

Post-War Plans of AFL Are A Farce

By DAVID COOLIDGE

The American Federation of Labor has issued a long statement which correctly called its Political and Economic Testament for the Guidance of the Post-War World. The document lays down principles not only for the United States today and after the war but economic and political standards for the construction of international policy, now and following the war.

The document is essentially and basically a political pronouncement and must be judged as such by workers both within and outside the AFL. It will surely be judged and accepted in this manner of the capitalist ruling class and the government.

The statement is divided into four parts. Part One is "Guiding International Principles." Part Two is "Program" for the establishment of "a lasting peace." Part Three is "Guiding Domestic Principles" and Part Four is "Immediate Domestic Program."

Echoes of the Past

The Federation begins its platform with the declaration that "war is the enemy." The AFL recognizes that labor "has no future promise in a world living under the threat and burden of the war system... the elimination of war as an instrument of national policy is a condition essential to the perpetuation... of our democratic way of life." There is nothing especially startling here, of course. All of this has been said before. The AFL statesmen have only dug into the pre-Hitler past for their language.

It is almost the identical language of the Pact of Paris (Briand-Kellogg Pact) signed August 27, 1928. In this pact war was forever "renounced as an instrument of national policy." But this is not all; the AFL builders of international good will continue with the position that "lasting peace must rest on social justice and include all peoples." They are in full accord with the international politics of Mr. Gompers, who "set forth this principle... at the close of the First World War in the constitution of the International Labor Organization."

Furthermore, the AFL is in full accord with the Atlantic Charter and "notes with satisfaction" the declaration of Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt to the effect that these great democrats will welcome into their blessed circle "all nations... whose peoples in heart and mind are dedicated, as are our own peoples, to the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance."

There is no hint that the Atlantic Charter is now of a part with the Briand-Kellogg Pact, that Churchill is finding it difficult to square the so-called principles of the Atlantic Charter with his declaration that "I did not become His Majesty's First Minister to sit in at the liquidation

of the British Empire"; that Stalin Russia is a prison house and a slave pen, and that no one of the imperialist governments has expressed any intention of welcoming the exploited colonial peoples into the "world family of democratic nations."

The AFL political scientists declare that "the only safety from war is the international organization of peace." The United States must participate in this. This country must "do its full part to help develop a general system of mutual security." The United Nations must be "ready and equipped... to prevent the outbreak of war. This will surely require programs for policing and the use of armed forces." There is more about achieving prosperity by a "free people under a regime of social justice," the safeguarding of freedom of thought "throughout the world," and the dependence of freedom of thought "upon the growth of public conscience."

The AFL statesmen go on and on with their "guiding international principles" until one becomes nauseated. They give the impression of being old men, physically and mentally decrepit, who have rummaged in second-hand bookstores among the dusty and discarded volumes and offerings of post-Versailles and pre-Hitler days. They dig up all the old language, the old plans that a decaying capitalism, an unrestrained imperialism, and the threat of world fascism, have rendered not only naive and impotent, but filled with overflowing with danger for the world working class.

In the light of actual history and the present world situation these "principles" and the international politics of the AFL leaders are as outmoded and rusty as their craft union and reactionary trade union practices in the United States.

What About World Labor?

There is no call for the reforming of the labor movement of the world, for the solidarity of world labor, for the organization of the world working class on class lines, to include the German, Italian and Japanese workers and the miserably exploited colonial slaves. These intellectually bankrupt and ignorant bureaucrats can only talk in vague terms about maintaining peace with "political and military programs" associated with "a far-reaching economic program which will be designed not to advantage certain nations at the expense of others..."

What nations are not to receive advantage at the expense of which other nations? And how can this come to pass in the minds of Green, Woll & Co. when they say in their statement that the United Nations must remain prepared to police the world with armed force? Policing the world with armed force is nothing

(Continued on page 3)

"Big Three" To Join In Armed Dictatorship Over Germany

At least one angle of American-British-Russian foreign policy has been made clear and unmistakable. While various shades of liberals and intellectuals continue to submit elaborate plans for governing Germany, the Big Three have sneaked one in, as an accomplished fact. It is very simple. Germany is to be governed by foreign military dictatorships.

