

Post Office Action Endangers Free Labor Press!

Holds Up Mailing Of Labor Action For Second Week

1. The December 21 issue of LABOR ACTION was finally released for mailing at the New York post office by telegraphic instructions from Washington.

2. The December 28 issue of LABOR ACTION is being held up by the local authorities, as was the case the week before, until it is approved for mailing by the Washington authorities who are acting as censors.

3. The authorities have informed the publishers of LABOR ACTION that the same procedure will be followed with all future issues of the paper, namely, submission of copies for inspection in Washington, and approval by the Post Office Department before permission is given to the New York post office to release the shipment of the issue.

4. The December 19 issue of The Militant, which has been subject to the same procedure now imposed upon LABOR ACTION, has been ordered destroyed, according to information given LABOR ACTION by representatives of The Militant, although examination of the December 19 issue shows that there is no difference in the news or editorial policy of that week from that of preceding weeks.

5. The December issue of the Fourth International, sister periodical of The Militant, has also been ordered destroyed by the post office authorities, according to the publishers of that magazine. Again, examination of the paper shows no reason for this reactionary act except the fact that the magazine continues, as in the past, to present a working class point of view on the political problems of international and domestic interest.

These are the latest developments in the campaign of the postal authorities to harass and persecute the radical labor press without even giving it an opportunity to be heard in its own behalf and without furnishing it with specifications of any laws which the authorities may allege have been violated.

It may also be reported that in addition to such nationally prominent organizations as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Workers Defense League, which are actively engaged in an effort to lift the arbitrary ban imposed upon LABOR ACTION, The Militant and the Fourth International, representative labor leaders and liberals have expressed themselves with mounting concern over the meaning of the actions taken by the Post Office Department. Except for the Stalinists, who greet the suppressive actions of the authorities with outspoken enthusiasm, and reactionary labor leaders, it is being recognized in labor and liberal circles that the campaign launched against LABOR ACTION and The Militant is only preliminary to a much wider effort by reactionary Administration forces in Washington to put the gag or to enforce a cen-

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BULLETIN!

Again, as we go to press, we are informed through telephone conversation with the classification section of the New York post office that the December 28 issue of LABOR ACTION has been released. Confirmation of this is presumably in the mails.

However, we have also been informed that the same harassing procedure would be followed with future issues. That is, each week, the paper will be held until released on instructions from Washington. Thus the violation of our rights has not been relaxed, nor the danger to a free labor press relieved.

With the continuation of this unwarranted bureaucratic procedure and with the new blows struck against The Militant and the Fourth International, we ask our readers to continue their vigilance in protection of a free press.

It goes without saying that every effort will be made, in cooperation with all interested organizations, to have the paper removed completely and definitely from the ban imposed by the Post Office Department. Our readers will be informed of all such developments.

LABOR ACTION

JANUARY 4, 1943

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

RATIONING—BY WHICH METHOD?

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT AND LABOR ACTION— A Fantastic Procedure

In his letter to the publishers of LABOR ACTION, Vincent M. Miles, of the office of the solicitor of the Post Office Department in Washington, gives us an official explanation of the procedure the authorities are following in the case of LABOR ACTION.

It is a fantastic procedure.

If it is allowed to stand, it means slow or fast death for any paper that does not suit the book of the Post Office Department. It means that every paper, the labor papers particularly, is completely at the mercy of the postal authorities. And there is no reason on earth why the labor press should feel secure about the quality of mercy of the Post Office!

Just think of the procedure Mr. Miles announces:

Every week the mail sacks containing the issue of LABOR ACTION are to be deposited as usual at the New York post office for dispatch to subscribers.

The mail sacks are to be held up, however, at this post office.

Several copies of the issue are to be sent to the Washington office for inspection. The BEST that can be expected from this office, at least until further notice, is an instruction to the New York postal authorities to let the LABOR ACTION sacks go through the mails.

BUT—

No charges of the violation of any law are made against LABOR ACTION, either in general or specifically for any one issue.

LABOR ACTION representatives are not given the opportunity to argue before the Washington postal authorities the propriety of mailing out any issue under their consideration.

Should any issue of LABOR ACTION be barred completely from the mails, it is still not to be informed as to why, specifically, the authorities made such a decision, as to just what law has been violated and how it was violated by LABOR ACTION.

This is not all. There is more to this cat-and-mouse game, and it is more and more fantastic.

Even after the Washington authorities have instructed their New York representatives to send an issue of LABOR ACTION through the mails, this instruction, in the words of Mr. Miles, "cannot be construed as a ruling that it does not contain non-mailable matter, and if any violation of law should result from its deposit in and transmission through the mails, you will have to bear responsibility thereof."

If this is the case, then why do the post office authorities hold up the mailing of LABOR ACTION in the first place?

Do they hold up the mailing in order to determine, by inspection of a copy in Washington, if its contents contain "any violation of law"? IF that is the reason for the delay in the mailing, and IF Washington finally gives New York the okay to go ahead with the mailing (as it did after several days in the case of the December 21 issue) presumably that order is given because Washington has decided that there has NOT been "any violation of law."

We are doubly entitled to this conclusion in light of the fact that in some cases, as with The Militant, Washington has given orders NOT to mail a given issue, but to destroy it. There would be no point to the distinction in orders unless the department decided that one issue does contain a "violation of law," whereas another issue does not, and its mailing has accordingly been decided.

But this being so, what is meant by the publishers having to "bear responsibility thereof" AFTER the authorities decide that a given issue may go through the mails?

IS THE PRELIMINARY CENSORSHIP IN WASHINGTON JUST A MEANS OF HARASSING AND PERSECUTING—WITHOUT ANY CHARGES MADE, WITHOUT HEARINGS HELD, WITHOUT REASONS GIVEN?

We want it clearly understood that we are fully prepared to "bear responsibility" for the editorial

and news policy of every issue of LABOR ACTION! That's what we have done since the first issue of this paper was published, and we shall continue to do so in the future.

But the procedure of the Post Office Department now makes it, in essence, impossible for us to discharge this responsibility! At the same time, its procedure enables it to escape ITS responsibility! It doesn't tell us what's wrong with LABOR ACTION.

It doesn't tell us why we are held up.

It doesn't let us defend ourselves against any charges, because it levels no charges.

Then it lets an issue go through the mail but insists that this does not mean it may not still be in "violation of law."

It takes upon itself the responsibility for delaying an issue, or destroying an issue, does not explain why in either case, and ends up by saying we must bear the responsibility!

It does not give us the opportunity of correcting ourselves (on the assumption that we are "violating the law") because it refuses to say that there is a violation and what it is. It does not give us the opportunity of answering any charges of violation of law if we consider—as we most decidedly do consider—that there has been no violation.

At the same time, it ducks responsibility of its own by not making specific charges that would compel it to fight this out in the open, that would compel it to make its stand and to stick by it.

Do you understand, Reader, why we call this a fantastic procedure?

Do you understand why we say that its continuation means placing every labor and liberal paper completely at the mercy of the arbitrary decisions of the Post Office Department, decisions which it does not have to explain or defend before any public body?

Do you understand why we intend to fight this case out to the very end?

Price Control, Wage Raises Also Vital For Workers

By GERTRUDE SHAW

With great fanfare and after much delay, the Department of Agriculture and the OPA have announced the rationing of 200 processed foods—in cans, in bottles and dried—to be followed by the rationing of meat, dairy products and other foods.

Every rational person will go one better than Mr. Henderson, retiring OPA chief, and agree that it is not only "desirable" but absolutely imperative "to institute rationing that we may share and share alike."

For many months LABOR ACTION has been demanding rationing as the only democratic way of meeting the alarming food shortage, not in the middle of February and later—but right now.

There is, however, the kind of serious rationing under which all could really share and share alike—and then again there is the kind that won't have that desired result because it can't.

Is the rationing of canned foods scheduled for February—which will later apply to meat and which will in fact be the model for all rationing—the effective or the ineffective kind?

No fault is found with the points system of rationing. That method could be made to work—provided it is mixed with other altogether indispensable ingredients. These missing essentials are:

1. RIGID PRICE CONTROL WITH DECREASES IN THE PRICES OF MANY BASIC ITEMS.
2. NATION-WIDE WAGE INCREASES TO MEET THE COST OF LIVING, WITH VERY SUBSTANTIAL RAISES FOR THE SUBSTANDARD GROUPS.
3. COMMITTEES OF WORKERS, FARMERS AND HOUSEWIVES TO SEE THAT THE RATIONING PROGRAM IS NOT NULLIFIED BY THE BLACK MARKET.

Without the above, rationing will be a farce. However, neither Secretary of Agriculture Wickard nor Elmer Davis nor Leon Henderson—all of whom spoke on the radio on Sunday—has the remotest intention of supplying these missing parts for a rationing program that will work.

