

# What the Smith-Connally Bill Means To Labor Movement

By MIKE STEVENS

Under the smokescreen of "national defense," both the House and Senate have passed the drastic and reactionary Smith-Connally anti-strike bill. It remains for the President to sign it and thus make it law, or to veto it.

The mine workers' struggle and threat of another strike is only a pretext for passing this bill. Smith and Connally, and others of their ilk, have been trying to pass such a bill for years. It was easy for them to pass this one because of the war situation and the fact that the labor leaders have already given up the right to strike. The leaders of labor sat on the War Labor Board and took part in its logical evolution from an advisory agency to a monster with compulsory, although no statutory, powers.

The text of the anti-strike bill falls into four parts:

## 1. FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE WLB

At the CIO convention in Boston, November 9, 1942, Philip Murray proudly reported that "Under the leadership of the President, a national labor policy based on free and voluntary participation and leadership by labor and management was formulated and found expression through the work of the WLB." The creators of the anti-strike bill, the same gentlemen who have been attempting for many years to destroy the labor movement, also have complete confidence in the WLB. In their anti-strike bill they implement the power of the WLB by giving it real teeth. And thus the WLB, which was produced with the aid of Phillip Murray and the other labor leaders, has now become a Frankenstein's monster that will attempt to devour whatever remnants of free collective bargaining still exist.

Workers in virtually all industries come under the jurisdiction of the WLB and the penalties of the anti-strike bill, not only where there is a war contract, but any place where workers are employed, even if that particular establishment is NOT engaged in any kind of war work whatsoever, as long as "...the plant is equipped to manufacture..." war products at some future date. This takes in about everything, and it reveals that the basic interest of the sponsors of the bill is NOT their concern with the "interruption of war production," but the abolishing of the right to organize and enforce collective bargaining through the right to strike.

Only a few weeks ago, R. J. Thomas said that "In hundreds of plants today where the United Automobile Workers have forsown their right to strike, collective bargaining has completely broken down. Whereas before the war, labor problems might be solved in a half-hour negotiation between management and union committeemen, today we find that many managements—thinking that labor's hands are tied—absolutely refuse to negotiate in good faith."

Imagine what will happen if the Connally bill becomes law. The bosses will be able to drag out negotiations or grievances for long extended periods, and then turn over the case to the WLB to toy around with for another year (as they did in the rubber dispute). Workers can be subpoenaed to appear before the WLB with all the union records and documents, so that the manufacturers' representatives on the board can find out the financial and numerical strength of the union and any other information they want. In the meantime, the cost of living will be rising, militant workers will be fired, and everything that R. J. Thomas said will be one thousand times truer and more aggravated.

If the situation becomes serious and the workers want to strike, they are permitted under the shackles of this anti-strike bill to write a letter to the WLB! The reason for the letter is "in order that the President may be apprised of labor disputes which threaten seriously to interrupt war production and in order that employees may have an opportunity to express themselves, free from restraint or coercion, as to whether they will permit such interruptions in wartime."

## 2. PENALTIES AND FINES

If the workers refuse to follow this procedure, either before or during this period, and go on strike, the union is "liable for damages resulting from such failure or refusal to any person injured thereby and to the United States if so injured." The district courts of the United States will determine the damages under the judicial code.

At the end of the thirty days, an election will be held by the National Labor Relations Board, and the workers will vote "whether they will permit any such interruption of war production."

If the international office of the union has permitted the local to go through with the strike vote and the workers have not caved in under all of this pressure, and they vote to strike, what then? This is the joker. The government takes the plant over, and anybody who even TALKS strike may be fined \$5,000 or imprisoned for one year, or both.

The section on "interference with government operation of plants" must be quoted at length in order to appreciate fully the wording and flavor of this completely reactionary clause, which is the real heart of the bill:

"Whenever any plant, mine or facility is in the possession of the United States, it shall be unlawful for any person (1) to coerce, instigate, induce, conspire with, or encourage any person, to interfere, by lockout, strike, slowdown, or other interruption, with the operation of such plant, mine or facility, or (2) to aid in any such lockout, strike, slowdown, or other interruption interfering with the operation of such plant, mine or facility by giving direction or guidance in the conduct of such interruption, or by providing funds for the conduct or, direction thereof or for the payment of strike, unemployment, or other benefits to those participating therein...."

"Any person who willfully violates any provision of this section shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000 or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or both."

## 3. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

Under the anti-strike bill, a union or corporation that makes any financial contribution to a political organization is liable to a \$5,000 fine, and each officer can be fined \$1,000 and imprisoned for one year.

Although this section includes corporations, it is intended essentially for trade unions. Corporations are headed by wealthy men who can very easily contribute thousands of dollars from their own pockets without drawing (directly) from corporation funds.

At first glance, this section of the bill seems irrelevant to the rest of the bill, but that is not true. The creators of the bill hope to make the unions impotent, kill the solidarity of the workers, and thus force the workers to seek reactionary outlets in their dilemma to better their conditions. The original draft even put the unions under the direct supervision of their resident state, in an attempt to stop workers from building large labor organizations that could carry on class action on a national scale.

(Continued on page 2)

