineteen Thirties. When that time comes the present economic system will be destroyed unless some means is found of rebuilding it on a more stable basis." If, after six years of study, this is the final nebulous recommendation of the commission, youth had better look forward to constructing a new and firmer system than try to rebuild an economic system which can promise nothing to it.

Form Harlem Interracial Club to Fight Jim Crow

The following is reprinted from a recent issue of the New York Age. LABOR ACTION believes that the formation of such groups as the Interracial Club should be encouraged as a means of securing that militant solidarity of black and white workers which will wipe out the scourge of Jim Crowism. Although the release does not contain details of the group's program, we feel that the formation of such a group, dedicated to militant action, is a step in the right direction—Editor.

As a result of the shameful attack of various newspapers on the Harlem community, there has been organized within recent weeks an organization composed of white and Negro men and women dedicated to the task of achieving complete democratic rights for the Negro people.

Thirty-five people were present at the foundation meeting of the group last week, which heard the program of action proposed by the organizing committee and unanimously adopted the name "Interracial Club"

The necessity of not relaxing at the present time in the struggle against Jim Crow was emphasized by numerous speakers. It was pointed out that "there can be no true democracy where there can be discrimination" and that an unceasing war against every phase of discrimination must permeate the existence and activity of the new organization.

Preliminary plans for a campaign to secure jobs in industry for Negroes were presented. The plans in-

clude investigation of employment opportunities and distribution of information to qualified workers. At the same time, wherever employment is refused because of color, the Interracial Club is determined to use every means to force the hiring of Negro workers.

The alleged Harlem "crime wave" occupied the attention of the meeting for a considerable period. As the Interracial Club aims primarily to be an organization of the Harlem community, recognition was fully given to the need of combating vicious press campaigns directed against the Negro people. The evils of slums, inadequate educational and recreational facilities and, most of all, exclusion from employment at equal wages and conditions were indicated to be the causes of Harlem's ills. A committee was appointed to prepare a concrete program of action with reference to Harlem conditions. The committee was cautioned against duplicating certain organizations which have proposed only abstractions and generalities and have done nothing concrete.

The organizing committee reported that a spacious hall which will serve as the headquarters of the Interracial Club, has been secured. The hall is situated at 287 St. Nicholas Avenue, corner of West 125th Street.

A weekly forum at which prominent speakers will appear, classes in Negro history and current events and various social activities are now being planned by the club. Individuals who are interested are invited to write to the Interracial Club at the above mentioned address.

World at War - -

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power proved to be tremendous. In a letter to the New York Times, the former director of military railways and deputy director general of transportation of the old AEF, Colonel Wilgus, gives us an idea of the tremendous effort involved. He writes:

"An army as great as was in the making in France in the last World War, intended to number between four and five million men, called for many miles of wharfage equipped in all respects in 31 ports, of which much had to be created new. Also in demand were fleets of harbor and inland water craft; thousands of locomotives, including their fuel; upward of a hundred thousand freight cars as well as hospital and French troop and "on leave" trains; rails, ties and bridging for thousands of miles of track; several large shops and numerous roundhouses; water supply and coaling facilities and cranes galore; warehousing on a gigantic scale; construction tools and appliances in great numbers, a trained personnel aggregating more than 200,000 men, in which were to be embraced officers possessing vision, experience and skill, and their staffs, engine, train and yard crews, repair forces and stevedores."

A Tremendous Problem

Colonel Wilgus is disturbed about the problem of getting the troops to the fighting front. He is disturbed because on this subject he suspects that not even the plans are laid out. He wonders if even the Army sees that far ahead in the war and he knows, moreover, what a tremendous job it is. And, mind you, he is only speaking of one phase of this problem, that of moving the men to their objectives AFTER they are landed from ships. Thus he writes: "We read of forthcoming vast numbers of troops, ships, planes, tanks and guns; but not a word of the needs to be provided for their transshipment at ports on the other side and for the continuation of the journey to objectives far inland."

But what of the problem of shipping and transportation BEFORE the troops are landed in ports? And where, also, are the ports to which they can go? Where is the DECISIVE front of battle? How long will it be, if ever, before this front can be reached? These are some of the significant questions that puzzle the American people.

The lines of communication today are not to be compared with those of the last World War. Roosevelt can speak glibly of ten, eight or six AEFs, but just consider where these AEFs will have to go. The lines of communication have extended tenfold. American troops will go not only to the British Isles but to such far flung areas as Eritrea, Australia and the Aleutian Islands. They will not go to these places traveling light, as was the case with the old AEF

that went to France. Today the United States will not only have to supply the troops but the airplanes, tanks, artillery and everything else that a modern war requires.

Nothing But Doubt

The more extended the lines of communications, the greater the amount of men and materials, and the means to transport these. At the end of the long chain the Allies must still have superior forces to face the enemy in his home territory. And in back of all this is the superhuman effort at home, in the factories and in the training of manpower.

Viewing after two and a half years of war the still formidable enemy, the average man sees absolutely nothing but doubts and fears on the horizon. He sees neither the hundreds of thousands of planes and tanks nor the millions of tons of shipping. He cannot see even the beginning of the thousands of miles of communication that must be traversed. And beyond that, where indeed is the front where victory can be achieved?

But he does see the ever-continuing slaughter, the typhus and the hunger. He feels the cost of living skyrocketing, food, clothing and housing shortages, heavy taxes, priorities unemployment and at the same time work without rest. He sees new millions taken from home to be trained for the holocaust.