On the subject of price control, Mr. Wickard's speech gives cause for deep suspicion as to the seriousness of his rationing program. He is

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More Merchants of Death:

Anaconda's Defective Wire Goes to Soldiers

By S. PATTERSON

Take out your handkerchief and weep—Anaconda Wire & Cable is in trouble again.

Five good men and true, officials of Anaconda Mining Co., are indicted by the Department of Justice in what is called "one of the most reprehensible cases of defrauding the government and endangering the lives of American soldiers and sailors ever to come to the attention of the Department of Justice." They did nothing more than sell defective wire. Through various stratagems

they managed to get the wire past the inspectors.

Needless to say, none of the "responsible" officials "knew anything about it"—the employees responsible were discharged.

Anaconda made a mere 30 to 70 per cent profit on \$55,000,000 war sales. It can't produce copper at 12 cents a pound, although at 12 cents a pound its profits rose in 1941 over the 1940 figure. So, to help out a poor company that was hobbling along at the rate of 12 cents a pound, and as an added inducement to produce, the govern-

ment, in January, 1942, agreed to pay 17 cents a pound for every pound over 1941 production.

Well, after all, they might as well get in on the gravy that seems to be floating around on everything but the workers' paychecks.

Did you know that the Rockefeller were in the news again through this scandal? You'd think that after the Standard Oil scandal they'd be very careful—but the lure of gold these days....

From the way the newspapers wrote up the indictment of the five officials of Anaconda Wire, it seemed as though all that was involved was a two-bit company in Marion, Ind. But let it be known, Anaconda Wire & Cable is but a subsidiary of the huge Anaconda Mining Co., which is the proud possessor of copper mines in Mexico, So. America, Poland and the U.S. Its holdings include railroad and steamship companies, water works, coal, lumber and even hardware sales, not to speak of some holding and investment companies incorporated in the state of Delaware, heaven of the huge corporations with laws written to suit their needs.

Actually this latest scandal should surprise nobody. Anaconda Mining Co. is an old hand at finagling. They did plenty of it in the last war.

History Repeats Itself

Like every one of the huge corporations, they sat on the leading buying commission for the war in-

dustries, which was made up of the heads of war industries. Baruch's commission fixed prices on a cost-plus basis. We know from all the investigations about profits in the last war that these costs were padded with so much plus that they equaled HUGE PROFITS.

But Anaconda was very fortunate. It sat in very, very high places. Its president, John D. Ryan, was the Assistant Secretary

either. In 1940 its gross business rose to \$244,000,000.

When one looks at the vast holdings of a company like Anaconda Mining Co. and realizes that, while it is outdone in production of copper in the United States, its greatest assets are in South America, specifically in Chile, and couple that with the widely known holdings of other large corporations in Latin America, the Good Neighbor policy loses some of its missionary veneer.

In the 1920's Anaconda bought a copper mine in the Andes which to

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WLB Ruling Favors Company On Principal Brewster Issue

LONG ISLAND CITY, Dec. 28—Pressed by the slowdown which swept through the Long Island City, Newark and Hatboro, Pa., plants of the Brewster Aeronautical Co. on four days of last week, a WLB panel has handed down a long-delayed decision on the Brewster wage dispute. Though it ordered retroactive pay and an infinitesimal wage increase, the WLB panel ruled on only one question that was in actual dispute, and that in favor of the company. By ordering that a new set of classifications be drawn up, the panel met the company demand for a revision of the classifications set by the men in September, 1942.

Where the rub comes is that the men in the shop feel that the new classifications will be LOWER. In their slowdown action, they refused to work at jobs classified at higher rates than the classification for which they were actually being paid. For example, the September classification may have provided for a Class A rating for a given type of work, but the man doing that work might have been receiving Class B pay. Therefore, in their slowdown action the men did only the work for which they were being paid under the classification scheme.

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As we go to press it comes to our attention that Anaconda is in the news on a new front. Three workers employed in two different Anaconda plants have died of a disease caused by chemicals used in their plants. It would seem that these giants of industry, so hasty in their mad rush for profits, have not taken proper health precautions to avoid bodily contact with hydrocarbons.

This bears out a point that LABOR ACTION has made time and time again, that capitalism, which produces basically for profits, does not take into consideration those factors which to every workman seem elementary.

of War and head of the Copper Buying Committee. All the Senate investigations in the world couldn't take the profits away. In 1914 its NET income was \$9,198,420—in 1919 it was \$20,802,870. In this war it has not done too badly.

UE Victory at Sperry Gyro Owed to Militant Stewards

BROOKLYN—Carrying on in the spirit of the Nassau sitdown, the Sperry workers on December 22 delivered another blow in defense of their rights against the Sperry Gyroscope Co. With a tremendous vote of 6,564 to 2,210, the UE, CIO, became the exclusive bargaining agent for Sperry, wiping out the claims of the AFL and the company stooges.

This victory is due almost exclusively to the tireless campaign of the shop stewards and the militant basis upon which they organized the plant. Fighting for grievances, pay raises and exposing Sperry's money-grubbing, the shop stewards carried

the day. The official union organizers merely provided the offices, the meeting rooms and the union structure. Their policy of doing nothing permitted the union activists to bury the AFL and the Sperry Gyroscope Co. under a deluge of votes.

But in the next period, with the victory won, the union bureaucrats will try to curtail, circumscribe and condition the power of the shop steward system. They want the power in their own hands.

To hamper the growth and development of the system which has brought the latest victories will be

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Europe in Revolt

News from the Socialist Camp

BELGIAN UNDERGROUND UNIONS PERSIST DESPITE TERROR

The property of all trade unions in Belgium has been seized by order of the German military commander. The Nazis forbade the unions to continue their activities and set up a fascist controlled organization, the Union of Manual and Intellectual Workers (UTMI).

The UTMI has been a failure. The object in liquidating the old organizations was to force their members to join the UTMI. But the workers boycotted it. Trustworthy men are selected by the workers to negotiate with the factory owners. These men are not selected because of an outspoken adherence to this or that political tendency, but because the workers know that they can rely on them in the defense of their interests.

It is very interesting that the same conditions of oppression seem to create the same type of defense by workers in countries with different traditional backgrounds. The same tendency toward formation of such "unofficial representatives" was noticeable in Germany before the war, and since the war this has been reported from Norway, France and now Belgium. The workers adapt themselves spontaneously to new conditions of struggle and find novel ways to answer oppression.

It may seem of little importance to certain doctrinaires that such an

entirely uncoordinated and, in a sense, a-political embryo organization exists. Yet these forms of independent organization of the workers, born out of immediate necessity, will be of tremendous importance when the possibilities of larger organizational activity are created. The organizations have all broken down and from the ranks of these seemingly unimportant "unofficial representatives" will arise many who will assume important roles in the movement of tomorrow.

There is also an underground press which speaks in the name of the unions. At the beginning these papers were mimeographed. Before long, however, in spite of the search made by the Gestapo, and the difficulties experienced in procuring paper and other material, the newspapers were printed. We have the impression that these papers reflect the views of the oldtime union bureaucrats and the Belgian Labor Party, which appears, in its talk about old age pensions, to be completely out of touch with reality. However, people do spread these papers at the risk of death and it is not to get old age pensions. There is obviously a divergence of views between the old reformists and the new militants, and there is growing danger that the Stalinists will utilize this new militancy of the workers.

INCREASING DEMORALIZATION IN THE GERMAN ARMY

We reported several times about the bad morale among the German soldiers now stationed in Norway. We now have additional reports on the same phenomenon in Czechoslovakia and in Alsace. It is of course impossible to check on the accuracy of such reports. It seems to us that the Czech report exaggerates somewhat. Nevertheless there is no doubt that both reports contain many truthful indications. Both come from relatively reliable source.

ALSACE: "At Struthof (Breuschthal, Alsace) is located a prisoners camp for German soldiers, who are interned for mutiny. Here the poor devils are tortured to death. People hear their cries at a distance of more than a hundred yards. At night one often sees transports of dead who are brought to Strassburg to be cremated. Now they build a special crematory inside the camp to make it easier to let the dead disappear."

IN THE PROTECTORATE: "It is hard to estimate the number of troops held in Czechia and Moravia, but it certainly runs over 100,000. Garrisons are exchanged often to prevent the men becoming friendly with the local population with whom they might be tempted to sympathize. The Czechs say that they are changed often in order to prevent the men finding ways to desert and escape being sent to the Russian front.

"Desertions are increasing at an increasing rate. There has been an epidemic of German soldiers holding up civilians in dark streets to rob

them of their civilian clothes. They prefer working men's clothing, as it attracts less attention when one has to hide after deserting. It is also possible to buy and to steal clothing, which the soldiers then exchange for their uniforms in a dark corner of a park. As many as forty to sixty army uniforms have been discovered PER DAY in the great Stromovka Park on the edge of Prague. In fact, the practice has grown to the extent that German soldiers are forbidden to enter the park at all.