# LABOR ACTION

JUNE 21, 1943

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

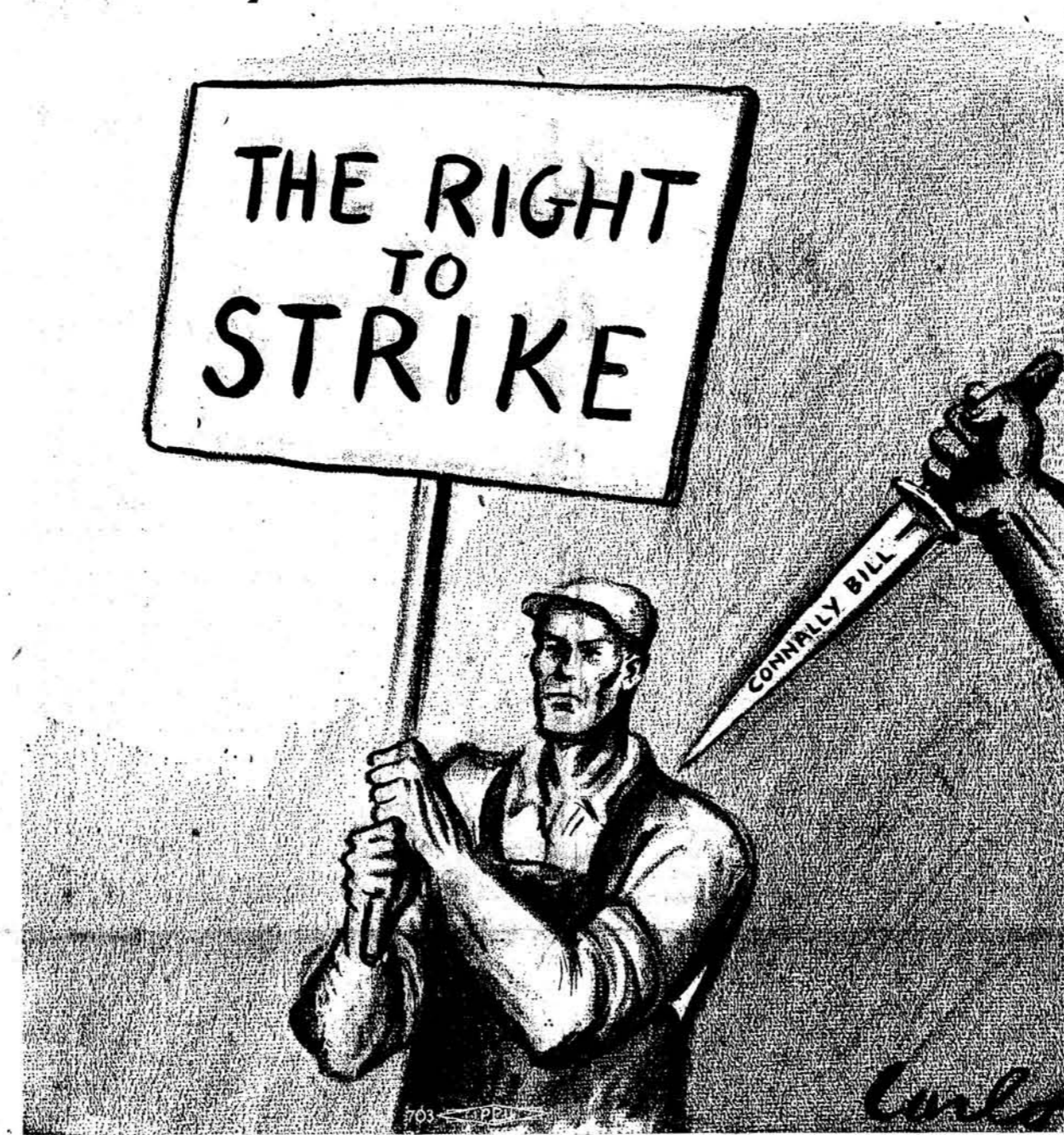


ONE CENT

## Workers, Fight Political Reaction!

# BUILD A LABOR PARTY

## Democracy on the Home Front



## Recent Events in Miners' Struggle

# What Is WLB Up To Now?

By DAVID COOLIDGE

The "decision" on the settlement of the coal strike which is expected from the War Labor Board has not yet been announced as the time approaches for LABOR ACTION to go to press. This is too bad. We would have liked to comment this week on what the board has to say and the "award" it makes, if any. But despite the fact that LABOR ACTION goes to press before the WLB thunders forth again, there are a few significant happenings that require comment.

The first is the "fines" that Custodian Ickes threatened to levy against the miners. It is generally known that Ickes is Secretary of the Interior, Solid Fuels Administrator and

Custodian of the Mines by directive of the President, following his "seizure" of the mines and making of them "United States property."

We have commented in previous issues of this paper on the stonking role of Mr. Ickes. He is mine custodian and the mines are "United States property," but Mr. Ickes has no authority to deal with his new "employees" in the matter of wages and other matters involved in the present dispute! In all questions of contractual relations and wages, Ickes must take a back seat while the WLB takes over and does nothing that the miners can accept or agree with.

Although Mr. Ickes has no say in the matter of contracts and wages,

it seems that he does have the authority to levy fines! We don't know whether or not he has the power to collect the fines. What needs to be exposed is the manner in which Ickes handled this business of fines. There is a clause in the UMWA contract which says that if the miners go on strike during the life of the contract they shall be subject to a fine of \$1.00 a day for the days each miner is on strike in violation of the contract.

### Facts About the Contract

After the men had gone back to work following the first "truce" some operators attempted to levy fines for such "violations." Ickes was against this, and so advised these operators.

(Continued on page 4)

## Congressional Anti-Labor Bill Must Be Fought With Independent Political Action

By ALBERT GATES

The viciously anti-labor Smith-Connally bill, passed by the Senate and the House, is now resting on the President's desk, awaiting his signature to make it a law of the land—or his veto, which would send it back to the reactionary legislative halls of Washington. It is only now that a storm is brewing in labor and liberal circles over the passage of this "fascist bill," as William Green, president of the AFL, described it.

While the bill was passing through Congress, too many of these labor leaders and liberals were busy denouncing John L. Lewis and the coal miners for their gallant struggle in the interests of all American labor against the oppressive conduct of the WLB and the coal operators. Had they understood the real meaning of the Smith-Connally bill earlier, the fight against it would have started some time ago. Not that the liberals could have accomplished much; but certainly the organized labor movement was in a position to wage war against the designs of the congressional lackeys of big business and their allies, the Southern Bourbons.

See page two for the story on the conference of Detroit's Labor's Non-Partisan League and the resolution calling for the organization of a Labor Party adopted by the delegates.

Starting late, the labor leaders have a difficult struggle ahead of them. But their difficulty is caused not merely because their fight has begun so late, but also because their weapons cannot help a great deal. The labor leaders do not rely upon the independent and organized strength of labor. They are relying upon "pressure" on the President; they are lying in hopes that the political interests of Roosevelt and his administration will direct him to veto the bill.

Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins has joined Green and Murray in a denunciation of the bill and in requesting a presidential veto. Dean Alfange, erstwhile gubernatorial candidate of the American Labor Party, also denounced the bill as anti-democratic. In that, he merely echoed the position taken by the ALP. But a real ferment is to be found in the ranks of labor where the workers are fully aware of the repressive nature of the bill.

The so-called liberal press, in characteristic fashion, blows hot and cold on the issue. While PM has attacked the bill from the start, the New York Post is opposed to it merely because it would bar political contributions by labor unions. This is particularly anti-democratic because, while the Post doesn't give a fig about the other fascist measures of the bill, it is concerned with money contributions since it is already hawking the fourth term for Roosevelt and would like to see the labor unions help to pay for his campaign!

(Continued on page 4 in editorial column)

# 182 Subs in Week Hits New High!

By HENRY COLEMAN, Campaign Director

	14th Week: June 6-12 Returns	Pct. of Total Quota Achieved
DETROIT	88	410
Buffalo	4	172
Los Angeles	31	144
Chicago	1	133
Cleveland	—	114
New York	38	103
Akron	8	81
Sierraville	—	80
National Office	4	66
Philadelphia	8	40
Reading	—	40
St. Louis and Missouri	—	30
WEEKLY TOTAL	182	
GRAND TOTAL	1131	113.1

ALL RECORDS SMASHED! WHAT A WEEK! WE ARE OVER THE TOP WITH 131 SUBS TO SPARE!

And look at Detroit. 410 per cent! The eighty-eight subs that Detroit sent in the past week did the trick for us, but the rest of the country came through in a big way, too. Ninety-four subs, exclusive of Detroit's eighty-eight, is good enough by itself. One more word on Detroit: we are being asked "How do they do it? What's their secret method? Why doesn't Detroit write a step-by-step explanation of their system?" We have it on good authority that their system is very simple: they have people ON THE SPOT where subs can be obtained, and they are not afraid to ASK for subs—anyone, anywhere, any time. That's the way it works. And how!

New York boosted its returns this week as we predicted, and reached its quota for the drive of 300 subs—with ten subs extra. New York's LOCAL drive has officially ended, because it got started a week earlier than the rest of the country.

Los Angeles TRIPLED its returns; Philadelphia is coming through in good shape—too bad Philadelphia got to work so late in the drive. Buffalo, Chicago and Cleveland are over their quotas.