He wonders where all this is leading to and what about tomorrow? All the burdens and anxieties of the war begin to press more and more upon him. From the very start he feels no enthusiasm for all the blatant calls for sacrifice. Soon he will begin to ask himself why and in whose name we are fighting and suffering without end? When he and all the other victims of this bosses' war on both sides will begin to understand the real imperialist character and aims of this war, then and only then will there appear over the horizon the possibility of ending this ceaseless world slaughter and establishing a society of peace and plenty—the dream of all humanity.

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(Chicago, Ill.)

During the last TWO weeks LABOR ACTION has received the following subscriptions from the cities listed below:

Lynn	19
Missouri	17
New York City	7
Chicago	2
Arizona	2
Wisconsin	1
Total	38

The Business Manager.

Of Special Interest To Women

By Susan Green

The Secretary of Agriculture proclaims that there is no shortage of food. The United States Department of Labor comes out with authenticated information to the same effect. In fact government officials here, there and everywhere are patting the housewife on the shoulder and telling her not to worry because there is plenty of food.

We believe you, gentlemen. We know enough about the great productive capacity of this country to believe that there is an abundance of food.

We know, for instance, that there are plenty of eggs. So why did eggs go up 27 per cent since last year?

There is plenty of cheese. So why did cheese go up 31 per cent since last year?

The hog population is quite adequate. So why did pork chops go up 29 per cent in the last year?

The supply of fruits and vegetables flows uninterruptedly from the bosom of mother earth. So why has even the humble potato gone up 40 per cent in the last year?

Why? Because there is also no shortage of food profiteers!

Question: Will the new price control bill get at these leeches?

Answer: Neither Mr. Roosevelt nor Mr. Henderson expects this hypocritical piece of legislation to do anything of the kind!

The vociferous First Lady, in one of her recent press conferences, stated that the high cost of living has not created any empty spaces in the White House pantry. It is still well stacked with ample quantities of potatoes, eggs, cheese, flour, fruits, vegetables, meats—to enumerate only the simple staples.

This, of course, is a great relief to those of us who spend wakeful nights wondering what is going to hit us next. At least we have the assurance that the residents and guests of the White House eat as usual—which is unusually well.

The working class housewife who tries to feed, clothe, shelter, entertain and educate her family on \$20, \$30 or \$40 a week would also not be worried or hampered by the mounting prices—if she were flooded with as much money as finds its way into the White House.

The President's salary is a mere trifle—\$75,000. To this must be added what he earns on the side from magazine articles, etc. On top of all this there must be a steady stream of purely parasitic income, namely, dividends and interest on stocks and bonds. For it is hardly conceivable that a man in his social position hasn't a safe deposit box at least as well stacked as his pantry.

With the benefits of capitalist democracy so richly bestowed upon them, it is quite easy to understand why the Roosevelts are so keen about the "war for democracy"—and not worrying about the high cost of living.

Park Avenue is being very charming, "democratic" and condescending to the boys of the armed forces.

But the boys don't think Park Avenue so hot. Hambla Bauer, writer for the World-Telegram, not long ago gave a report on what sailors want when they are on leave.

For instance, they like dancing "where the girls are just plain working girls, not them ritzy dames that look down their nose at you," writes Miss Bauer.

When they go to a dance they want to meet girls "who have a background in common with their own."

No, thank you. Sailors have no stomach for the "handouts" from the rich.

Park Avenue pretends to cross the class line. But working class boys know it's wartime camouflage.

A most eloquent indictment of American capitalism was unwittingly made by W. L. White in his book called "Journey for Margaret." Mr. White went to England to adopt a war orphan. Therefore the title of the book.

He was in London at the height of the horrible blitz and he had the following to say about the chances of survival:

"You are infinitely safer living in London than you would be if you were a Negro infant living in rural Mississippi."

Yes, in peace as in war, capitalism deals out death. So get going, all you black and white mothers of the poor. We must save a "democracy" littered with the corpses of little children.

Since December 7, some long-overdue revelations have been made public on the subject of American capitalism at work. In industry the greed for profit creates bottlenecks, inefficiency, anarchy. The Truman report gave only an inkling of all this. In the armed forces political pull and stuffed shirts yield the same results. The Roberts report on Pearl Harbor gave a peep into that situation.

In a minor key but on the same theme of capitalist obstructionism is the story of waste paper conservation in the San Francisco region.

Many housewives on the coast took seriously the drive of the former OPM to save waste paper. They saved it, and the Boy Scouts, the Salvation Army and other organizations went around collecting it.

But it turned out that the only waste paper company in San Francisco that could handle for manufacturing purposes the supply provided by the housewives was tied hand and foot by a sacred contract. Under this contract another private capitalist outfit known as the Scavengers Association—and it alone—may supply waste paper to this, the only waste paper company in the San Francisco area.

So thousands of housewives are "aroused," according to the papers.

But the waste paper saved by them still lies around unwanted—and the Scavengers Association goes merrily on collecting its profits under the sacred contract.

Do you wonder that LABOR ACTION never stops its cry for NATIONALIZED INDUSTRY UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL!

Winston Churchill's Self-Portrait

"The truth is that Gandhi-ism and all that it stands for will sooner or later have to be grappled with and finally crushed. The loss of India would mark and consummate the downfall of the British Empire."

"We have no intention of casting away that most truly bright and precious jewel in the crown of the King, which more than all our other dominions and dependencies constitutes the glory and strength of the British Empire."

From a speech on December 12, 1930.

After Six Months of "Congressional Labor"

New Price Control Act Can't Stop Price Rises or Prevent Inflation

By BILL HAINES

Congress has finally passed a price control bill after a delay of six months. In its final version it is a complete fraud—a travesty of a real price control bill and one which will not limit but actually raise food prices by a minimum of 15 per cent.