"Officers prefer to rent hotel rooms. There have been hundreds of cases of a German officer renting a room in a small hotel, only to disappear after a few days. His uniform and even his sidearms are discovered later—after he has departed in civilian clothes and without checking out. One hears of Germans committing suicide when ordered to the front, and even of whole units mutinying when ordered to entrain.

"It certainly has not helped the morale of the army to have Prague full of German wounded. Not only were all hospitals and private sanatoria full, but many schools and even apartment buildings. It was worst last winter when trainloads of frost-bitten Germans were brought to Prague stations and unloaded. Their shrieks could be heard for blocks around. And there are always enough mutilated cripples in uniform on Prague streets to remind the garrison of their fate if they are ever ordered to the front."

Attention, Los Angeles Workers!

Send your subscriptions, comments about LABOR ACTION and suggestions to our Los Angeles Office: 233 SOUTH BROADWAY, ROOM 415

Labor Unrest Stirs Cleveland

Republic Steel Seeks to Nullify Labor Victory by WLB Intervention

By JAMES SHEA

CLEVELAND — Temporarily forced to meet the demands of the CIO United Steel Workers Union for double time rates on a seventh day in the same week, the Cleveland plant of Republic Steel Corp. is seeking a War Labor Board judgment nullifying these victories for labor.

One thousand steel workers, in one of a series of strikes by militant workers throughout the Cleveland area, struck when the company moved to abolish overtime on the seventh consecutive day of work. The union charged that Republic is "juggling its work schedules so that the men stand to lose \$6.00 a month," and that workers "can't get in any overtime now unless they're lucky enough to catch an extra turn."

Republic refused to meet with union executives and would work only through the regional director of the WLB. The union also charged that the company "insists on taking War Bond money on a flat rate basis instead of a percentage and in connection with the share-the-ride schedules, refuses in many instances to permit Republic workers living in the same house to work identical shifts—so they can ride to work together."

Following his usual spineless policy of "cooperating" with industry, Philip Murray, CIO president and national president of the Steel Workers Union, said that "work should be resumed as quickly as possible," and that "the issue be mediated peaceably."

Carey Strike Unsettled

Still unsettled is the steel workers' strike at Carey Machine Co. Refuting the company's statement that the walkout is a "minor" one and that only a "handful" of workers remain out, the plant was forced to shut down before the scheduled Christmas holiday.

The workers are asking for recognition of the United Steel Workers Union as official bargaining agent. The company said that an NLRB election several weeks ago showed that workers preferred representation by an independent union. Proof that all the workers were not given a chance to vote, however, is afforded by the fact that over 250 men are out on strike while only 200 voted in the NLRB election, which the CIO lost by only seven votes. The company is engaged in the production of submarine parts.

Postal Clerks Strike

Other recent strikes in the Cleveland area were staged by the postal clerks at the Cleveland post office, unorganized elevator operators at Taylor & Sons Department and by members of the Typographical Union on the Canton Repository. A 14-day slowdown was held by the Mailers' Union of the three Cleveland daily newspapers.

The postal clerks' strike, staged in the midst of the Christmas mailing rush, was caused by overwork and it gained the sympathy of the great majority of Clevelanders. Long underpaid and overworked, the postal workers have paved the way for a concerted demand on the incoming Congress for a bettering of working conditions.

The Canton printers were successful in their demands for higher pay, as were the mailers on the Cleveland newspapers. The mailers had been working over fifty hours a week with no overtime because of an agreement with the publishers.

Because they are not organized, the elevator operators, all young women, lost their strike for higher pay. The operators are getting between \$15 and \$19 a week.

West Coast Aircraft Asks Pay Raise

Rank and File Turning Against No-Strike Pledge as Bitterness Mounts Over Long Delays

LOS ANGELES—West Coast aircraft is the lowest paid in the country. The starting wage is sixty cents an hour and in most plants you go up to 75 cents in three months—and then you stay put. From there on your raises depend solely on the good will of your foreman, who may recommend you for a raise, a phenomenon which rarely takes place.

Lead men earn as little as 80 cents an hour! This is especially true for the women, who are doing exactly the same work as the men. Their complaint is always the same — "I went up to 75 cents and I'm still getting 75 cents after a year's work."

Because of the tremendous inequalities in pay between the aircraft workers on the West Coast and other cities, and the disproportion between wages and prices, the workers have been demanding an increase to correspond with the increase in prices.

Wages were to have been stabilized at a higher level last June. But up to now, Paul Porter, who played the fink role in the shipyard stabilization, hasn't had time to think about the problem. Before the shipyard stabilization, the cost of living had gone up 20 per cent and the shipyard workers were supposed to get a 13 per cent increase, but Porter gave them 8 per cent after much delay. The agreement for the ship repair worker has not yet been reached after almost a year.

Roosevelt's white haired boy is still at it. He has the gall to play around with the livelihood of a quarter of a million workers with the brief excuse that he hasn't had time to read all the material presented by the IAM and the UAW. It doesn't take much time or reading to find out that gross inequalities exist. We are willing to bet that, when and if the agreement is finally reached, even the modest demands of the un-

ions will be far away from what the War Labor Board will grant.

Dissatisfaction Growing

For months the dissatisfaction of the aircraft workers has been growing and making itself more and more vocal. There has been an increasing exodus from aircraft into shipyards, where the starting wage is 95 cents an hour. Despite the attempt to hush it up there has been increasing strike talk on the part of the rank and file. Resentment against the "ignore-it" policy of the WLB has resulted in a statement by leaders of the Lockheed local of the IAM which implied strike action, if a decision wasn't reached immediately. This statement, couched in the most guarded language, resulted in a veritable migration of panic-stricken national leaders of the IAM and the UAW to the West Coast.

R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW, got here first and immediately issued a statement attacking the local leaders of the IAM. This statement was issued to thousands of CIO aircraft workers in this locality. His statement says, in part, "the threats of work stoppages by the AFL have acted as a detriment to the peace of mind of the workers—even in plants under contract to the UAW." Note that it is not the unfair working conditions that make the workers dissatisfied and destroy their "peace of mind"—but the statement of the local IAM.

He says further that "the UAW-CIO looks to the War Labor Board for justice and we are sure that the members of the board recognize the inequalities now existing in the West Coast aircraft plants and will hand down a decision erasing these inequalities." This statement stands in direct contradiction to what Thomas himself said about the WLB earlier in the week.

The Executive Board of the UAW

stated last week that the WLB administrative machinery "has completely broken down—more properly it may be said that there exists no machinery in the board for administration." R. J. Thomas, in elaborating on the statement, said: "The conditions which exist can be described only as chaos." He pointed out that from January 13, the day the board was created, to October 31, the board received 1,987 cases of labor disputes, of which it disposed of only 352. That, further, the U.S. Department of Conciliation has 8,000 cases of labor disputes on file, to which it is supposed to assign conciliators as a step prior to certification by the WLB.

In view of these facts, Thomas' assurance to his membership that any decision handed down will be fair, is pure fakery.

He adds that he sees no reason for the reams of publicity issued by the local IAM and recommends that it sit tight "while their duly elected officers" continue their six months talk-test with "proper government authorities"—that is, the WLB, which at the present moment is in "a state of chaos."

Not to be outdone by the hysterical prating of Thomas, Ray M. Brown, international vice-president of the IAM, who arrived on the heels of Thomas, issued a statement to the press which "urges all aircraft employees under the jurisdiction of the IAM to zealously apply themselves to their jobs" while he continues dickerings with Davis of the WLB and his associates, in whom he has "complete confidence." Despite the militancy of the UAW nationally, the local IAM has taken a more militant stand on this question.

The rank and file of the Lockheed local wants to vote to rescind its no-strike pledge. A local of the UAW in Flint initiated a move to

Sparks in the News

By Everett Weston

"Men who know him say Stalin is a realist, and they don't believe he will jeopardize Russia's future by clinging to international revolutionary theories."—Newsweek.

NEWSweek, did you say?

—LA—

"Three men convicted in connection with the East Point, Ga., fogging here four years ago... were free on conditional pardons today. The pardons for the men were signed yesterday by Governor Eugene Talmadge. They were the last of more than a dozen men convicted in connection with the foggings in 1938 and 1939 to be freed."—UP dispatch.

—LA—

This month, after she had been at war more than three years, Britain lowered the draft age to 18. But even this bill required that 18-year-olds be trained a year before being shipped overseas—the proviso that this last Congress refused to pass.

—LA—

"South Portland Shipbuilding Corp.

... (was) organized) with \$250,000 borrowed from Portland banks (the interest to be paid by the Maritime Commission) and up to October 31 had received \$450,000 in fees from the commission.... Thus (it) stands to make more than \$5,000,000 on the 84 ships without putting up a nickel... and despite alleged incompetence, inefficiency and delay."—Time.