JUST ONE MORE WEEK TO GO! The drive ends June 19th. We want the last week of the drive to be a good one, and from the way the subs are coming in, we think it WILL be good. Any subs mailed to us DURING THE WEEK will be credited. Next issue will tell the whole story of the drive, with complete figures for each locality.

And finally: every single one of our sub-getters and distributors must now concentrate on our PREPAID SUB CARDS. Buy them from us at twenty-five cents each and sell them to your friends! The guy at the next machine will buy one for a quarter, put his own name and address on it, and drop it in the mail box. His sub will be entered when we get the card.

BUY A FEW PREPAID SUB CARDS NOW! CARRY A COUPLE OF THEM AROUND WITH YOU ALL THE TIME! A TWENTY-FIVE CENT SUB CARD CAN BE SOLD IN A MINUTE AND WILL GIVE SIX MONTHS OF LABOR NEWS AND EDUCATION—THE KIND YOU CAN'T FIND IN THE NEWSPAPERS. USE THE SUB BLANK!

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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Detroit LNPL Meeting Takes Progressive Actions

By GEORGE BAKER
DETROIT, June 12—The Wayne County Labor's Non-Partisan League convention held here this week-end called for the immediate launching of an Independent Labor Party.

pending formation of a Labor Party, we propose to organize on a residential basis through ward and precinct committees and labor political clubs in support of candidates selected by labor in all elections both primary and general throughout the state.

time tried to scuttle Labor's Non-Partisan League, boycotted the convention and did not send delegates from the locals which they control. John Brophy, national director of industrial union councils of the CIO, had to intervene a few months ago to prevent the Stalinists from dissolving the League here.

Parties cannot solve our problems... We are going to have unprecedented unemployment after the war." He concluded by stating: "Let's strike out for ourselves!"

and pave the way for cohesion of an independent party" like the British Labor Party AFTER the elections.

Proposed North American Contract Would Hurt Union

By ILLIA EDDER
On Tuesday, June 1, a new contract to be negotiated was presented at the membership meeting of North American, Local 887, Los Angeles.

union into their own hands. They must oust the Stalinist clique which is piloting the union into a suicidal tailspin. Non-union members must sign up to make North American a union shop, an important demand in the new contract.

The delegate from Local 157 reported that "the sentiment in the shops is the best yet for an Independent Labor Party."

'Zoot Suit'—A Case of Race Discrimination on Rampage

LOS ANGELES, June 10—A delegation from the CIO, the American Civil Liberties Union and Latin-American youth representatives told United States Attorney Charles H. Carr that they believed sheriff's deputies, police and military leaders were in a conspiracy to give the "zoot suiters a good pushing around" and that the officials should be prosecuted.

ist press that really got the fight rolling. Before this is over, many Navy men and zoot suiters will be in hospitals—as a result of a newspaper (and largely, though not exclusively, a Hearst newspaper) campaign!

Local 9 Needs Democratic Open Forum at the Yards

SAN PEDRO—The workers' noon-time forum at Los Angeles Shipbuilding & Drydock, installed in the copper shop a few weeks ago as a union-building program, was threatened from two sides last week as Stalinist speakers monopolized the stand to unleash a barrage against the United Mine Workers and against those CIO unionists in Detroit and Akron who struck in protest against the War Labor Board.

pledge that ties its hands, and because official representatives of both the CIO and AFL continue to sit on the WLB while thousands of union workers are striking against the board.

Women Textile Workers Win Two-Week Strike

COOLEMME, N. C.—The one hundred and two women textile workers who have been on a two-week strike at the Erwin plant returned victoriously to work this past week.

The Erwin company, operating a large chain of mills throughout the South, decided that the conservative policy of the Textile Workers of America made it impossible for the union to stand in its way if it decided to "stretch out" the work.

Resolution on Labor Party Adopted by Detroit LNPL

Whereas, the recent history of the labor movement constitutes adequate proof of the statement that it is impossible for labor to depend upon either the Democratic or Republican parties for the expression of its aims or the carrying out of its program, and

Akron Labor Has Learned To Peg Stalinists as Finks

AKRON, June 6—With the Akron rubber workers back on their jobs, since their strike was broken by presidential decree, the past week has been a period of assimilating the lessons learned during the strike itself.

the strikers during the heat of the struggle in Akron was the fact that they were not joined by Local 101, URWA, of the United States Rubber Co. in Detroit, one of the "Big Four" rubber companies.

Connally Bill-

Behind this clause is the fear that the workers will organize their own political party and clean out the jackals that are attempting to turn the workers of America into slave labor.

In other words, Detroit Local 101 did not directly join the big strike movement because its leadership is shot through with Stalinists, or people who allow themselves to be led around by the nose by these Kremlin agents!

The Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor...

Wants Facts on Legion Known

Dear Friends: Now that we know who are the parents and who are the god-parents of the American Legion, let us follow the example. Let us organize immediately a soldiers' entertaining committee, which body should prepare also to act as a reception committee when the soldiers will be returning home.

Wants Coolidge Article Reprinted

Dear Editor: At the last longshoremen's meeting in San Pedro, Henry Schmidt, Stalinist member of the Maritime Industry Board, came out for "incentive pay." That this means a speed-up was the reaction of every longshoreman. Schmidt said, of course, that if the membership didn't go for it, why, he wouldn't push it.

CIO Wins NLRB Pullman Election

Dear Editor: A few weeks ago the United Steel Workers, CIO, won an NLRB election at the Pullman-Standard Car Co. here in Chicago by a vote of 1,057 to 399 for the company union.

Free Competition... Before and After

Dear Editor: The loud mouths have always made much of the "freedom of contract" and economic liberty that wage workers supposedly enjoy under a free enterprise system.

Free Competition... Before and After

Of course, the ten million unemployed which capitalism carefully maintained as an effective gag against labor becoming too vociferous in its "free" bargaining for wages; and the idea of a picket worker or a shipyard worker sticking up dirt cheap in some hockshop a sec-

Eagle has long been considered a close fellow-traveller of the CP by those who are acquainted with the affairs of the Akron District—District No. 1 of the URWA. No one has yet been found in the URWA leadership, not even Tommy Burns or Dalrymple, who can get the jump on Eagle in distorting an issue.

# Europe in Revolt

A Review of Political Events

# A Study of a Political Chameleon

## Generoso Pope -- From Fascist to Democrat

By MIKE STEVENS

Generoso Pope is the publisher of the two largest Italian daily newspapers in the United States, *Il Progresso* and *Il Corriere*. Pope's papers were described by the late Carlo Tresca as "the main source of fascist propaganda in the United States."

And yet, the New Leader, organ of the Social-Democratic Federation, published an article by Pope; Chairman Flynn of the Democratic Party has praised him; and, on May 9, Vice-President Wallace went out of his way to address a letter to Pope, congratulating him for the great job he is doing in pushing war bonds.

### Endorsed Mussolini Tyranny

Pope's policy appeared on the front page of *Il Progresso* the day he took it over, November 2, 1928: "...a sincere, open and unequivocal attachment to our Italian Fatherland and to him who with such energy and love revived its destiny." From that day on, *Il Progresso* upheld and endorsed the tyranny and barbaric violence used by the fascist regime in enslaving the Italian masses. Every single policy by Mussolini was praised and the news was consistently colored to favor fascism.