That this so-called price control bill will be completely ineffective in checking inflation has already been admitted by Leon Henderson, federal price administrator. On January 24 Henderson stated: "If we have no more in the way of price control than the bill that came out of Congress this week, no one will dare say we will not have inflation. The bill's controls are not extensive or adequate enough to stop spiraling prices. Everything in the bill intended to help in regulating prices was whittled down... The bill will not keep your prices in line."

Since Henderson is the man who has the job of controlling prices under the price control bill, the significance of this statement is tremendous.

The chief defect of the price control bill is its provision relating to

food prices, which make up the main part of the cost of living. The farm bloc in Congress succeeded in obtaining four separate devices to insure higher food prices.

First, they insisted on at least 110 per cent of "parity" prices for farm products before price ceilings could

LABOR ACTION PROPOSES:

Freeze rents, food and clothing prices at the 1940 level to stop the rising cost of living!

Wage increases to meet the rising cost of living!

be fixed. Since present farm prices average around 95 per cent of parity, this provision allows an average rise of 15 per cent in farm prices.

Not satisfied with this, the farm bloc insisted that farm prices could be fixed no lower than those of October 1, 1941, or December 15, 1941,

whichever was HIGHER. They also insisted that farm prices could not be fixed lower than their average from July 1, 1919, to June 30, 1929—a period deliberately chosen to match some of the very highest prices.

Finally, they provide the Secretary of Agriculture with veto power over any farm price ceiling imposed by the price administrator.

Through the use of whichever of these alternative schemes would give the highest price, every single farm product with the exception of four (beef, veal, wool and rice) could rise from 5 to 40 per cent above recent prices before being controlled. In the case of cotton, for example, the lowest ceiling that could be imposed would be at the 1919 to 1929 average, or 21 cents a pound, an increase of one-third over the present price.

Forty Per Cent Increase in Prices

A ceiling on wheat prices, however, would be based on 110 per cent of parity, a 40 per cent increase over its present price. Corn, barley, and oats could make similar advances,

while hay could double in price before control could apply.

It should be clearly understood that the politicians in the congressional farm bloc do not represent the great majority of America's six million farmers. The Southern poll-tax congressmen do not represent the millions of tenant farmers and sharecroppers in the South who are deprived of the right to vote. The Western congressmen do not represent the millions of poor farmers and agricultural laborers. The farm bloc represents only the handful of big commercial farmers, the large farm corporations, the insurance companies which own much farm land, and the big food trusts such as Ward's Baking Co., Armour Ham Co., Borden's Milk Co., etc.

It is only these rich farmers and trusts who benefit from exorbitant farm prices. The ones who lose most from higher food prices are the workers—who must, therefore, demand the immediate enactment of Point 3 of LABOR ACTION'S platform—the imposition of ceilings on all food and clothing prices at 1940 levels.

Eire Protests Neutrality Violation

(Continued from page 1)

that he stands by the Constitution and that he welcomes the troops, who come in the cause of the United Nations.

This immediately raises the main, the real point at issue: The question of the division of Ireland which took place in 1920. By decision of the British Parliament in that year (and without consultation of the Irish people) Ireland was divided into two parts: The Irish Free State (Eire) consisting of five sixths of Ireland and 70 per cent of the population, and Ulster, 30 per cent of the population and one sixth of the country.

This division was engineered deliberately by the British to keep the people of Ireland divided. It followed no geographical, linguistic or economic lines. It was an artificial division from start to finish and a method of keeping a pistol pointed at the head of a united Irish nation.

The 1918 election showed 80 per cent of the people for a United Irish Republic; this was reaffirmed in the 1921 election and would undoubtedly be doubly reaffirmed if an election was held today. In Ulster itself (consisting of six counties) a majority of

the people want unification with the Irish Free State. Ulster is run in a dictatorial manner by the Unionist Party with the help of British soldiers and bayonets. By every democratic, historic and economic right Ulster belongs with Eire and would be part of a United Irish Republic if it were not for British imperialism and militarism.

Andrews' Excuse

When Prime Minister Andrews speaks of the Constitution he does not speak of any democratic law voted upon by the Irish people, but rather of a foreign Constitution forced down their throats by the British Parliament. His approval of the American troops is similar to Quisling's approval of Nazi action in Norway. Both violate elementary democratic rights.

What are the troops doing there? What will they be used for?

They are there to put pressure on the de Valera government in Ireland.

The only effect these troops can have is to hasten the process by which Eire is being dragged into the war, against its will. Eire is caught in a trap in this World War between

two imperialist war camps. Like every small and comparatively weak country it is squeezed and pulled apart by the rivals who threaten at any moment to make it a bloody battlefield. Democratic rights, national sovereignty, free consultation, unity of peoples—all this goes by the board when the great imperialist powers are seeking to strike destructive blows at one another.

If it should ever become necessary

Just One Big Family

"When Mr. Matsuoka visited Britain during the Manchurian war, he was the special guest of the Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co. and was taken on a tour of their works. Subsequently he had an hour's interview with the chairman of the Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.

"One of the firms associated in the Japanese armament combine, known as Mitsui, was actually a subsidiary of Vickers-Armstrong, the British armaments firm."

Bloody Traffic.
(Fenner Brockway.)

Daily Worker Covers Up Poll-Tax Politicians on Missouri Lynching

By Irving Howe

Not the least interesting of the various reactions to the horrible lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Mo., was that of the Daily Worker, organ of the American Stalinists.