The company was organized by William S. Newell, good personal friend of Rear Admiral Emory S. Land, Maritime Commission head. Land's defense was that "South Portland is not the only example of bad management in the Liberty ship program."

—LA—

"We face the tremendous risk that liberation will be followed by civil war, unless we are prepared to choose correctly and swiftly, as territories are liberated, the authority which the great powers will back to restore order and to negotiate the peace. The price of not choosing swiftly, and of not choosing correctly, those who embody the vital purposes of emancipated peoples, will be the anarchy of civil war."—Walter Lippmann.

Nervous, Walter?

—LA—

"A truck carrying 24,056 lb. of A&P coffee from a New York warehouse to Philadelphia stores was hijacked and its contents stolen."—Time.

—LA—

Elmer Davis, Office of War Information chief, has outlawed the terms World War I and World War II for OWI releases.

It does sort of suggest the beginning of a series.

—LA—

Each December, Time magazine invites its readers to pick a "Man of the Year," whose picture they put on the first issue of the new year. Some indication of what a truly miserable year 1942 has been is given by the list from a recent issue: Draja Mihailovich, Westbrook Pegler, Stalin, Marshal Timoshenko, Wendell Willkie.

—LA—

Time's readers are also being polled on a suggestion of one of them that the magazine change the name of its "Business and Finance" section for the duration. "Finance" is especially felt to be inappropriate to describe anything new going on.

—LA—

POST MORTEM: WPA built 644,000 miles of roads, 77,000 bridges, 116,000 buildings, improved 800 airports. More important, it kept eight million people, with thirty million dependents, from starving—barely. All this cost \$10,500,000,000, which now sounds like chicken feed. (On November 30, the public debt rose by \$446,735,685 in that single day and passed the \$100,000,000,000 mark.)

POST MORTEM? "The knowledge and experience of this organization will be of great assistance in the consideration of a well rounded public works program for the post-war period."—FDR.

—LA—

The retention of Ickes as petroleum coordinator "is deeply gratifying to me personally and I am sure that it will be to every oil man in the country."—William R. Boyd, chairman of the Petroleum Industry War Council.

"Mr. Ickes' new powers over all may have little practical value, since he was exercising them anyway, but they give him the blessing of the law."—Time.

The Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor...

Carwile Asks Writ In Supreme Court

Dear Editor: I received a copy of LABOR ACTION dated December 14, but it contained no write-up on my case. Perhaps you have already publicized this case and through mistake sent me the wrong issue. (The story appeared in the issue of December 21.—Editor.)

We filed our petition for writ of certiorari in the U.S. Supreme Court December 7. The Virginia press is boycotting the case and we need all the publicity we can possibly get in the labor press. The People's Voice—Negro newspaper of New York—carried a feature article on November 28.

Howard Carwile.

Food Shortages In California

Dear Editor: The extreme shortages of all kinds of the most basic foods that has existed in the Southern California area for several months, now has grown into a scandal. Thousands of restaurants and groceries of the kind patronized by working people have been forced out of business due to lack of supplies. Incidents like people going to work in San Diego without breakfast due to the closing of restaurants are reported in the papers, along with many other similar events.

Meat, butter and eggs either can't be obtained at all or only in the smallest portions in particular localities. Housewives with the task of feeding their families are up in arms but the only satisfaction they can

obtain is a buck-passing act from the thousands of government bureaucrats and rationing officials in this area.

When this country went to war assurances were given that the tremendous task of feeding the people would be taken care of in proper fashion. But what happens? Unlimited profiteering by the food corporations and rank incompetence on the part of the officials who are supposed to watch out for the people's interests play havoc with the food supply. The truth as to what is causing the hardship comes not as the result of any attempt to solve the problem but only in the conflicting statements of the food companies on the one hand and the rationing officials on the other. Depending on whether the statement comes from OPA headquarters in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco or Washington, a different cause is given.

To cover up the situation, the government says that the food is going to the soldiers in the Army and aren't they entitled to it? This is a clever attempt to cover up their inefficiency with a stock answer and to try to separate the people from their fellow workers in the Army. If the people in Southern California thought for a moment that the soldiers in Africa and in the jungles around Buna and Gona were sitting down three times a day to tables loaded with butter, meat, eggs, fruits, fruit juices, etc., there would not be any complaints. Obviously it is not the soldiers who are depriving the people of food. Didn't the soldiers eat meat and other foods before they entered the Army? This business of explaining away every lack of quantity or quality by saying "war requirements" is getting a bit thin.

It has been brought out by the newspapers that the food companies

the meat packers in particular, are shipping their products to the area where they can get the highest price. The rationing officials have closed their eyes to this practice—and the people suffer. The government, however, wants to "freeze" workers so that they can't go where they can obtain the highest wages.

A part of the responsibility is due to the fact that labor and consumers are not placed in charge of rationing. The incompetents who make the decisions do so without any check on them by the people who are being rationed for. The officials, for example, have drawn up quotas for Southern California on the basis of the 1940 population, although there has been an influx of several hundred

Protests Prevent Closing of Training School for Negroes

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The order of the Birmingham Council of Vocational Training, shutting trade training classes for Negroes was reversed this week after the vigorous protest of the AFL, the CIO, the NAACP and the Urban League.

The excuse for closing the Negro training centers was that employers would not hire Negroes even after they were trained for skilled jobs. The organizations that succeeded in keeping the schools open are now taking the next step and that is to force the employers to hire Negroes on the skilled jobs.

Even under the reopening order, only courses taught the Negroes are the instruction is quite limited. The chipping, riveting, and caulking, whereas white workers are taught

thousand people, due to war jobs being available. Thousands of soldiers are stationed in this area, yet food allotments are not figured on that basis. And of course the usual red tape plays its part.

Meat is going to be available for a short time but—it is being deducted from the quota for the first three months of 1943. Canned foods are going to be even more scarce next year. The rationing boards have "promised" that all the present shortages will become worse. It is up to consumers to intervene everywhere in the situation and clean up the mess.

Union locals everywhere should take the lead in forming consumer committees on a local basis to check on prices and see that allotments and rationing are on a sensible basis. It is necessary to expose unmercifully every case of profiteering that is going on and see that the food companies are not "getting theirs" at the expense of the people.

By picket action and publicity, the housewives would soon have fair prices and sufficient food to feed their husbands and children. All that is necessary is to organize and that's one of the benefits of belonging to a union. See that YOUR union takes this matter up immediately. Don't forget that the Baruch committee appointed by President Roosevelt called the handling of the rubber situation by the government and the corporations "criminal." If that situation was "criminal," think what an investigation of the food situation would expose. The people have a right to know and the right to obtain a satisfactory explanation of the food shortages and a guarantee that they will not happen again, instead of the lame alibis that so glibly flow from the OPA and the OWI.

E. G.

Reader - "More Power to L. A."

Dear Editor: Enclosed find twenty-five cents. Please send me a pamphlet issued by the Workers Party—India in Revolt, by Henry Judd.

LABOR ACTION, if read by all people, would be more powerful than all armed forces of the world combined. I find LABOR ACTION very stimulating and without it my hopes of the future would be dimmed.

More power to you.

California.

Sub Is His Answer To P. O. Interference

Dear Editor: Enclosed find two dollars and ten cents for one year's subscription to both publications (L. A. and N. I.). Please send them to my brother, who is a union militant and as such will find them as invaluable as I have. I am fully aware of the P.O.'s dictatorial interference with L.A. and mean these subscriptions to speak for me in giving my whole-hearted support to the paper in its fight against reaction and for the rights of the working class.

J. D.

Buy LA and NI In Detroit at:

Carl's Book Store, Clairmount and Woodward. Book Store, Baltimore and Cass.

Press Action

Despite the high-handed interference of the postal authorities in holding up each issue of LABOR ACTION, sixty-one new subscriptions have come in since this action two weeks ago.

Again Buffalo takes the lead, with no close runner-ups. How about some competition from the other agents?

Here are the totals from all our agents:

BUFFALO	25
New York City	16
St. Louis	6
Detroit	6
Akron	5
Los Angeles	2
Boston	1
Total	61

Report from Our Society Reporter

"When I read in the papers recently of the accident (certainly devised by the Nazis) that happened to the noble, courageous King Christian of Denmark, I felt a silent sinking of the heart. For I had the honor of meeting this very democratic and Christian King Christian more years ago than I care to remember—at a time when the world was happy—or thought it was—and we all spent carelessly, casual lives in Cannes on the blue Mediterranean."—Elsa Maxwell in the New York Post, December 18.

Yes, we did, didn't we?