He is a Tammany big-wig and a member of the Democratic National Committee. Through the large circulation of his newspapers, Pope was able to exert a lot of influence on the Italian vote in this country.

If Pope were deprived of his newspapers, or his citizenship, and placed in an internment camp, he would be of no value to the capitalist class or clerics of Italy in making probable deals with the United States should they decide to chuck out Mussolini. Pope is therefore desperately seeking "democratic cloaks" to hide his past activity. He has placed expensive advertisements in many newspapers, and a recent contest on "Why the Italian people should join the United Nations," with \$2,000 in prizes, was conducted by him. He was on an "I Am an American Day" committee and many other similar ventures. Carlo Tresca, up to the time of his murder, systematically exposed every move along these lines by Pope, and stood in the way of everyone who attempted to whitewash him.

The Friends of Freedom, evidently wishing to keep their own skirts clean, refused a financial contribution from Pope. But the New Leader lacked these scruples. They gave him a much bigger cloak than he could have hoped for in his most optimistic moments—a "socialist" paper publishing his "views" on "democracy against fascism." The editors of the New Leader invited Generoso Pope to write an article for their paper, and printed it in the May 15 issue.

Pope's article in the New Leader calls for help for "...the various underground groups which have for years been battling courageously against the monstrous totalitarian regime of fascism. Mussolini's Fascist Party has labored with all

means at its disposal to corrupt the meaning and destroy the love of democracy, freedom, liberty and social justice among the Italian people. No one can tell the exact extent to which fascism succeeded in demoralizing the idea of democracy in Italy. One thing is clear, the poisonous influence and hold of fascism will have to be counteracted by the force of education as well as the force of arms."

### A Look at the Record

But let us look at the record—here we find a completely opposite picture—the real Pope. Let us look at what he wrote when he didn't fear internment or the loss of his New York City contracts for sand and gravel, on which he became immensely wealthy.

When Mussolini invaded Ethiopia, he delegated the Fascist Party of Italy the task of collecting gold to help finance the war. Generoso Pope, on behalf of the Fascist Party, collected tens of thousands of dollars in gold and sent it to Mussolini. His papers of that period are full of pictures and stories of his efforts to collect gold. Pope told the Italians in the United States that the money would be used for hospitals, but subsequent congratulatory telegrams from Il Duce revealed that the money went directly to the war treasury.

*Il Progresso* on November 19, 1935, quoted a speech by Pope made at a meeting in behalf of the war against the "Ethiopian aggressors." "Mr. Consul and friends: First I wish you to shout with me 'Down with the enemies of our country!' We can be sure that Italy will triumph under the guidance of the Duce and will be greater and more feared in the future... Long live Italy, long live the King, long live Mussolini."

On a similar occasion, January 24, 1936, he is quoted as saying: "We are proud to be sons of that Italy led by Benito Mussolini."

On June 13, 1936, a monster fascist meeting was held at Madison Square Garden to celebrate the founding of the Fascist Empire with the defeat of Ethiopia. Generoso Pope, the main speaker, was so eloquent in his praise of Mussolini that the fascists many times stood up and yelled "Duce, Duce, Duce!" Pope heaped praise upon praise on "...the leadership of the greatest man in the world, Benito Mussolini.... Today Italy can boast of such a military and political success which has dazzled the world, superior even to our expectations.... Because it is guided by an exceptional leader, Benito Mussolini, who has in a few years made her stride forward. He has made her attain great international prestige, has brought her triumphantly toward the imperial glory of ancient Rome.... Let us send a message of devotion and cheer to the King-Emperor Victor Emanuel... to the magnificent Duce, who has created the Empire of Italy."

On a trip to Italy in 1937, Generoso Pope and his wife were met at Naples by the fascist leader, Signor

Pallanca. During his stay he had conferences with Mussolini, King Victor Emanuel, Count Revel, the Minister of Finance, and Count Ciano, who personally decorated Pope. *Il Progresso* wrote during that period that the Queen, upon receiving Mrs. Pope, "congratulated her on her husband's great work of Italian propaganda in America." Pope would like to forget a photograph taken at that time, where he and fascist leaders are reviewing a parade and Pope has his arm outstretched in fascist salute.

Pope has not only been decorated three times into Mussolini's fascist order, but he holds the rank of Grand Officer, which is a higher rank in the fascist hierarchy than that held by Mussolini's own consul general in New York.

A Major Goffredo Pantaleoni, who joined the Fascist Party in Italy in 1925, was sent to this country and conducted fascist propaganda for Mussolini at \$10,000 a year. A couple of years ago he broke with fascism and confessed that throughout all these years he was aided in his fascist activity by Generoso Pope.

On October 24, 1936, the fourteenth anniversary of Mussolini's march on Rome, Generoso Pope sent the following message to "Il Grido della Stripe," a vicious, anti-Semitic ultra-fascist sheet printed in New York by Domenico Trombetta: "Today, which marks the fourteenth year of the fascist era and the completion of its first imperial year, it is possible to better understand the fruitful and concrete work done by Il Grido." This friend of Generoso Pope was one of the earliest organizers, and leaders of fascist clubs and storm troops in this country, and his name is anathema among all anti-fascists. In a future article we will take up Pope's friend and the paper Pope praises. Suffice it to say at this time that in May, 1943, Trombetta was arrested by the United States government for failing to register as an agent of a foreign government.

The entire staffs of Pope's papers were members of the National Fascist Newspaper Guild of Rome. They were all fascists by admission or by activity, and were the spearhead of many fascist organizations and endeavors. Angelo Flavio Guidi, a member of the OVRA (Italian Gestapo), worked in the editorial offices of *Il Progresso* and *Il Corriere* from 1929 to the eve of Pearl Harbor. He is now in Rome in charge of fascist short-wave propaganda beamed to this country. V. Gomito, another of Pope's editorial staff, is now in Japan, also in charge of short-wave radio broadcasting. Panciatichi, Giffre and Mauro, from Pope's editorial staff, are in U.S. internment camps. V. Rossini, president of the notorious fascist National United Italian Association, was employed on *Il Corriere*. The editor in chief and foreign policy expert of *Il Progresso* was Italo Falbo, correspondent of the official fascist news agency, Stefani.

### Pope and Roosevelt

In the national elections Pope always campaigned for Roosevelt—except the last time. Roosevelt had made his "stab in the back" speech against Mussolini, and the fascist-controlled press went into an all-out attack against Roosevelt. But Pope wanted to be sure before he leaped. Although a member of the Democratic National Committee, he remained aloof and did not write one word in his papers for Roosevelt.

But, as the campaign continued, he could see the handwriting on the wall for Mussolini's future and the role that might be played by an influential Italo-American in post-war Italy. And it was not profitable to break away from the Democratic Party, through which he was able to control the price of sand and gravel in Manhattan and the Bronx. When the price of a cubic yard of sand was \$2.00 in Queens, it cost \$3.85 in Pope's territory.

The evening before the election, Pope appeared on the same platform with Roosevelt in Brooklyn. Former Chairman Flynn has since said that he considers Pope the biggest vote-

getter among the Italians, and although Flynn must have been aware of Pope's role during the last election, he did not want to lose him in the future. Pope was a member of the Electoral College, visited the White House and talked with FDR.