This lynching was understood by every progressive Negro and white worker as but another link in the chain of Jim Crowism in the South. It was understood—how else CAN it be understood?—as but another instance of the terrorism which the Southern white ruling class (in some instances the planters, and in this particular case, the small town business men) exerts to keep the Negroes "in their place."

Was there anything unusual about this lynching? Even its sadistic ferocity is not without a precedent. Was it an exception? Everyone knows of the many, many lynchings of the past years—those widely publicized and those which do not even get three lines of publicity in the press.

This lynching is merely a manifestation of a rotten social system; it is an integral part of Southern capitalist society. Everybody—even the most war-mad liberals—must admit that!

Everybody, that is, except the Daily Worker, which in its hysterical jingoism and pseudo-patriotism is second to none in this country, not even to the yellow tabloid press.

What It Doesn't Say

For the Daily Worker the Sikeston lynching is significant not primarily as a manifestation of a decadent society which exerts its "justice" by burning black bodies. That is not even a secondary aspect of it, for it. The Daily Worker has not a word to say about the connection between the lynching and Southern society; not a word to say about the connection between the lynching and the Southern Democratic political machine (a machine which President Roosevelt not only tolerates, but actually leads!).

For the Daily Worker the lynching is important... in terms of the military struggle which American imperialism is conducting today. The lynching, says the Daily Worker of

February 2, "must be judged in an entirely new light—in light of the requirements for military victory against the Axis enemy."

It continues: "It is a conscious deed of sabotage and interference with a domestic phase of the military program for the defeat of the enemy; it is a political crime against the U.S. government."

This statement is a lie! If the Negro people follow the advice in this statement they can only prepare the ground for new sufferings for themselves.

Lynching is not a "conscious deed of sabotage and interference with a domestic phase of the military program." Nor is it a "political crime against the U.S. government."

Who Are the Lynchers?

Every Negro knows that the elements which perpetrate lynchings in the South are among the most substantial sections of society, at least in their leadership; that the "respectable" business and middle class elements are generally behind these lynchings.

Every Negro knows that these same "respectable" elements are precisely the most "patriotic," the leaders of the Democratic machines in the South who condone the lynchings, who uphold Jim Crowism.

Nor is lynching a "political crime" against the U.S. government! Every Negro knows that Congress has refused to pass even the mild anti-lynching bill; nor has the President ever said a word to prompt Congress to pass such a bill!

What Worries the Daily Worker

What worries the Daily Worker is not so much that there's been a lynching... but that Hitler may use it as propaganda! The DW says: "The Tokio and Berlin short wave radio stations are already citing this lynching as 'evidence' of the treatment in store for the colored races of South Africa and the East—allies of the United States—in event of a victory of the democracies."

What vile stuff this is! Of course Hitler can use this as propaganda; of course Hitler lies and offers just as bad a fate for the Negro. But isn't it true that under the rule of the

great "democracies"—England and America—the Negro people ARE enslaved, ARE humiliated both in Africa and America.

This doesn't mean that the Negro people should support Hitler; he is their enemy. But it follows also that the Negro people shouldn't give support to the British and American bosses; they have also shown themselves as the enemy of the Negroes.

Jim Crowism is an integral part of Southern capitalist life. It is the way that the Southern capitalists prevent the cementing of unity between white and black workers; it is the insidious method of "divide and rule" which helps retard labor organization in the South—and that is clearly to the bosses' benefit. It is the way they maintain their low wage policy. It is the way they maintain their plantations. It is the way they maintain their social position and prestige—in a word, the way they maintain their system!

The Capitalists' Stakes

And the entire capitalist system of the country, including both capitalist political machines, has a stake in the preservation of this system. This is true of the Administration, which can get the votes of the Southern Democratic machine any day to make every section of the world safe for democracy... except the South!

That is why the Daily Worker commits such vile treachery against the Negro people when it hails "the promptness with which Governor Forrest Donnell reacted in ordering an investigation of the lynching..."

Why does the Daily Worker lie? Why does it hide what it knows so well, and has previously written about, that such "investigations" which the governor of Missouri ordered are merely bluffs to quiet and soothe the indignation against the lynching, to smother the issue in red tape.

The Stalinists' Treachery

Why? Because the Daily Worker, faithful agent of the Kremlin dictator, is interested in one thing only: the military victory of Russia and whoever its allies may happen to be at the moment. When Stalin was mousing around with Hitler, then

the Daily Worker suddenly understood that lynching is an integral part of capitalism, that the way to fight lynching is to organize a united front of black and white workers against the bosses and their system and their agents who instigate the social conditions that give rise to such barbarisms as lynchings.

The Daily Worker can blow hot and cold at will. It can recognize social evils in America... when Stalin is on the opposite side of the diplomatic and military side. But when Stalin is on the side of America... then all is milk and honey—even if there is an "occasional lynching."

Negroes Can't Relax

But the Negro workers live and suffer under Jim Crowism regardless of which side of the war Stalin may happen to be. They cannot relax their hatred and opposition to Jim Crowism merely because it is to Stalin's advantage.

The Negro workers must brand the Daily Worker and the Stalinists for what they are: accomplices of the political party which tolerates lynchings in the South—the Democratic Party!

The Negro workers must brand the Daily Worker for what it is: the accomplice and supporter of the social system which tolerates and produces lynching!

And they must turn their backs on the Stalinist fakery and continue the fight for full social, political and economic equality for the Negro people!

Chicago Forum Hits Tax Bill

CHICAGO—An audience of Negro and white workers attended a lecture by P. Piquet on "Who Will Pay the War Bill?" The meeting, held at the Good Shepherd Community Center on Friday, January 23, was the second in a series being given by the Chicago Labor Action Institute on current problems facing the workers.