Sperry--

(Continued from page 1)

to cut the heart and drain the blood out of the union. Though the union bureaucrats carried on a "cold-water organizing drive which ground to a climax in low gear" it was the shop steward system which guaranteed the victory.

But the stewards must win new victories in the future. Sperry is not the company to give up now. It will carry on its fight against the union to the last ditch. Now that it must negotiate a contract, the company will quibble over this point, question that one, hesitate over the other. It will stall and stall and when that fails, stall again. Pressed to the wall, the company will go to the boss labor boards, where it will begin stalling again. In the meantime, the foremen, supervisors and company stooges will be doing all in their power to break the spirit and power of the union.

Only the stewards can deal with this. They must find ways to halt every trick and dodge of the company. Their principal task will be to educate, and see that the union bureaucrats educate, the members of the union. It will be their job to explain what a union is, how it functions, how it defends its members against the bosses. The stewards will have to develop a program like that of Brewster Local 365, UAW, and show that members the need of such a program. It is only in such a way that a return of the AFL and company unionism will be prevented.

U.S. Ambassador in Bolivia Sides With Tin Bosses vs Striking Workers

By R. CRAINE
The Bolivian government answered the strike action of some 60,000 tin miners by arresting labor leaders, declaring martial law and charging that the strikers were engaged in a pro-Nazi plot to overthrow the regime. The New York Times was quick to report the story of the alleged plot and the statement of the Minister of the Interior, but failed to mention the causes of the strike.

about 81,000 tons yearly. When Japan occupied Malaya, the Netherlands Indies and Siam (the other great producers of tin), Bolivian tin became of crucial importance to England and the United States. This tin comprises about 70 per cent of Bolivian exports.

Patino—Tin Tycoon
About half of Bolivia's tin mines are owned by one man, Simon Patino, whose wealth is estimated at about \$100,000,000. Since 1922 he has run his great tin empire by remote control, spending most of his time abroad as minister to Spain and

but by ambassadorial presence and intervention. The major arguments against the code show which side the U.S. ambassador is on.
Boal and the mine operators were afraid that the payment of wages on time (the code calls for payments not later than fifteen days after performance of work) would encourage workers to leave their jobs. Conditions and wages in the mines have been so bad that many workers have left to seek work elsewhere, or have emigrated to Chile. By withholding their wages, the mine operators seek to keep the workers chained to their jobs.

Post Office Action is Danger to Free Press

(Continued from page 1)
worship over the lips of every labor and liberal paper which shows any critical independence whatsoever in its editorial policy. The same applies, by the way, to the Negro press.

him on December 21 by Max Shachtman, of Labor Action Publishing Co. In Shachtman's letter, he had protested the decision to hold up the mailing of LABOR ACTION and requested Miles to acquaint him with specific charges, if any, which were being made against LABOR ACTION, the specific grounds on which the paper was being held up by the authorities.

For years these miners have waited patiently for the passage of some sort of labor code which would give them, at least, the elementary protection of getting their wages on time, establish minimum wage rates, give them the right to organize and the right to bargain collectively. These were included in the code which was before the Congress early last month.

Collective bargaining, minimum wage rates and the right to mediation and arbitration were opposed on the ground that if the cost of production went up, the United States would have to pay more for tin. This is entirely false, since the United States HAS been paying higher prices for tin without wage increases. (Tin is now sixty cents a pound as compared with fifty-two cents a pound a year ago.) Wage increases can easily be met out of the profits of the tin barons.

Brewster--

(Continued from page 1)
The men are satisfied with the September classifications. However, Van Dusen, company manager, has charged that the classifications are too high. Thus the WLB conceded, in effect, to the company's principal claim (presumably because it cuts in on Brewster's accumulation of tremendous profits). By now every worker knows which way the "impartial" member who will be appointed by the WLB to decide on classifications will vote. In all likelihood, A men will become B men, B men will become C men, etc.

Cost of Living Mounts
In the last two years the cost of living has been mounting steadily, so that food costs are now about twice what they had been in 1940. Wages, however, have been frozen for that entire period.

The institution of martial law, the arrests and suspension of all civil and constitutional rights have brought forth a statement from Ernesto Galarza, chief of the division of labor and social information of the Pan American Union, to the effect that the strike is the result of the long exploitation and failure to pass the labor code, a failure for which U.S. Ambassador Boal is at least partly responsible.

The Pan American Union states further that, "the conduct of Ambassador Boal is a clear example of how the foreign policy of the United States is operating to prevent raising of working standards and improving the living conditions of the masses of the people." The Bolivian workers have just been given another taste of good neighborliness.

What India Means to the American Working Class

The Role of the Indian Capitalist Class
(Continued from last issue)
By J. R. JOHNSON
It is this increasing bankruptcy of the Indian peasant economy which is the real drive of the nationalist movement. The unrest, the growing revolutionary feelings of the masses of peasants, the conditions of the proletariat, all this gives enormous power to the movement to throw out the British who are mainly responsible for what is essentially an economic question.

proportion of the miserable Indian production goes to Britain as profit and as payment of debts. Some of these debts are absurd to the last degree because every time Britain fought a war to add to the British Empire in India, they put the debt on the Indian budget. Once they entertained a sultan of Turkey or Egypt or somebody like that in London, said that it was for the benefit of India, and added the expenses to the Indian budget.

The British army in India eats up, some people say, 30 per cent of the Indian budget—others say 60 per cent. It is difficult to tell, because Indian investigators say that many expenditures that go for roads, railways, etc., have no relation whatever to the Indian economy or the Indian people, but are built for the sake of the British army and the British administration. These, however, are not placed under military expenditures so as to fool the people. Now, it is certain that if the Indian nationalists could get into power, Britain's chance of getting interest on these debts would be very, very small. An Indian government would refuse to pay.

What is the solution? If you have correctly diagnosed a disease, you are half way on the road to cure. The solution is the destruction of all the burdens that rest upon the peasants. And, with this, the creation of conditions which will give the Indian proletariat an opportunity to form trade unions and develop itself freely in a nation-wide association of workers who will work and develop themselves in accordance with the possibilities of modern production. But British imperialism in the town as in the country is in a united front with the Indian exploiters to keep the workers down.

By so doing—by giving the lower paid men a two cents increase and by ordering back pay to the older workers according to the April 12 pool (and this back pay has now accumulated to a considerable sum)—the panel hopes to arrest the militancy of the Local 385 men, and to persuade them to accept the decision which is nothing more nor less than a sugar-coated chisel.

In this manner, the pressure and control of the United States makes itself felt—not by the force of arms.

Force exists either in an organized army or in organized masses. They have no army, Britain sees to that. But if they organize the masses for the purpose of throwing the British out their sources of revenue, their control of labor, the very ground on which they walk, will be broken up under them. It

is for this reason that Gandhi and Nehru and all those who support them are continually vacillating between playing at revolution on the one hand, and running to negotiate with the British on the other. They see the misery of the country. They see the economic mess that it is in. They realize quite clearly that something has got to be done. But they can do nothing except play see-saw between the masses on the one side and the British on the other.

Workers Can Still Win

As LABOR ACTION reported last week, the "work-according-to-what-you-are-paid-for" demonstration could not end in a stalemate. Something more was required. If the men now accept the panel decision they will have suffered a decided setback. If they continue to press for their own demands by a display of militant firmness, they can still get what THEY, and not the company, want.

'India in Revolt'

If you haven't yet ordered and read Henry Judd's magnificent pamphlet, "India in Revolt," do so immediately. Order your copy from the Workers Party, 114 West 14th Street, New York City. Twenty-five cents per copy; twenty cents in bundles of five or more.

LaGuardia Treats Transit Workers Of New York as Second-Class Citizens

York City were—on December 23—beginning to talk in terms of strike.

Transportation is falling on stone-deaf ears.

The union for a "PEACEFUL SOLUTION" has been going on for the past two years. THE NET RESULT IS THE OFFER BY THE CITY FATHERS OF A SIXTY-CENTS-A-WEEK RAISE TO MEN EARNING AS LITTLE AS \$26 A WEEK AND NO MORE THAN \$38.

Anaconda--

(Continued from page 1)
day produces 15 per cent of the U.S. available supply of copper.

Quill Retreats—Why?

On December 24 Mayor LaGuardia—who stands for workers' rights, provided the workers are in Italy or some other distant land—bombastically renounced his position that "any interruption of service, by whatever name it may be called, is tantamount to a strike against the government. The right to strike against the government has not, is not and cannot be recognized. If any untoward action is taken as long as I am Mayor and happen to be here, I will meet it."

Transportation is falling on stone-deaf ears.

The union's efforts at a "peaceful solution" have been rebuffed by the WLB, which relegated the transit workers to the status of second-class citizens by refusing to take up their demand for the 15 per cent increase in wages allowed by the WLB's own formula.

They are as ruthless in dealing with labor as they are in their business ventures.