Pope's papers were the medium through which vast publicity was given to the great network of fascist clubs and associations in this country, which were carrying on the boldest forms of fascist propaganda. Yet, to this day, Pope has not spoken against any of these organizations and even claims that no fascist organizations exist in this country.

*Il Mondo*, well known Italian liberal monthly, in its April issue has a warning about "democrats" of Mr. Pope's type that should be read by the New Leader before it whitewashes a few more of this type: "We hope that no anti-fascist, alive, or even murdered, shall ever fall into the hands of such a loyal and sincere believer in the democratic principles, as one who until recently was in the wake of the fascist consul and of the generous gold-sand-man, Mr. Pope."

### POLISH WORKERS STRIKE AGAINST NAZI OPPRESSORS

Recently we reported on the strike wave in Belgian coal mines and heavy industry. The radio now reports that there have been several strikes in Austria during the month of May. Since the end of last year there has been a decisive upswing of militant workers' action all over Europe. The following is an account of a strike in Poland, as reported by the Polish Labor Group:

There are a great number of factories in Radom (Poland) and the surrounding areas, operating under Nazi management and for the Nazi war needs. These factories employ many Polish workers. One day in January, 1943, the Polish workers did not report for work. The Nazi police immediately set to work. The workers were rounded up and sent under escort to the factories. Several clashes took place, and the Nazi police used machine guns. The strike lasted several days, until the Gestapo finally broke it with much violence. Many of the Polish workers, fearing reprisals, fled from the district.

This is all the news that has reached this country about the strike but how much heroism, how much effort and strain are contained in those few words. A strike in the hell which Hitler has made out of Europe; a strike among the most downtrodden, the most degraded of all of Hitler's slaves, deserves much more than a few lines. It is a monument to the spirit of the Polish, the European working class—and it is proof that labor can be temporarily defeated, but not permanently vanquished.

On January 16, Nazi posters informed the inhabitants of Radom

that the entire Polish population was to be deported in reprisal for the strike. Only workers engaged in German industry would remain in Radom, and those would be placed under sterner discipline by the Nazi police. The homes vacated by the deported Poles would be taken over by German colonists. The punishment is designed to fit the crime—there is no greater crime in Hitler's Europe than to strike, because there is no weapon more dangerous to the Nazis. But the Gestapo has to admit its own powerlessness. The workers who had just struck are the only ones to remain...because they are needed. They can shoot leaders, they can imprison militants, but they cannot destroy the working class, because they need its labor power. Out of this class, new leaders and new militants will be born. Hitler's struggle against European labor is bloody and ruthless. It creates new martyrs every day but its outcome is decided in advance.

The Nazi papers list an increasing number of condemnations for listening to foreign broadcasts. The German workers know that many of these broadcasts contain lies as big as those of Dr. Goebbels, but they are so hungry for news from the outside world that they risk everything in order to get information. It is significant that, while in the first two years of the war these condemnations were mostly meted out against individuals listening in, they now often indicate that a number of people have gathered the news and spread it around. This is a clear indication that slowly some loose forms of organization are starting up again, that the terrible isolation is tending to be overcome.

### ONE OUT OF MANY INSTANCES

Here is one typical condemnation from the Muenchener Neueste Nachrichten of April 13: "The 47-year-old Oskar Uebel had been condemned by the Special Court of Vienna to ten years of hard labor. The attorney general had opposed this sentence as too mild, and a Special Court, after a second trial, con-

demned Uebel to death. The court stated that Uebel had continually listened in his apartment, with a number of young men, in thirty or forty cases to foreign broadcasts. He talked about the news with the others in an anti-German sense. He had organized the listening, and the subsequent spreading of the news."

### THE TIMES HAS JITTERS ABOUT THE REVOLUTION

The commentators in the boss press have recently become increasingly jittery about the prospects of revolutionary outbreaks in Europe. Reason for us to become optimistic: after all, they have much better information than we have. For once, there is no reason not to believe them.

Says Anne O'Hare McCormick in the New York Times: "It has been taken for granted that revolutions will meet or follow the arrival of the Allied armies in the occupied countries. But as the day of the invasion approaches, the fear is not of the form that these expected uprisings will take...the fear is that the revolts will be formless, that there will be no organized movement of

any kind. The conservatives of Europe, meaning simply those who desire to save the cracking foundations of European (i.e., capitalist-E.) civilization, are more afraid of chaos than communism" (of the Stalinist variety—E.)

She then goes on to say that Stalin will probably be one of the pillars of conservatism in Europe. "He wants order more than revolution."

They are getting jittery and in the backs of their minds they are beginning to worry if, after all, in spite of Uncle Joe's offers of service, this war for world domination will yet become the midwife of world revolution.

Europacus.

# New Taxes On Labor -- More Due To Come

By GERTRUDE SHAW

That organized labor has not raised a howl against the Pay-as-You-Go Tax Bill that the President has just signed and made law is another sad commentary on the subservience of labor leaders. For this tax law puts a fast one over on labor, if anything ever did.

The outstanding feature of the bill, as far as labor is concerned, is that taxes are to be paid on a given payroll period—that is, by the week, semi-monthly or monthly, as the case may be. The obvious conclusion from this is that while a worker is employed, he will be paying taxes

Formerly taxes were reported and paid on the yearly period. A worker paid on the basis of his annual employment. So that, if his yearly income was not taxable, he didn't pay a tax.

Now the government has decided that it is not interested in the worker's unemployed periods—BUT ONLY IN HIS PAYROLL PERIODS. Regardless of the fact that his unemployed periods may drag down his yearly pay below the taxable level, he still will have the pay-as-you-go tax on the wages he earned. This is the latest injustice that has been perpetrated against the workers by the President and Congress.

It is true that the bill provides for a yearly accounting on March 15, when a report will be made to show whether the taxpayer owes the government money or whether the government owes the taxpayer money. If the taxpayer owes the government money, it will have to be paid on March 15—without any ifs, ands or buts. However, if the worker's yearly income has fallen below the rate of his pay-roll periods and the government therefore owes him

money, he will receive—not a refund—but a CREDIT. So the worker gets it in the neck—and no doubt about it.

Another angle to the pay-as-you-go way of collecting taxes is that it is by no means just a war measure. To the boss politicians the idea of getting money out of workers while they are at work—without worrying about the periods of unemployment—is too good for only temporary use.

Every post-war plan thus far publicized by the promoters of American imperialism involves the continuance of heavy taxation. To police the world will require lots of money. The workers will be expected to pay as they work, regardless of what may happen to them when they cannot find work.

### Forgiving the Bosses

Much is being made of the provision in the new tax bill, which forgives the entire 1942 taxes to low-bracket taxpayers. Thus a worker owing \$50 for the 1942 taxes will not have to pay it. A worker owing \$66.67 will be credited with \$50. But—

Taxpayers paying OVER that amount will be forgiven SEVENTY-FIVE PER CENT OF THE 1942 or 1943 taxes, whichever is smaller.

It is not the workers as a class who will benefit by this seventy-five per cent forgiveness. The big boys of industry with salaries running into hundreds of thousands will pocket the benefits of this provision. The big corporations whose war profits mark a new high in "the rewards of private enterprise" will harvest the seventy-five per cent forgiveness. Billions upon billions of blood money will remain untaxed under the new bill.