Business Men Lead Missouri Lynch Mob

An Exclusive Dispatch

(Continued from page 1)

All this, and much more, is known throughout Sikeston, and the true situation was suspected, even before confirmed, by every Negro and white man who knows something about the conditions in the South.

These underlying circumstances in the case, known to the Missouri press, are largely ignored or suppressed in order to get across the idea that "while lynching is a crime," one must remember that the Negro was a "rapist" and one must not be too hard on the whites who "took the law in their own hands." To put the matter bluntly, the newspapers know the facts which indicate overwhelmingly that the relationship was of a cooperative and voluntary nature.

Much is also made in the capitalist press of the fact that the Negroes ran away in terror and hid in their homes. Very subtly the impression is given that Negroes are half-savage brutes who attack lonely women and then run to their homes to shiver in fear while white mobs administer a "rough justice."

NEGROES READY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES

Nothing of the kind is true. The Negroes were ready to protect themselves. When the mob went into the Negro district to terrorize the Negroes, they didn't run away. They got out their guns and ammunition, ready to defend themselves, their families and their homes. (These facts were attested to by the Rev. Mr. Ross, a Negro parson, in a communication to the Governor of Missouri.) The police advised the Negroes to stay in their homes, pull down the shades, and turn out the lights because there might be a riot. Instead the Negro men went out and held a meeting in the Second Baptist Church. They informed the police: "Keep those white people from coming across the railroad tracks, because we are prepared to protect our homes and families."

Where the true savagery and ferocity lay can be shown by the following: The mob dragged the body to Wright's home and called his wife out to "take a look at him." Mrs. Wright is in a delicate condition. Wright's body was still lit with gasoline; it moved, showing he was still alive.

"RESPECTABLE" CITIZENS LEAD LYNCH MOB

And who led the lynch mob? Were they wild men, ignorant and uneducated? Some of the participants undoubtedly were, but the leaders were among the most "respectable" business men and middle class citizens of the town.

Among the prominent citizens of Sikeston seen in the lynch mob and alleged to be the actual leaders by various persons in Sikeston afraid to speak openly, were Patrolman Dace, driver of state highway car No. 84.

The man at the wheel of the car that dragged the victim's body was Joe Rimes, a druggist, according to these same sources.

Lon Noll was identified by our informants as the man who lit the victim's gasoline soaked body. Another prominent person seen in the third car of the gruesome "parade," was identified as Pete Medley, a theater owner.

Obviously the names of many more participants in this horrible outrage are known to others in the mob and to those who watched or were terrorized by the lynching.

But none of the guilty fear punishment very much. For there is another fear that stalks the area. Fear to take the consequences of talking.

Already the local district attorney has announced that he can't find the culprits! Nor is the verbal indignation of the Governor expected to produce anything substantial.

The partial protection which might be afforded to potential victims by a national anti-lynch law is far away off. President Roosevelt is too busy making the world safe for "democracy" to worry about that.

Odds and Ends on the War

The first month alone of the war cost the United States \$2,557,103,354, according to Treasury figures—and this is only a drop in the bottomless bucket of war costs.

Still the august Congress of this country is seriously considering cutting from the ANNUAL budget something like a mere ONE THIRD of that sum—now being spent for jobs for unemployed, food for the poor, milk for undernourished children.

In legislating for this "war for democracy" Congress acts like the fat-bellied guy who gouges himself on everything from oysters to champagne—and then economizes by not leaving a tip for the waiter.

One Edson Blair writes the following in the December 29 issue of Barron's, the national financial weekly, a journal published for bankers, investors, business men:

"It has at last become more profitable for many important machine owners to devote their capacities to war than to civilian production... which inevitably will make the job of all-out conversion smoother and swifter."

For the millions who own only their lives, the "all-out conversion" is smoothed and hastened by the draft law. But the capitalists are wheeled with colossal profits.

SOCIAL SCIENCE SEMINAR

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Monday—7:15 to 8:30—Modern Economics—A. Gates

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Tuesday—8:45 to 10:00—American Labor History—J. Wilson

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Editorials

LABOR ACTION'S PLATFORM

Against Both Capitalist War Camps! For the Victory of World Labor and the Colonial Peoples! For the Victory of the Third Camp of Socialism!

LABOR MUST DEFEND ITSELF!

1. Hands off the right to strike! For the defense of civil rights and all workers' rights! Against any wartime dictatorship measures!
2. Thirty hours a week; thirty dollars the minimum wage; time and a half for overtime! Rehire the jobless millions by a six-hour shift!
3. Wage increases which meet rising costs! No sales tax on consumer goods; no taxes on wages! Freeze rents and food and clothing prices at the 1940 level to stop the rise in the cost of living!
4. No government contract without a union contract! The closed shop in all war industries!
5. Maintain and increase all government social services!

SOAK THE RICH—LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!

6. A government levy on capital to cover the costs of the imperialist war! Confiscate all war profits!
7. Conscript all war industries under workers' control!
8. Expropriate the "Sixty Families"—the 3 per cent of the people who own 96 per cent of the national wealth!

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO THE DRAFTEES!

9. The right of free speech, free press and free assembly for the men in the armed forces!
10. \$60 a month minimum for draftees.

SMASH JIM CROW!

11. Down with Jim Crow and anti-Semitism! All discrimination against Negroes in the Army and Navy, or by employers in industry, must be made a criminal offense!
12. For full social, economic and political equality for Negroes!

BE PREPARED!