These exposures, which seem to be coming thick and fast these days, should begin to teach us some very important lessons. This proves the real motive of their patriotism. Since

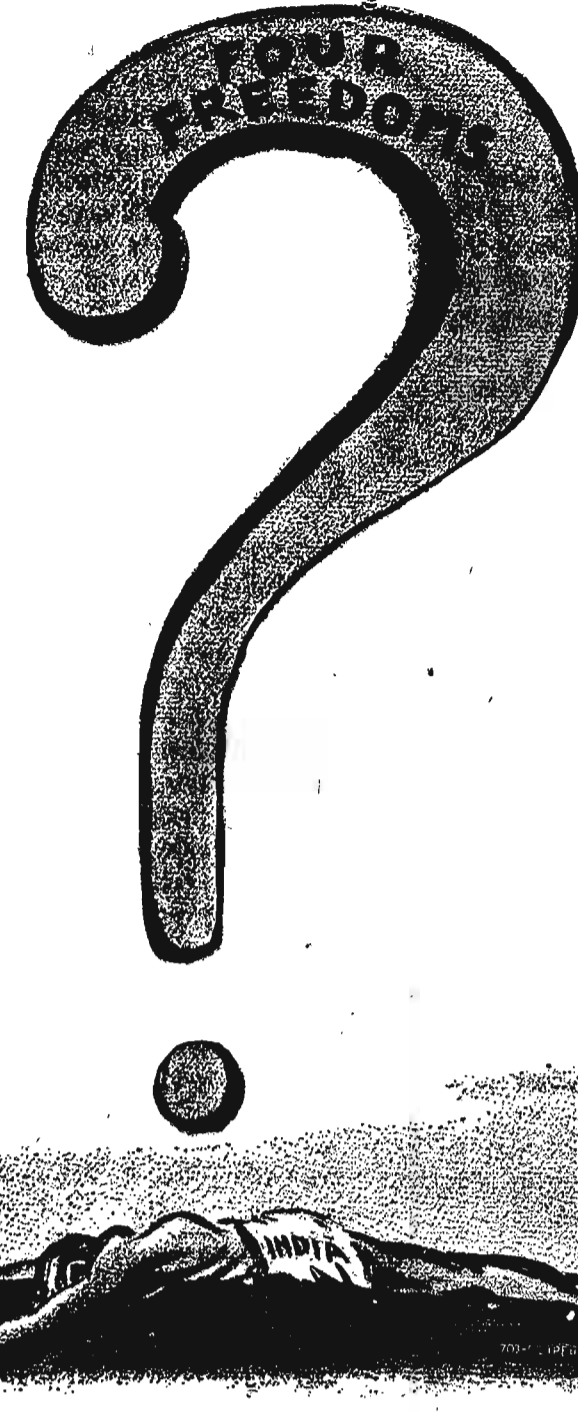
They consider this their war, they are super-patriots.

Workers today are paying for the war. Industry is reaping the profits. They stop at nothing—not even human lives—to get it, as is evidenced by this Anaconda scandal. Is there any reason why the working class should give up its rights while these people go scot free? Why shouldn't THEY pay for the war? Why should not THEIR PROFITS be made to pay for the war from which they profit?

Such weak-kneed conduct will get the workers nowhere.

Such weak-kneed conduct will get the workers nowhere. Efforts of the

What About It, Mr. Churchill?



What India Means to the American Working Class

The Role of the Indian Capitalist Class

Indian economy rests.
What is the solution? If you have correctly diagnosed a disease, you are half way on the road to cure. The solution is the destruction of all the burdens that rest upon the peasants. And, with this, the creation of conditions which will give the Indian proletariat an opportunity to form trade unions and develop itself freely in a nation-wide association of workers who will work and develop themselves in accordance with the possibilities of modern production. But British imperialism in the town as in the country is in a united front with the Indian exploiters to keep the workers down.

If the Indian disease is an economic disease, then the ideas around which the appeal to the peasants and workers should be made must have an economic character. The peasants should be told that their struggle would mean the abolition of debt, the abolition of the landlords and the money-lenders, and the reorganization of agriculture by means of modern technology. The workers must have the eight-hour day, workers' control of production and the freest democracy.

But only a fool will expect the All-India Congress to agitate on such a basis. The Indian congressmen talk always about nationalism in the abstract and the necessity of throwing out the British but never, never, never do they ever raise on a national scale such slogans or ideas which would mobilize the masses around the things that are really pressing them. If the Indian Congress could do that, or had wanted to do that at any time during the last twenty years, the British would have been out of India already.

Willkie's Hypocrisy

In the article which will follow this, some attempt will be made to show the possibilities of and the methods by which the economic situation in India can and will be changed. We want here, however, to link the economic situation we have described with the noisy "anti-imperialism" of Willkie.

At the present moment it is an undoubted fact that a substantial

complete victory for the anti-labor policies of Delaney and La Guardia, WHOSE BASIC AIM IS TO BUST THE UNION!

The basic economic situation will not be solved.

Moreover, while there might be a growth in industrialization for a period and in a small degree, the misery of the peasant millions will be intensified to an extraordinary degree.

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Editorials

Burial Rites For Beveridge

From London comes the United Press dispatch that the British War Office has forbidden the circulation among troops of the Beveridge Plan for a post-war paradise.

This ban is indeed something to write home about.

Readers of LABOR ACTION have seen us strip this plan of its pretenses and expose it for a fraud that its author himself cannot believe in.

But it does have the power to raise false hopes in those who have not the ability to analyze it and reduce it to its true worthlessness.

This is obviously why the British War Office thinks the plan unsafe for circulation among the troops.

For all practical purposes, this undemocratic act of the British War Office marks the end of Beveridge's "post-war era of the common man"—CAPITALIST STYLE.

John L. Was Right!

At the CIO convention held in Atlantic City in 1940 John L. Lewis said that it had been suggested that he "explore Bill Green's mind." Lewis said that he had done this, and added: "I can give you my word, there is nothing there."

Now the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been exploring Deacon Green's mind and has made the same discovery—there is nothing there. The NAACP wrote to Green concerning the scandalous anti-union, anti-working class conduct of Tom Ray, head of the Boiler Makers Union at the Kaiser shipyard in Portland, Ore. The disgraceful actions of this man Ray have been given publicity in the press from coast to coast. John Frey, one of the top officials of the AFL and head of its Metal Trades Department, has been in on conferences looking to the elimination of discrimination against Negro workers by Ray and the boiler makers. But Green has never heard of this case. He said so in a telegram to the NAACP.

Just listen to what the head of the AFL has to say on this matter: "Your telegram conveys to me the first information I have received regarding race discrimination at Portland, Ore. I will inquire into matter immediately because it is the purpose and policy of the American Federation of Labor to prevent race discrimination and instead to establish and maintain the exercise of all rights of workers regardless of race, creed or nationality."

Now it is clear to everyone except a complete moron that Bill Green is either an idiot or a liar. He may be both; we don't know. It is not the policy of the AFL to "prevent race discrimination." Its policy is to perpetuate and uphold race discrimination.

Whom is Green trying to kid? Surely not the Negro workers who have been trying to "exercise... all rights of workers" in

connection with employment and trade union membership.

If Green wants to maintain the present Jim Crow practices of the AFL he should come right out and say so. This problem isn't going to be passed up in the manner that Green and Ray would like. Negroes should not permit themselves to be intimidated or soft-soaped. They should keep right after Green. They should get to work on Ray and drive him from the labor movement.

Happy New Year!

Commenting on the tax situation, Representative Kean, Republican, of New Jersey, stated: "Additional taxes cannot be avoided. Few have realized how great the burden will be under the new revenue law, and many not anticipating this fully will find themselves unable to pay when March 15 comes around."

Happy New Year! The estimated total revenue from existing taxes, including those to be collected under the law enacted by Congress in October—the taxes Representative Kean doesn't expect you to be able to pay in March—will not, however, be enough to meet government needs.

According to a study made by the Public Affairs Committee, \$40,000,000,000 out of the \$76,000,000,000 the government will spend for the war in 1943 must be raised in taxes. The present tax law will yield a mere \$25,000,000,000. Therefore, the incoming Congress must increase taxes by \$15,000,000,000.

The tax law of October—under which Representative Kean apparently expects you to go broke—raised only about \$9,000,000,000 additional revenue. Imagine, if you can, what a levy of \$15,000,000,000 over and above this sum will do to the average worker!

Happy New Year—over the hill in the poor house!

Unless— The workers get busy and demand that the rich be soaked instead of the poor.

All war profits must be confiscated! There MUST be a government levy on capital!

An absolute limit of \$25,000 MUST be put on individual income from ALL sources!