And here is something else to

ponder over. No matter how much money is accumulated in the voluminous bags of the big boys, that money can never—no never—cause "inflation." But should the workers ask for an increase in wages to keep up with living costs, immediately the bosses and their politicians go into convenient paroxysms about "inflation"—because the workers will have too much money!

### FDR's About-Face

No story on the new tax bill is complete without telling about the President's about-face on the point of forgiveness. At first he held with Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau that the government could not afford to cancel any taxes. The President opposed the Ruml Plan. Then, after all, he signed the bill forgiving seventy-five per cent of the taxes, thus making a present of billions to those who can most afford to pay taxes.

Already the effects of this handsome present to the big boys are being felt. The President, needless to say, still wants more money to wage the most costly war in history. In his last message to Congress he asked for \$16,000,000,000 additional taxes. The new bill provides only \$3,000,000,000 additional. The President is going to deliver another tax message to Congress in which he will make certain recommendations.

The outstanding one will be for compulsory savings. That means you, little man. Out of your wages, which cannot now cover the high cost of living, you will pay as you go—and you will also be compelled to "save" as you go!

Another pet of Congress to raise money is the sales tax. The President is now blowing cold on a sales tax. He says it will hit the poor too hard. This is undoubtedly true. But the President has been known to

brush aside such truths before. Odds are heavy that a sales tax too is just around the corner.

### A Tax Plan for Labor

All along the financial burden of the expensive and cruel luxury of war has been loaded on the working people. All along the leaders of labor have followed a compliant policy. The result is that the government makes presents to the rich—while concocting new tricks for extracting money from the workers.

LABOR ACTION calls on organized labor to demand a tax policy that will soak the rich.

Let all war profits be confiscated! Not a cent of blood money should be allowed to remain in the hands of the big boys!

Let the government tax the capital piles of the big corporations!

Let the government expropriate the accumulated fortunes of America's Sixty Families—the three per cent of the people who own ninety-six per cent of the national wealth!

Here is a tax program for labor to press immediately—or the workers will be squeezed dry by the war while the rich get away with their juicy war profits.

## JUNE N.I. OFF THE PRESS

The June issue of *The New International* is off the press and ready for sale. It is an exceedingly interesting issue, containing important articles, discussion material and special features. Following is the table of contents:

- Once Again, the Miners' Strike, by A. G.
- Stalin Dissolves the Comintern, by Sam Adams.
- What Is Incentive Pay?, by Walter Wiess.
- A New Stage for World Labor—II, by Pierre Bellasi.
- Russia's Foreign Policy in the War, by Reva Craime.
- What Are the Prospects for Socialism?, by Paul Temple.
- Real and False Issues on the National Question, by Albert Gates.
- The First Manifesto of the Comintern, by Lenin, Trotsky, et al.
- Book Reviews, by Sylvia Merrill and Susan Green.

Order your copy now (twenty cents per copy). Or, better yet, send in your subscription. Take advantage of the combination offer: a joint *New International-Labor Action* sub for \$1.75 (one year) or \$1.00 (six months).

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114 West 14th Street New York 11, N. Y.

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# Editorials

## Labor Party--

(Continued from page 1)

Any way you look at it, the Smith-Connally bill is the most vicious piece of anti-labor legislation to pass the House and Senate in many years. Arrayed behind the bill is a powerful, reactionary bloc of industrialists, politicians, the Southern Bourbons who sponsored the bill, and a host of professional labor-baiters and flunkys of big business.

Tear away the veil of pretenses and the weasel words, and the object of the bill is clear: to destroy the powerful union movement and to render labor impotent to fight in defense of its basis interests!

The yellow boss press knows its stuff. It has been fighting for this bill from the day it was introduced and it knows how to emphasize the importance of this bill to big business. Its criticisms of the President and the Administration are not on account of their "pro-labor" policy, but on the grounds that they have not been fighting the union movement and the workers with "proper weapons."

The Smith-Connally bill is a "proper weapon" because it can tie the labor movement hand and foot by "legal" means, by legislative action. Any attempts made by labor to break the restrictions imposed by the provisions of the bill can be met by fines and imprisonment!

All the real threats and penalties of the bill are clearly directed against the working class. That the capitalist press understands this is obvious from the fact that all the material published by it has stressed the penalties that may be employed to destroy the militancy of the labor movement and its allies!

It has been charged that the bill is a means of taking revenge upon the labor movement because of the miners' strike and the militant conduct of John L. Lewis. This is, of course, pure rubbish. The reactionary congressional bloc and their big business associates have been trying to pass such a bill for years. They have succeeded now because this is the most reactionary Congress in history. From the very opening of this Congress, it has been flooded with similar anti-labor bills, some more drastic, some less so.

The point to be brought home, however, is that there weren't enough struggles, like the one Lewis and the miners waged, to defeat such a bill. It is only because of the conduct of the officialdom of the AFL and CIO that the bill passed so easily. Had they been more determined, had they threatened to invoke the power of the united strength of the labor movement against the bill—they MIGHT have prevented its passage.

But it is only now, when the bill is on the President's desk, that the leaders of the union movement have become alarmed. How do they fight the bill? By relying upon the personal intervention of the President,

hoping that his political ambitions will rebound to their benefit, they are really weakening the fight of the labor movement.

We have mentioned the fact that pressure from all sides is being exerted on the President. Roosevelt is in a dilemma for only one reason: a presidential election is due in 1944 and he plans to run for a fourth term. His problem is to satisfy all forces in order to insure his nomination and then his election. There are, then, two reasons for his hesitation. He is afraid that if he signs the bill he will lose the labor vote. And he is afraid that by making the bill a law, labor's dissatisfaction will be so great as to interfere with war production. In either case, it would mean his defeat in 1944.

This brings us to the political heart of the present situation, for the Smith-Connally bill forces the question of labor political action to the forefront. Up to now, the labor chiefs have tied the union organizations to one or another of the boss political parties. The results have always hurt the workers because they have been compelled to rely upon the political flunkys of the capitalist parties. By their own experiences, thousands upon thousands of rank and file unionists know that in every crisis, great or small, the professional politicians have acted against the best interests of labor.

The great political need of the workers today is an Independent Labor Party based upon the trade union movement. Only such a party, free from any entanglements with the Republican or Democratic Parties, can offer any political hope for labor. All that the workers have gained from the official policy of supporting one of the boss parties or another, either because one was a "friend of labor," or under the theory of "rewarding your friends and punishing your enemies," is a stab in the back.

The action of the conference of Labor's Non-Partisan League in Detroit (a report of which is published elsewhere in these columns) is symptomatic of the feelings of American labor. They are getting fed up with the political run-around from the Democratic Party with its share of reactionaries, labor-baiters and Southern Bourbons who dictate the actions of the party in Congress. They know that there is nothing to expect from the Republican Party of big business.

Great possibilities are offered to the labor movement in the creation of such a party. It would give the workers a powerful weapon on the political field to supplement their weapon of trade unionism. Unified politically as well as economically, American labor can advance the position and power of this country's exploited millions.