13. For Workers' Defense Guards, trained and controlled by the unions, against vigilante and fascist attacks!
14. For an Independent Labor Party and a Workers' Government! No political support to the Roosevelt government!
15. For Peace through Socialism! For immediate independence of all colonies! Only a socialist world will destroy capitalist imperialism and fascist barbarism. For a League of Socialist Nations!

Labor Action's Tax Program:

For A 100% Tax on All War Profits

The most important problem before Congress at present is that of raising the nine billion dollars of additional revenue through new taxes which were requested by President Roosevelt in his recent budget message. This additional revenue is required in order to pay the expenses of the imperialist war. Since this question of new taxes is one which will vitally affect the pocketbook and living standard of every worker, LABOR ACTION begins this week a series of articles explaining its tax program. In previous issues, LABOR ACTION has listed as its tax program the following points:

- 1) A 100 per cent tax on all war profits.
- 2) A capital levy on accumulated wealth.
- 3) A stiff tax on undivided corporate profits.
- 4) A 100 per cent tax on all incomes above \$20,000.

This week we discuss our first proposal: A 100 per cent tax on all war profits.

It is a well known fact that the bosses are using the national defense program and the consequent war boom as an opportunity for making unprecedented and fabulous profits. The recent reports of the Truman and Vinson congressional investigating committees have presented indisputable proof of "unreasonable and unconscionable" profits on war contracts.

During the last few weeks the large industrial corporations have begun to make their annual income report for the year of 1941. It would pay any worker to take time out to consult the financial pages of any newspaper these days. There he would find the various financial statements of corporation profits.

TIMES REPORTS ON PROFITS

The New York Times of February 1 summarized the profit results of the first 71 corporations reporting this year. It found that "industrial profits in 1941 were second only to those of 1929 and for 27 companies ex-

ceeded the record of that boom year by a comfortable margin." And it continues: "Combined net profits of 71 companies for 1941 were \$426,114,500 in comparison with \$364,906,900 in 1940 and \$240,958,000 in 1939."

These figures mean that 1941 profits for these companies were 17 per cent greater than 1940 profits and 77 per cent greater than 1939 profits.

The current issue of The Exchange, magazine of the New York Stock Exchange, reports that more Stock Exchange companies paid dividends in 1941 than ever before in history, with dividends averaging a return of 9.3 per cent.

These gigantic profit figures become even more significant when it is realized that they are all net profit, calculated after all deductions have been made, including deductions for federal and local taxes, depreciation and amortization charges, special contingency and reserve funds, and "expenses" of all kinds, including tremendous officer salaries and fancy bookkeeping manipulations.

WHY PRESENT TAX IS INEFFECTIVE

The chief reason for the ineffectiveness of the present "excess profits" tax is the fact that it gives a corporation a choice of two methods to use in computing its "excess" profits. Corporations may consider profits in excess if they are either: a) Greater than an 8 per cent profit on the investment or, b) Greater than the average profit during the 1935-9 period. Since corporations, of course, choose which method allows them

to pay less, they manage to get away with high profits.

For instance, large companies with tremendous capital investment such as the steel, auto and railroad companies choose the 8 per cent method since 8 per cent profit on a half billion capital investment (the size of the Ford Motor Co. capitalization, for instance) allows for a tremendous profit. By the use of this method the railroad companies doubled and tripled their profits last year without paying any excess profits tax at all.

On the other hand, companies with comparatively small capital investment like the Eastman Kodak and Coca-Cola companies chose the average profit method and made 20 to 25 per cent profit last year without paying any excess profits tax at all!

RATE IS TOO LOW AT PRESENT

Another reason for the ineffectiveness of the excess profits tax is the low rate, only 35 to 60 per cent of profits above 6 per cent being taxed, as compared with England, where 100 per cent above 6 per cent of all profits are taxed.

LABOR ACTION proposes as Point 1 in the working class program of taxation that the present profits tax be discarded as useless and a real tax law be enforced which would draft and confiscate ALL war profits, just as lives are being drafted.

Workers must demand an end to profits at the expense of human lives. All talk about a "fair" and "reasonable" profit is so much bunk.

LABOR ACTION proposes a 100 per cent tax on all war profits. Such a measure should raise about five billion dollars. This proposal must be Point 1 in our program to answer the plans of the profiteers and congressmen who would have labor pay for the cost of the war through higher income taxes on the poor, payroll taxes, sales taxes, etc.

Let those best able to afford it pay for the war! Make the rich pay for their imperialist war!

A Hot Potato Tossed Around

It is one thing to get Congress to pass an appropriation for the Navy of \$26,500,000,000 on top of the billions already appropriated. This is done in record time.

It is quite another thing to get a miserly \$300,000,000 appropriated for relief of workers unemployed through war priorities.

Weeks ago President Roosevelt—influenced by the pressure exerted by the workers themselves—asked Congress for the comparatively piddling sum of \$300,000,000 for some 4,000,000 unemployed today. This appropriation is supposed to be used to supplement present unemployment insurance so that jobless workers will get 60 per cent of their regular wages—but not more than \$24 a week.

FDR would have to do some tall talking to explain why workers torn from their jobs by the needs of the imperialist war should be cut down to only 60 per cent or less of their wages. Just why should workers be so punished in the midst of this bonanza for the bosses!

However, even on this inadequate proposition, nothing has thus far been done.

On January 17 a preliminary conference was held on the matter by congressmen of both Houses. Everybody agreed that "the objective sought should be obtained," BUT there was no agreement over the language of the bill, AND there was no agreement over the amount of the appropriation, AND "legislation might be needed which would require referring the problem to other committees than those on appropriations."