Yes, We Can See--

"The picture which Miss Mytinger paints of white exploitation of the coconut country makes you wonder just how the tropics are ever to be reconciled to the world of the Four Freedoms. Plantation labor consists of indentured boys who work for three years for a \$30 wage, plus "found." The \$30 will buy a lot of peroxide (for bleaching the hair), alarm clocks (the bush boys like the sound of these, or the "sing") and stick tobacco. But the equivalent of the cash is taken back from the Melanesians in the "head tax," which is paid in coconuts or other produce. The end product of the indenture system is soap, margarine and shredded coconut for the temperate climes. But, regarding Miss Mytinger, one can see why the natives of the tropical Pacific world don't take a great deal of interest in the fighting between Japanese and Anglo-Saxons that swirls all about them."

—From a book review of Caroline Mytinger's "Headhunting in the Solomon Islands Around the Coral Sea," by John Chamberlain in the New York Times of December 17.

Job Freezing Order Double Menace for Negro Workers

By HARRY ALLEN

Perilous and hazardous as is the situation for the mass of workers under the government decree "freezing labor" (that is, under the dictatorial powers given to Paul McNutt, through Roosevelt's order, to transfer and place workers wherever he sees fit), the situation and prospects facing the mass of Negroes are triply menacing.

Of the workers still unemployed, despite the increase in employment in war industries, an overwhelming number are Negroes. The fact that such unemployment still exists is in itself evidence that the need for freezing labor does not flow from a labor shortage.

"Frozen" at Lowest Jobs

Nearly three million Negroes are today employed at work and skills far below their qualifications, declares a statement recently issued by the United States Employment Service.

The "freezing" order can be used as an additional excuse for keeping the Negro workers in their lowly and low-paid jobs. It can therefore have the effect of "freezing" inequality and low living standards for the duration.

Now, concretely, how do these effects of "freezing" actual or potential, exhibit themselves in the day-to-day life of the Negroes?

1. On the urban transportation lines (street car, elevated, etc.) in Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington and other cities, Negro workers have vainly endeavored to obtain skilled jobs as conductors, motormen, etc.

FEPC remedial rulings—for example, in Washington, D. C.—have been rejected by the companies. (FEPC is today under McNutt's jurisdiction.) The companies, standing pat on their Jim Crow policies, may now claim that the "frozen labor" ruling allows no "tampering" with the present job status of the Negroes. Are their unskilled jobs "frozen" for the duration?

2. Skilled Negro riveters, chippers and canikers (war industry work) have been advised by Birmingham, Ala., officials of the USES to take jobs as cooks on sugar cane plantations.

The USES not only proposes freezing these skilled workers into another (lower paid) trade, but tells them to move from their city homes to plantations. Thus the USES (also under McNutt's jurisdiction), in proposing that these skilled workers be transferred—"frozen"—into another, lower paid trade, reflects the Jim Crow pressure of the Southern ruling class on the government agency.

3. Pullman porters, well educated and equipped, today remain classed as porters and are not given the opportunity to advance to the rating, pay or class of conductors. Moreover, Negro workers are held

to the lowest jobs and pay throughout the railroad industry, certainly a war industry today.

While Negro organizations for a long time have been making demands on the railroads (today, also through FEPC) for improvement in the status of Negro rail workers, the question still stands: Are porters and Negro railroad workers in general now to be frozen for the period of the war?

Trained—But Refused Jobs

4. Negro men and women trained for jobs in Detroit plants—such as Ford Motor Co., General Motors, Chrysler, Hudson, Briggs Mfg., Fisher Body and others—have been refused work. Those refused include men and women who had received their training in the very plants that denied them work! A survey reveals that no less than 170 major Detroit war factories decline to employ Negroes.

Note that Detroit is the first major city where McNutt proposes workers shall stay put at their present jobs. This makes "strike three!" against Negro men and women who are refused work in a city where, according to the government and employers, there is a shortage of labor! Further, it is particularly worth noting that of 57,500 women at present working in Detroit war plants, less than 100 are Negro women!

In view of the direct statements of officials of Locals 400 and 600, United Automobile Workers, CIO, that the "UAW welcomes Negro workers into its ranks and today has 60,000 Negro members, many of whom hold official positions in their unions," the responsibility for refusing to employ additional thousands of Negro men and women in Detroit clearly lies with the Jim Crow employers and the government.

Training Also Barred

5. With millions of Negroes ready to be trained for jobs or for better jobs, what has actually happened? They are even being deprived, in important instances, of the opportunity for training.

The War Shipping Administration, under the direction of Admiral Emory S. ("Shoot, Organizers") Land, has been barring Negroes from the Gallups Island Radio School, which trains officers for the Merchant Marine in Boston harbor.

In Washington, D. C., the War Manpower Commission (of which McNutt has been chairman from its inception) through its Service Center refuses on racial grounds to accept Negro women into its training classes for work in an aircraft manufacturing company.

In the South, discrimination is direct, as is indicated by the closing down of many government training centers in Southern cities, on the ground that Negroes are barred from skilled jobs in Southern industries anyhow. In the North, discrimination on racial grounds is often more

subtle in withholding skilled jobs: sometimes the training is even given, but no jobs are provided. In either case the results for the Negroes are the same: ZERO!

LA for Asking Better Job

6. The fear and threat of draft-reclassification is very real to Negro workers who want to be "upgraded" to better jobs. Note, as an example, the case of Leonard D. Smith, Oklahoma City, Okla., classified as a laborer and employed at the Oklahoma City Air Depot.

He applied for a job as an electrical helper. Instead of receiving promotion, he was fired. Three days later he was reclassified by his draft board from 3A to 1A!

At the office of his job, the air depot, he had previously been advised that he could continue as a laborer for the duration, but should remember: "air base authorities worked in close cooperation with the draft board."

For every blow struck at white workers by the bosses, the Negro worker receives at least two, and often more. Hence, even as the threat of draft reclassification is held in general against workers who demand their rights, so too it is used against the Negro worker, only with less compunction or reservation.

Thus the masses of Negro workers find themselves in danger from every conceivable direction: no jobs at all; poor jobs out of which they cannot be "upgraded," but must remain rooted or "frozen"; training for which they cannot receive commensurate jobs, if at all; danger of draft reclassification if they try to "upgrade" their jobs; loss of jobs through employer and government Jim Crow, etc.

Let no one be deceived by "token hirings" and "upgradings" in various plants to cover up gross discrimination against Negroes. The truth is that, apart from jobs created for Negroes through sheer necessity for more thorough prosecution of the war, the Negro masses have achieved no fundamental improvement in their status during the war. Such breaks as they have received, they will have to struggle to keep. What they have not obtained they must continue to struggle for.

In fighting against "stabilization" of jobs or wages—or "freezing" of the status quo of any kind at the point where they work or seek work, Negroes are fighting for the very right to continue their struggles against degradation, oppression and exploitation.

The freezing of jobs is a measure that hits all workers, but most blatantly and particularly affects and concerns the Negro masses. Therefore both working class solidarity and necessity imperatively demand greater and more militant intervention by the unions to compel employers to hire and utilize Negroes on an equal basis.

Rationing and Its Control - -

(Continued from page 1)

quite complacent on the subject of prices. He said: "Already we have acted to see that food prices, along with other prices, don't get too high. So we do not have rationing through higher prices."

This is maddening irresponsibility on Mr. Wickard's part. He flies in the face of a truth the grimness of which every working class housewife understands. Food prices are too high—AND THERE HAS BEEN RATIONING THROUGH HIGH PRICES.

Even before the butter shortage developed, many a working class family could not buy it because of its price. Many a working class child does not get even one egg a week because of the price of eggs. On account of the excessive cost of meat and poultry, low income groups don't get any share at all of these commodities but throw out their hard-earned money for fat-laden sausage meals or cuts so inferior that they are full of fat, bone and stringy tissue. To these groups even canned soups have become a rationed luxury because of the mounting price.

Workers Must Take a Hand

Mr. Wickard and his kind speak from the depths of their own contentment with life and not from the point of view of the struggling working class. Therefore neither he nor Mr. Henderson saw fit to say anything about the label-posters who are gayly price-profiteering under the OPA policy that everything is in a name—never mind what's in the can.

Nor did either of these contented gentlemen deign to mention the little deal between the Administration and the powerful farm bloc under which deal will be permitted "moderate increases in ceiling prices on farm products." CERTAINLY INCREASED FARM PRICES ARE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE MATTER OF RATIONING CANNED, BOTTLED AND DRIED FARM PRODUCTS. How much of the rationed food will the working class housewife be able to buy if the prices are allowed to climb beyond her reach?

That is exactly where they are going—if workers and housewives do

not themselves rise to the emergency and take matters in hand.