**DEFEAT THE ANTI-LABOR, ANTI-STRIKE SMITH-CONNALLY BILL!**  
**UNITE THE FORCES OF LABOR ON THE POLITICAL FIELD!**  
**FORWARD TO AN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY!**

# Miners Fight For Contract; WLB Still Blocks the Way --

(Continued from page 1)

When the second walk-out came on May 31 the miners had no contract with the operators or anyone else. Therefore they could not violate this or any other contract. Neither the government or the operators asked that the contract be extended. And yet it is because they were on strike during these five days that the miners were fined.

According to Ickes, it would be unjust for the operators to fine the miners for striking during a period in which the contract had been extended, but it was not unjust for the government to fine the miners for a walk-out at a time when the government had not asked for an extension of the contract, and when no contract, in fact, existed. Ickes perhaps would argue that the contract remains in operation automatically so long as the mines are "United States property." This is an excellent example of the manner in which government bosses and bureaucrats interrupt and make "laws" to fit the occasion. Ickes was floored by the WLB and he tried a come-back, not against the WLB, but against the miners! Ickes, a government bureaucrat, is

on a rampage, using his administrative post as a springboard.

Later he modified his order levying the fines. The miners owners were to be permitted to act as they saw fit. Operators in Pennsylvania and West Virginia employing 225,000 miners have already agreed to wave the fines. This means that few if any miners will be faced with the fines, since the order did not apply to the anthracite and captive workers.

### A Behind-the-Scenes Fight

It is clear from all that is going on that the real battle from the side of the government and the operators is taking place behind the scenes. The WLB and Ickes maneuver with each other and against each other. The operators sit tight, grant nothing, still hoping that the government will pull them out of the ditch. That this is the situation is well illustrated by the latest move from the operators. The Central Pennsylvania Coal Producers Association, which had agreed to portal-to-portal pay of \$1.30 a day, has now withdrawn from this agreement.

These operators say that they asked the UMWA to concur in an ex-

tension of this agreement beyond the one-year term which would expire April 1, 1944. This the UMWA would not agree to. We are of the opinion that pressure was put on these operators to try and get out of the agreement they had made for \$1.30 portal-to-portal pay. If this agreement had been signed it would have set the standard for the rest of the country and by now the strike would have been settled.

There is strong evidence for the belief that the WLB and other New Deal government bosses do not want this strike settled in this manner. That is, they don't want the operators and miners to come to agreement through collective bargaining processes between themselves and without the "aid" and intervention of the WLB.

The WLB has clearly demonstrated that it is against genuine collective bargaining between employers and labor. Its whole handling of the mine strike has been an attempt to establish itself, a government board, as perpetual and decisive arbitrator. If the WLB can get away with this procedure, genuine collective bargaining will be a thing of the past.

### Hold the Ranks

The actions of the WLB and Ickes in this strike give a clear indication of what is in store for labor if the unions do not arouse themselves from the dangerous slumber into which they have been lulled by the AFL-CIO leadership. An attempt is being made at the regimentation of labor by the government and under its direct supervision. The role of policeman will either be assigned to the WLB or this board will attempt to usurp such authority. What is more than tragic in this situation is the fact that leading officials of the AFL and the CIO have remained on the WLB throughout the mine dispute. Not only have they stayed there, but they have been part and parcel of the most outrageous unanimous decisions against the miners and their union.

All the miners need remember is what we have said again and again: they have an impregnable position, they are right, they can win. They must hold their ranks!

### '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,

## Miners Supported by Detroit LNPL

Whereas, the coal miners of the nation are engaged in a bitter struggle with coal operators of the nation in an effort to establish decent wages and working conditions, and

Whereas, the uncompromising position of the coal operators has resulted in the miners following their traditional policies of refusing to trespass on the property of the coal operators without a contract, and,

Whereas, this present controversy has been aggravated by the action of Secretary of Interior Ickes in levying a fine of one dollar per day on the miners for failure to work without a contract, and

Whereas, a pattern has already been established by an agreement reached between the United Mine Workers of America and a group of operators in the state of Pennsylvania which if carried out in the balance of the coal industry would settle the present controversy between the miners and the operators;

Therefore be it resolved, that this county convention of Labor's Non-Partisan League go on record condemning the autocratic and provocative position of Secretary Ickes in levying a fine against the miners and urge that the action be rescinded immediately in the interest of bringing a speedy solution to the present controversy between the miners and the coal operators, and

Be it further resolved, that the War Labor Board and other governmental agencies engaged in the negotiations between the United Mine Workers and the coal operators be urged to follow the pattern already established in the Pennsylvania coal fields as a basis for ending the present dispute, and

Be it finally resolved, that copies of this resolution to be sent to President Roosevelt, Secretary of Interior Ickes, James F. Byrnes, Office of War Mobilization, William Davis, chairman of War Labor Board, Madame Perkins, secretary of Labor, Philip Murray, President of CIO, and John L. Lewis, president of UMWA.

# Of Special Interest To Women

By Susan Green

If you have never known it before, you now know that cottage cheese is a good pinch-hitter for other proteins. Especially in hot weather is it a handy item to have around for salads and so on.

Last summer you could get a pound container of cottage cheese for eleven or twelve cents—and, according to the label, it was mixed with cream.

Now you pay seventeen or eighteen cents for a pound container—and it is NOT mixed with cream.

For a fifty per cent increase in price you do not even get the same quality of merchandise—which is true not only of cottage cheese but of almost everything else you buy.

However, the Borden Company at least does not let you down completely. On its container where it used to say that cream had been added, it now kindly tells you to use cottage cheese as a meat substitute. Bigheartedly the company gives you the same amount of printing, even though it does not give you any cream in the cheese costing fifty per cent more.

Borden's and other dairy product monopolists are indeed making hay while the sun shines—if you can mention the sun in connection with this global catastrophe.

By cutting down the milk deliveries to every other day, the companies are saving plenty of money on labor—while workers will be jobless.

The milk drivers' union states that most of the house-to-house deliveries are made by horse and wagon. The claim that gas and rubber must be saved is therefore only another instance of bosses using the war to line their pockets with blood-stained gold.

Every time workers balk at being the goats, the bosses and their controlled molders of public opinion have a stereotyped answer ready: **The workers are holding up the war effort!**

A factory near Westport, Conn.—not named in the press, presumably for military reasons—is farming out homework to women in the neighborhood on a piece basis. The plant is making cable grips for the Signal Corps.

The head of the factory—who happens to be a woman—is very proud of this solution of the manpower "shortage" we are hearing so much about—while thousands of union workers in various industries are constantly finding themselves without work, and competent Negroes can't get work.

The ingenious head of this factory also poses as a benefactor of the poor, stating for the press: "I've discovered real hardships the average Westport resident wouldn't suspect; poverty and pride, an urgent need for money in the home," etc., etc.

The self-created halo must be pulled from the self-righteous head of this she-boss.

Piecework at home is definitely a method for undermining union standards. Unions cannot organize home workers. Consequently home workers are prey for the bosses—a source of cheap labor. This Westport she-boss knows from where come sable coats.

This column hasn't paid its respects to Mrs. Roose-

velt for quite some time. Amends are hereby made with the following long quotation from a speech by the First Lady about the miners' strike:

"Take the company stores, for instance. They allow the miners to run up bills and keep them 'in hock' forever. And they charge higher prices for their goods than neighboring stores.