Eisenhower, as supreme commander of the Allied western forces, will have direct and complete control over all parts of Germany occupied by the British-American troops. A Russian military government will take over all German territory occupied by the Russian army.

The Associated Press report from London which carried the news said that Eisenhower will be given the greatest authority in history, even greater than that exercised by Roman generals of old. Besides commanding all Allied land, sea and air forces, he will have direct and indirect control over the civilian life of most of Europe.

To carry out the plan for military dictatorship, American and British military teams are now being trained in England to be able to impose their authority on Europe. It is frankly stated that "there is no question of self-government for Germany."

The excuse given for the military occupation of Germany by the Big Three is that "there has been no indication that any counter-Nazi movement is growing in Germany which might seize power, such as displaced the Kaiser in the last war, so we must be prepared for a completely disorganized and decentralized Germany."

This is a most significant statement. The government that took over after the Kaiser was a government of socialist turncoats who used their pres-

tige with the masses to prevent revolution and to maintain German capitalism. Whether or not this brand of working class traitor will again emerge to put down the masses, the American-British-Russian military machines will be there to do the job.

But there ARE possibilities of self-government in Germany. There are anti-Nazi forces; there are revolutionary forces; there are international working class forces. Even the Allied capitalist press today reports their existence—and they will grow.

"A completely disorganized and decentralized Germany" from the point of view of the Allied imperialists means only that the old machinery of capitalist government will have disappeared. But possibilities of a new government lie in the masses of workers, forming workers' councils—the only possible means of self-government BY THE WORKERS under the conditions that will prevail.

It is exactly this possibility for self-government that the military dictatorships of the Big Three will be on hand to suppress—just as Allied military control of Italy has halted for the present a similar possibility for self-government there.

That is what the newly announced "Allied military government with teeth in it" is for. This fact all American, British and Russian workers must understand!

And further, they must understand that the future of Europe, and indeed of the world, lies in the formation of workers' councils as the basis for workers' governments that will unite in socialist fraternity. With this development in Europe, the workers of America, Britain and Russia must permit no interference from their own governments.

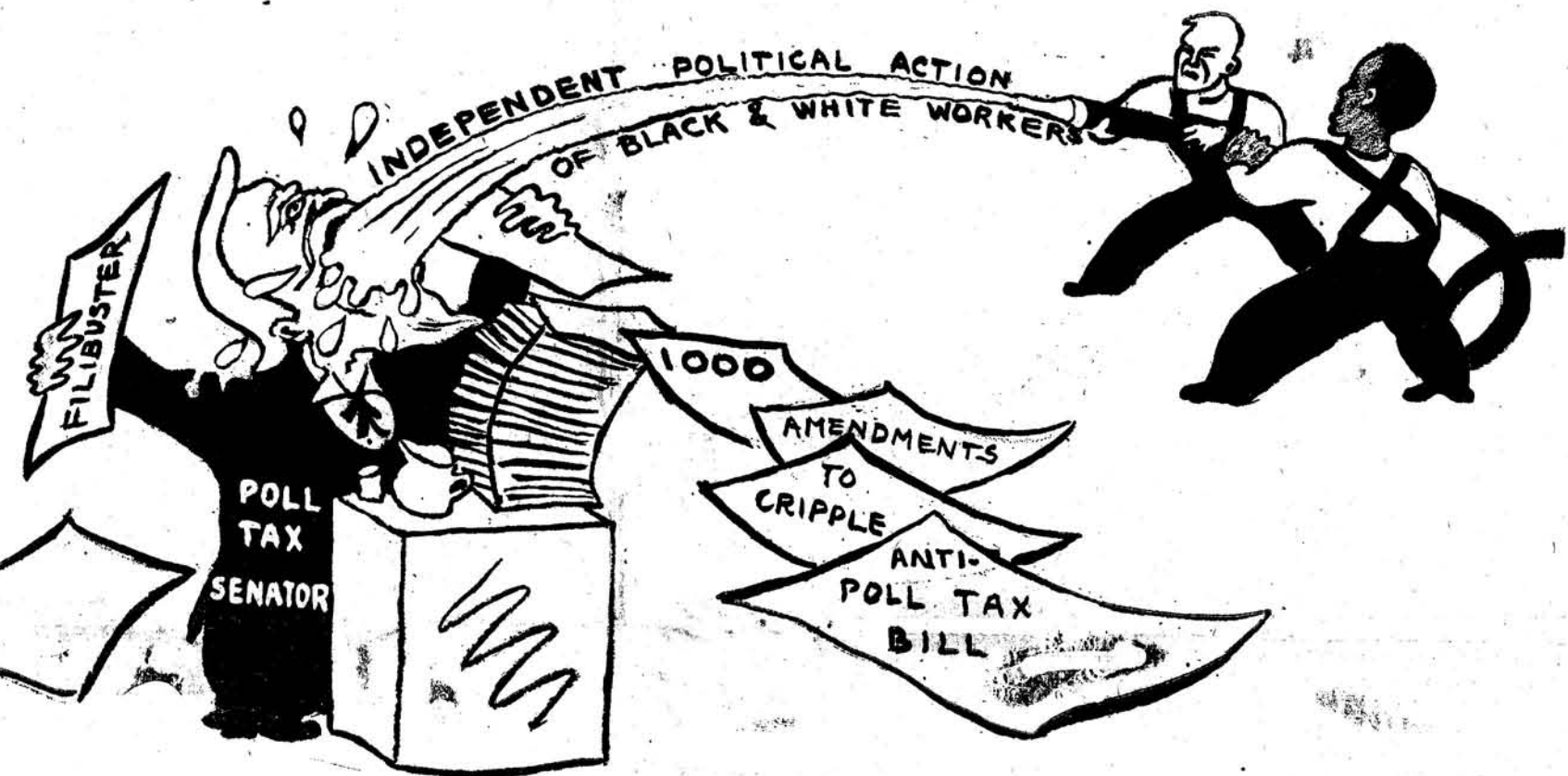
NLRB SIDES WITH BOSSES AGAINST STRIKING WORKERS