Silent on Wages

On the subject of increasing wages to meet the cost of living and thus enable the working class family to get its rightful and legal share of rationed food, Mr. Wickard was as silent as Mr. Henderson and Mr. Henderson as silent as Mr. Davis. That subject—along with other military secrets—must not be discussed. Indirectly, however, Mr. Wickard very summarily dismissed the whole subject of wages in typical bureaucratic manner. He said: "Malnutrition is not altogether a matter of poverty. Sometimes it is a matter of ignorance!"

Could Mr. Wickard—with all his knowledge of proper nutrition—keep himself and family from suffering malnutrition on an income of less than SIXTEEN DOLLARS A WEEK?

There are 16,000,000 workers in this country who get for their labor less than \$16 a week! Rationing alone will not enable these underpaid workers to "share and share alike." Their wages have to be doubled, even tripled, to put them abreast of the cost of living.

Donald Montgomery, who has just resigned as consumers' counsel in Secretary Wickard's Department of Agriculture, reveals that THIRTY-EIGHT PER CENT of the people of this country will not be able to buy all the meat to which they will be entitled when meat rationing comes. MORE WAGES IS WHAT THIS THIRTY-EIGHT PER CENT OF THE POPULATION MUST HAVE.

Even the better-paid workers are getting a pretty raw deal. According to the figures of the CIO, the cost of living index has far exceeded the 15 per cent formula established by the WLB. Wage increases are long overdue. The constantly rising cost of living daily makes the position of the workers worse. Rationing alone will not help. Workers must have the money with which to buy the rationed foods. THEY MUST BE PAID MORE FOR THEIR LABOR.

What Kind of Rationing?

On the third essential point, namely, who will carry out the rationing program, the plan is, of course, that

the government will do it, probably through the OPA.

The workers have had experience with the OPA's way of "enforcing" price ceilings. There are more holes in OPA ceilings than in Swiss cheese, with chiselers and profiteers constantly boring more holes.

That is not the kind of rationing the working people want, thank you. But under the OPA or any government agency—operating bureaucratically and closely connected with private interests seeking only their own aggrandizement—rationing will have the same fate as price control of consumer goods.

Black market operations are bound to develop and further reduce the supply of goods available to the working people. Already a black market is sprouting for rationed fuel oil and gasoline and for still unrationed meat. In England, rationing has been in effect for several years—and for as many years the black market has been cutting big slices out of the supplies of rationed goods.

Workers haven't the means to patronize the black market, which reserves the choicest of everything for the rich. The black market menace must be fought by the working people through committees of workers, farmers and housewives. Only such committees have the power to prevent rationing from becoming a fare.

To summarize and impress these points on the mind of the reader, it must be emphasized that rationing is urgent—to be effective, however, it must be fortified by:

- 1. LOWER PRICES AND STRICT PRICE CONTROL.
- 2. WAGE INCREASES TO CORRESPOND TO THE COST OF LIVING.
- 3. COMMITTEES OF WORKERS, FARMERS AND HOUSEWIVES—THE ONLY AGENCIES THAT CAN MAKE A GO OF PRICE CONTROL AND RATIONING.

Buy LA and NI In Buffalo:

Main and Huron, next to Gamler's, Main and Mohawk.

JAPAN:

Post-War Upsurge In Labor Movement

By Sylvia Merrill

(Continued from last issue)

The post-war movement had repercussions among the soldiers, risings among government employees, strikes in three military arsenals. Of 27,000 workers employed in the munitions factories, 10,000 went on strike. Fifteen thousand workers in the Kawasaki plant struck in 1919, occupying the factories. The strikes won an eight-hour day for 100,000 workers and a nine-hour day for many more.

In 1920 the Fuji Knitting Mills went on strike, involving 400 men and 1,700 women. But by this time the reaction had set in and repressive measures were taken against the trade unions and the socialist organizations. The strike was lost. But in 1925 they struck again. It is interesting to note the demands of these women workers:

1. The right to go home in event of death in the immediate family.
2. The right to receive visits from close relatives.
3. Wages of female workers not to be paid to their parents without the consent of the worker.
4. Meat or fish meal once a day.
5. Right to organize.
6. Reinstatement of sixteen dismissed workers.

In 1919, Japan was invited to send delegates to the International Labor Conference of the League of Nations. The government appointed a leading industrialist and the niece of a count to "represent" the workers. Demonstrations were held from one end of the country to the other in protest.

The niece of the count, having a little bit of a conscience, thought she ought to acquaint herself with the conditions of labor, so she toured the country. Everywhere she went she was met by demonstrations on the part of the workers, which evidently impressed her considerably. She appeared at the conference and shocked not only the Japanese delegates but all the other "labor representatives" of that body when she told them that Japanese women were both physically and psychologically victims of the capitalist system.

The significance of this remark becomes more apparent when coupled with the statement of the bosses, who frankly admitted that they feared to use male labor because they were sure strikes and general labor unrest would follow.

So we see that the Japanese labor and socialist movement, on a smaller scale than the European movements, went through the post-war upsurge. But while the labor movement of Europe had many, many years of experience behind it in strike strategy and labor tactics, the Japanese labor movement was but a child in swaddling clothes in 1918.

Then, too, unlike the labor movement of Europe, Japan had never gone through that period known as capitalist democracy. The police suppression in Japan is such that every time a political party is formed, two or three hours later it is declared illegal.

The Japanese ruling class never passed through that phase of being able to pass some of its crumbs on down to its laboring masses. Arriving late on the international scene, they have made the working class pay the price of underselling the world market. As an example: Japanese cotton goods in India sell for less than the Indians can produce it in their own country, and raw cotton is an import in Japan. Takahashi, a Japanese Finance Minister, in 1933 spoke of Japan making up for her lack of capital and for the poverty of her financial resources by cheap labor. "Japan can face England and France's golden bullets with labor as her weapon."

The scattered nature of Japanese production has made it very difficult to organize the workers. Unlike the U.S., a 1930 census shows that 53 per cent of the total workers industrially employed were in factories employing fewer than five workers. The difficulties in organizing a working class as scattered as this are self-evident. In addition, there is the problem of the handicraft worker.

Paternalism is a conscious policy on the part of the employers and government. This is another factor making union organization difficult. In 1937, the official government year book gives the total number of industrial workers as 6,422,320. Of this number but 355,290 workers, or 6.2 per cent, were organized into unions, and these primarily represented the skilled workers.

Women in Japanese industry have contributed considerably to the backwardness of the labor movement. A Japanese ex-ambassador to the United States described the textile and pottery factories which employ primarily women as follows:

"To see hundreds of young girls, mostly 15 or 16 years old, silently at their work is pitiable, but at the same time inspiring. These girl operators are satisfied with low wages and never grumble. The fact that Japanese goods which are now conquering the world's markets are made by these maidens makes one thankful to them, warriors of the peace."

The fact, though, that when these women are reached they react militantly can be seen from the strike in 1925 at the Fuji mills.

A 1937 census showed that 29.9 per cent of the total working population were unmarried females and of these only 1.3 per cent were in unions. Women, tied by ancient tradition and enslaved by the machine, are indeed a problem for organization.

And last, but by no means least, is the problem of the poverty-stricken farmer who has supplied a source of cheap industrial labor in Japan.

(Continued in Next Issue)

WORKERS PARTY PLATFORM

Against Both Imperialist 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. \$1.00-an-hour minimum pay! Time and a half for overtime; double time for Sunday and holiday work.
3. Wage increases to meet rising costs. No wage or job freezing! Equal pay for equal work!
4. For a greater share of the increasing national income. For a higher standard of living!
5. No sales tax on consumer goods! No tax on wages! Against forced savings!
6. For control of price fixing and rationing by committees of working class organizations, housewives and farmers' organizations. Freeze rents and consumer goods prices at the 1940 level to stop the rise in the cost of living.
7. No government contract without a union contract! The closed shop in all war industries!
8. Maintain and increase all government social services!

SOAK THE RICH—LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!

9. A government levy on capital to cover the cost of the imperialist war. Confiscate all war profits!
10. Conscript all war industries under workers' control!
11. Expropriate the "Sixty Families"—the three percent of the people who own 96 per cent of the national wealth!

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO THE DRAFTEES!

12. The right of free speech, free press and free assembly for the men in the armed forces.
13. The right of soldiers to vote in all elections.
14. The right of all youth, male or female, to vote at the age of eighteen. Old enough to fight; old enough to work; old enough to vote!
15. For adequate dependency allowances paid by the government with NO deductions from the soldier's pay.

SMASH JIM CROW!

16. 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!
17. For full political, social and economic equality for Negroes!

BE PREPARED!

18. For Workers' Defense Guards, trained and controlled by the unions, against vigilantes and fascist attacks!
19. For an Independent Labor Party and a Workers' Government! No political support to the Roosevelt government!
20. For Peace Through Socialism! For the independence of all colonies!
21. For a World Socialist Federation! Only a socialist world will destroy capitalist imperialism and fascist barbarism!

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