"If you go down into the mining areas you will find that mining is an extremely dangerous occupation, and I am not satisfied that always efforts are being made to make it less dangerous. In the matter of wages, the miners are working full time now, of course, but for years many miners never worked more than two and three days a week.

"That, undoubtedly, was hard on the mine owners, too—[poor things]—but nevertheless these miners ended the week often with pay envelopes containing as little as three cents. I have seen pay envelopes containing three cents."

Based on her first-hand information of the miners' hardships, Mrs. Roosevelt is of the opinion that the miners are entitled to "some concessions" in the light of what they and their families "have lived through for the past ten years."

You, reader, being a bit logical in your thinking, may draw the conclusion from the above that Mrs. Roosevelt was at least not opposed to the miners' strike. Banish the thought. She assured her listeners—in this case some two hundred Chinese students in this country—**THAT SHE HAD NO SYMPATHY FOR THE MINERS' STRIKE.**

She failed to indicate in what other way the miners can get "some concessions"—nor did she account for the fact that she herself did not make speeches about the miners' hardship BEFORE THEY WENT ON STRIKE.

Delayed reports from France via London tell of the heroic acts of French women against the Nazis. With all their might they have been opposing the deportation of their sons, husbands and fathers for slave labor in Germany.

Mass demonstrations have culminated in mothers, daughters and wives laying their bodies across the tracks in front of locomotives to prevent the movement of trains carrying their men to slavery. This and other actions have kept between fifty and eighty per cent of the French workers conscripted for German factories from going. Vichy supposedly admits as much.

Is it reasonable to suppose that these militant, fighting women—undefeated in a defeated country—will be content with the post-war replacement of Hitlerism by the old-time rule of French capitalism represented by Giraud, de Gaulle et al.?

Many a bitter struggle have French working men and women fought against the fascist-infested French capitalist class before the war. In 1936 they were on the verge of making a workers' revolution—the only salvation for the working people of the world.

**MAY THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT TODAY BEING SHOWN BY FRENCH WOMEN INDICATE THAT THE FRENCH WORKING CLASS WILL CONTINUE WHERE IT LEFT OFF IN 1936!**

## THE NEGRO

### Several Aspects of The WLB Decision

By W. F. CARLTON

The recent decision of the War Labor Board ordering equalization of pay for Negroes in Texas is undoubtedly a victory for the Negroes, but it was won by their determined struggle for their elementary rights. An examination of the order, however, shows that the WLB had in mind the international boosting of the United Nations, and the covering up of the skeleton of American race prejudice.

The board describes the decision as being in line with the President's Executive Order 8802, with the request of the union, etc., "with prophetic Americanism" (whatever that may mean) "and with the cause of the United Nations." Then follows a real attack on Nazism for its racial doctrines: "Economic and political discrimination on account of race or creed is in line with the Nazi program."

The order then goes on to describe America in the days of its infant weakness as "the haven of heretics and the oppressed of all races." This, if you please, of the greatest slave-holding nation of modern times. The Negro is told that his freedom in America gives him an "equal opportunity to work and fight for our common country." America needs the Negro and the Negro "needs the equal opportunity to work and fight." Then comes a revealing passage: "The Negro is necessary for winning the war, and, at the same time, as a test of our sincerity in the cause for which we are fighting."

Follows the climax, which must be quoted in full: "More hundreds of millions of colored people are involved in the outcome of this war than the combined populations of the Axis powers. Under Hitler and his master race, their movement is backward to slavery and despair. In America, the colored people have the freedom to struggle for freedom. With the victory of the democracies, the human destiny is toward freedom, hope, equality of opportunity and the gradual fulfillment for all people of the noblest aspirations of the brothers of men and the sons of God, without regard to color or creed, religion or race, in the world neighborhood of human brotherhood."

### DIRECTED AT PEOPLES OF FAR EAST

It is not enough to say: "Baloney!" This passage is obviously directed straight to the peoples of the Far East. We believe that this order has played, and will play, a prominent part in the nightly broadcasts directed to the peoples in the East, and will occupy an equally prominent position in the official propaganda magazines edited by the Office of War Information for distribution in Asia.

The United Nations are feeling the pressure of the Far Eastern peoples on this, one of the rotten spots in American "democracy." When Madame Chiang Kai-shek was dined in Hollywood, she insisted that a Negro sit at her table. Madame wanted to signify that as far as China was concerned, the Negro question did not exist.

In India, American persecution of Negroes is a lively political topic. The Japanese see to that. Whenever a lynching takes place, the Japanese merely reprint reports of it from the American press or radio, and broadcast it throughout the Far East. Big liars, as all imperialists must be, the Japanese propaganda department has no cause to be on this question. It merely repeats the facts.

### IT IS TIME NEGROES SPOKE OUT

Today Germany and Japan are not only waging verbal propaganda against British and American hypocrisy on the race question. It is reliably reported that the Germans and the Japanese have torpedoed ships, shot the white men on board, and not only allowed the Indians and Javanese sailors to go free, but have given them brandy and biscuits to help them on their way. They thus endeavor to demonstrate that they are the true friends of the colored peoples.

In South Africa, among the African natives, Hitler's agents are actively telling the people that the British are the real enemies of the African people. This is true enough, but equally true is the fact that the Germans are not persecuting the Negroes simply because they haven't any to persecute. The Hitler regime sterilized all the Negroes it could find in Germany.

Thus imperialism plays football with the desire of the Negro peoples for freedom and equality. When the pressure in Washington and all over the United States was getting really hot on the Negro question, Roosevelt went out of his way to make a spectacular visit to President Barclay of Liberia, and invited Barclay to pay an equally spectacular visit here. The Negro press, which, along with good agitation on the Negro question, can propagate the silliest nonsense at times, made much of the fact that, in accordance with official custom, Mrs. Roosevelt accompanied the distinguished guests to the doors of their bedrooms. Presumably, the hundreds of thousands of starving Negroes in Liberia slept better that night.

One should not be fooled by all this. The order of the WLB was not issued willingly, nor without pressure, nor without fear of what a dangerous situation exists now. Rather we should know, when the Negroes have won a privilege, it was by hard struggle. The workers in the unions have demanded equal pay for all alike and it is they who have forced the issue. This order is not only a victory for the Negro worker, but for all labor.

## 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!

- Hands off the right to strike! For the defense of civil rights and all workers' rights! Against any wartime dictatorship measures!
- \$1.00-an-hour minimum pay! Time and a half for overtime; double time for Sunday and holiday work.
- Wage increases to meet rising costs. No wage or job freezing! Equal pay for equal work!
- For a greater share of the increasing national income. For a higher standard of living!
- No sales tax on consumer goods! No tax on wages! Against forced savings!
- For control of price fixing and rationing by committees of working class organizations. Freeze rents and consumer goods prices at the 1940 level to stop the rise in the cost of living.
- No government contract without a union contract. The closed shop in all war industries!
- Maintain and increase all government social services!

### SOAK THE RICH—LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!

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

### DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO THE DRAFTEES!

- The right of free speech, free press and free assembly for the men in the armed forces.
- The right of soldiers to vote in all elections.
- 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!
- For adequate dependency allowances paid by the government with NO deductions from the soldier's pay.

### SMASH JIM CROW!

- 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!
- For full political, social and economic equality for Negroes!

### BE PREPARED!

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

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