A week later, on January 24, the news came through from Washington that the question of the priorities unemployed was still being "EXPLORED." But while the exploration was going on, the House Appropriations Committee gladly washed its hands of the entire matter and passed it along to the Ways and Means Committee.

Henry N. Dorris reported in the New York Times that one member of the former committee said, "We just about laughed our sides out" when the Ways and Means Committee insisted on taking over what is regarded by many in Congress as "A HOT POTATO."

So the hot potato is being tossed about by the brave legislators. At this writing, February 5, the hot potato has still not been grasped.

LABOR ACTION suggests that these soft-living gentlemen try to get along on \$24 for themselves and their families FOR JUST ONE WEEK. This will quickly inform them of the degree of contentment \$24 a week can bring to a worker and his family today.

But the well-fed gentlemen will not do this. They'll continue to "explore." Meanwhile the army of unemployed, growing daily, struggles along on the ridiculous pittance allowed them by the present unemployment security—reduced to almost nothing by the decreased purchasing power of the dollar.

Perhaps the Washington bigwigs forget that workers too know all about the Tru-

man report. The workers' idea of patriotism is not to starve for the benefit of corporation magnates. Their patience with congressional "explorations" will be shortened by their suffering and by their resentment at the injustice to them as a class.

GPU Triggermen At Work!

Recent news reports from Mexico indicate that the lives of a group of distinguished proletarian militants and socialists, who are refugees from Hitler Europe, are seriously endangered by threats emanating from the GPU and its environs.

The refugees in question are Victor Serge, famous left-wing writer and former member of the executive of the Comintern; Marceau Pivert, left socialist leader of France; Grandizio Muniz, Spanish Trotskyist; Julian Gorkin, leader of the Spanish Poup; Gustave Regler, former International Brigade commander; and others. The GPU is making every attempt to smear—and perhaps prepare attempts to assassinate—these anti-Stalinist militants. It succeeded in corraling a group of six Mexican deputies, most of whom have the same relation to the Mexican Stalinists as the "Republican" Vito Marcantonio has to the American breed, to publicly denounce these men as "traitors," "fifth columnists" and Trotskyist spies.

It happens, of course, that only one of these men is a Trotskyist; none of them are anything remotely resembling agents of Hitler (some had narrow escapes from Hitler's gunmen!); but the GPU was never one to let a little matter of honesty detract from doing a job!

These deputies and the press under Stalinist influence, together with the most reactionary Mexican papers, such as Universal, have begun a campaign for internment of these socialist refugees and for their expulsion from Mexico. Such a course could mean nothing but throwing them to the Hitler wolves!

Every proletarian militant, regardless of his party point of view, will raise his voice in defense of these comrades. We must defend their existence and rights from the venomous onslaughts of the GPU.

Conscript the War Industries!

One of the glossed-over sections of the Truman report disclosed that the cost of a battleship is eight to ten million dollars more if it is built in a privately owned yard than if it is built in a government yard.

If you remember the number of battleships now in construction, you will realize what a considerable sum of money is here involved. It probably approximates a quarter of a billion dollars. And if we were to make additional calculations on the increased cost of privately constructed cruisers, destroyers, submarines, transports, etc., over those built in government owned

yards, it is clear that there would be at least another quarter of a billion dollars involved.

This not inconsiderable sum of one-half billion dollars, which is the difference between private and government construction of war vessels, will come out of the pockets of the workers who pay taxes.

It might, of course, be objected that there are not sufficient government-owned yards to even begin to fulfill the present war orders. To this, there are two answers: 1) The present capitalist government is not even PLANNING to construct additional naval yards of its own, but rather intends to continue giving its naval contracts to private companies.

2) The present problem could readily be solved by conscripting the industries of the millionaires—just as the lives of the people are conscripted. This would automatically eliminate the profiteering which is such a large reason for increased taxes.

The conscription of the war industries—and under workers' control—must be a point high on the agenda of labor's program during the coming period.

The Work Week Gets Longer

Reports are gradually filtering into the press on how the work week of various industrial plants always keeps on getting longer and longer. The other day we read a story on how workers in a Connecticut war plant are now working seven days a week without rest; on how women workers in a New York war plant work seven days a week, often as much as ten to eleven hours a day, and only have their eighth day off.

Even in countries at war for over two years now—Germany and Britain—the work week has been lowered, instead of increased. It has been scientifically proved that beyond a certain number of hours, certainly not more than 50 a week, the efficiency of a worker sharply decreases because of fatigue.

In England, women get every fourth day off. But in America, women work as high as 60-70 hours a week.

From the point of view of the health of the workers, this is disastrous. If the bosses want increased and more efficient production, they can achieve that by hiring the millions of unemployed workers, training them for the relatively simple tasks of the mass production factories; instead of sweating the workers they now employ.

AFL Blasts Charge Unions "Hoard Vast Wealth"

William Green, AFL president, blasted the Vinson House of Representatives Naval Affairs Committee charge that trade unions were hoarding large sums of money.

Green declared that the Vinson report, which, while citing the tremendous profits of big business, ended with a whitewash of the bosses and a fierce attack on labor unions, "deliberately ignored facts which were available to the committee."

Green said that "the great bulk of union assets are funds held in reserve for union members and paid out to them from time to time under various benefit systems, including unemployment insurance, death, disability, health, retirement and other benefits."

In its anti-union blast, the Vinson committee had declared that "the tremendous financial gains made by unions during the period of the defense effort present an astounding picture of the concentration of wealth." It reported that 117 unions, with a membership of more than 6,000,000, increased their assets by \$10,679,294 from October 1, 1939, to March 1, 1941.

Small Increase per Member

Green noted that even this figure represented an increase in assets of only \$1.75 a member for the whole period covered by the investigation. Among the facts the committee failed to include in its anti-union attack, Green cited these:

- 1) From 1927 to 1940 AFL unions paid a total of \$450,000,000 in unemployment, sickness, disability, old age and death benefits.
- 2) A considerable portion of union funds is accumulated and held in reserve for the payment of strike benefits when labor disputes are in progress.
- 3) In 1932, when unemployment was at its peak, unions paid out \$19,970,000 in unemployment benefits; in 1940 unemployment was reduced to \$2,365,000. "Obviously provision has to be made against future threats of unemployment and reserves are necessary to make possible the payment of benefits when employment again begins to decline."

34 Killed in Mine Explosion

A gas explosion killed 34 coal miners in the shaft of the Wadge Mine at Hayden, Colo., last week. Black damp, which can be detected by a routine inspection, was the cause of the explosion.

Unfortunately, these mine explosions will continue. When the Federal Mine Inspection Bill was passed, May 7, 1941, it was pointed out that this bill would neither prevent nor eliminate accidents or mine explosions. It merely permits federal inspectors to enter mines and make recommendations—they have no authority of enforcement. And you can imagine how much attention the mine owners will pay to these recommendations—after all, they have their profits to think of and can't be bothered with the safety of their workers' lives!

Lest We Forget

by Tom Gilbert

ANOTHER CANDIDATE FOR PEARL HARBOR

During a hearing before the Committee on Naval Affairs of the House of Representatives on April 17, 1930, a certain Admiral Rock appeared as the Navy's "expert" on heavy battleships. The following ensued:

Representative McClintock—How many battleships did we use in the World War?

Admiral Rock—We were ready to use all of them.
Representative—Did we fire a single shot from a battleship?
Admiral—I think you are getting out of the line of my specialty. I am not a sea-going officer.

Representative—It is true that they did not fire a single shot in that war. Is it not true that most of them were put away in reserve?

Admiral—There was no naval engagement on this side, but there were a good many shots fired during the last war on the other side.

Representative—We could have sent some battleships over there.
Admiral—We did send some.
Representative—Battleships?
Admiral—Yes, sir.

Representative—Where were they? Did they participate in a battle?
Admiral—They were in the Grand Fleet, but whether they were in the Battle of Jutland, I do not remember.

(Note—As every schoolboy should know, the Battle of Jutland took place in May, 1916. The U.S.A. did not enter the war until April, 1917.)

APATHY TOWARD THE WAR

"General" Knudsen complained bitterly in a speech last week over the lack of enthusiasm for the war. In Indianapolis a group of air wardens asked that a bomb be dropped on the city to let the people know that a war is on. Could it be that the working class is taking the same attitude toward the war in the Pacific that Roosevelt took toward the murder of steel strikers in 1937 when he said, "A plague on both of your houses"?

900 Chicago Tin Workers Join Army of Priorities Unemployed

By PHILIP MARSH

CHICAGO — "Must be another strike," guessed the conductor as he steered his Western Avenue trolley past the huge Englewood plant of the American Can Co. The remark was prompted by the sight of hundreds of workers milling outside the factory.

Also, the conductor was recalling the scene of September, October and November, 1941, when these same workers, banded in around-the-clock picket lines, paraded their protest before this plant for 10 long weeks. These were the same people, but the picture had changed.

The conductor remembered the strike scene. Block-long picket lines—mostly young workers who infected the lines with a jitterbug spirit. Bold, colorful placards announced the demands of Local 1478, SWOC-CIO: higher wages, union shop, draft pay, etc. The air was militant then; there was confidence and a serious gaiety in the ranks.

Not today. Missing were the orderly lines, the singing and shouting, the surge of solidarity. The men and women carried no signs. It was not a gay crowd. Their faces reflected confusion, resentment, rage and despair.

It had happened with a suddenness that stunned the Englewood workers. Production had been at peak point, the cans were rolling off the lines with dizzy speed. For the past three months the company had been hiring—the plant swarmed with new help. The bosses never tossed a hint, there were no warning bulletins.

Tin Rationed

Sure, everyone knew of the rationing of tin-plate. The newspapers were full of it. But the newspapers, for months, had whined about the

grave necessity of increasing production, of immediate conversion. The press also told, more quietly, of the soaring profits of the American Can Co., of the announcement by American Can officials predicting a 35 per cent increase in business in 1942.

It happened on Wednesday during the day shift. A stern telegram from the War Production Board and presently dozens of production lines were silent. No more coffee cans, no more beer cans. Cans for cereals, cans for lubricating oil, and several foods were taboo. The day workers finished their shift, received their lay-off notices and streamed into the street. They were met by a bewildered night shift, a shift which never started. Soon the word flashed that every can factory in Chicago had been hit; the other American Can plants, Continental Can and smaller fry.

About 900 workers of the Englewood plant wondered about tomorrow. It was a tomorrow of misery unemployment, compensation checks for some, none for many. It was a tomorrow of humiliating job-hunting for these new recruits to the growing army of "priority unemployed." The 900 workers had no illusions about job prospects. Largely unskilled and semi-skilled, they knew the odds against them were great!

Mason-Dixon Line

It took a jury only seven minutes to acquit Angelo Johns of violating the Michigan Civil Rights Law by refusing to serve four Negroes in his Jackson, Mich., restaurant. The Mason-Dixon line will soon be confused with the Canadian border.

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