In a two-to-one decision, the National Labor Relations Board has ruled that striking workers cannot have the protection of the Wagner Act. The decision backs employers in firing striking workers.

The Wagner Act—the National Labor Relations Act—under which the NLRB was established, was supposed to be the very cornerstone of labor's "new deal" under capitalism. Section 7 of the act was supposed to guarantee workers the right to organize, to bargain collectively and to strike. And what else can "guarantee workers the right" mean, except that they will not lose their jobs for engaging in any of these activities?

Yet the very board created to carry out the tenets of the law rules now that workers do not have the right to take strike action in their interest. It rules, in effect, that workers must leave their interests entirely in the hands of the various government agencies established mainly against workers' interests.

Let Him Have It!



Poll Tax Hits Black and White Labor

By JOHN BERNE

The Supreme Court decision lifting the ban on Negro participation in Texas primaries has made the "superior race of whites," represented by Senator Bilbo of Mississippi, more determined than ever to scotch the anti-poll-tax bill that was due to appear for debate in the Senate after the Easter holiday.

With their announced thousand amendments to be debated till doomsday and their readiness to filibuster till the end of the session, the poll-tax bloc is determined to kill the bill.

However, already a certain type of filibuster has been silently going on. The bill passed the House almost a year ago, last May. It was reported out favorably by the Senate Judiciary Committee six months ago, in November, 1943. So, by wordless filibuster, the bill has been on the shelf for a long time. And the chances are still very good that it will remain there.

For those supposedly favoring the bill, responsible for bringing it onto the floor for debate, are still marking time. Senator Mead, Democrat from New York, who is floor leader, has been very reticent, as has been Senator McCarran, Democrat from Nevada, chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Senators Hill and Pepper

A new wrinkle has developed to give the Administration advocates of the anti-poll-tax bill pause—IN THE INTEREST OF POLITICS, OF

COURSE. Senators Lister Hill and Claude Pepper are at present engaged in stiff primary fights in their respective states of Alabama and Florida. The primaries take place on May 2. If the anti-poll-tax bill is put on the Senate floor and is under debate, Administration forces in the Senate fear that Hill and Pepper may lose the Democratic primaries due to anti-Roosevelt sentiment.

Hill is closely associated with Roosevelt, having made the nomination for a third term at the Chicago convention in 1940 and Pepper has been known as "A 100 Per Cent New Dealer." Already Hill is being accused by his opponent for the Democratic nomination of betraying "the South's tradition" to "outside agitators"; and Pepper has already buckled under to the most reactionary forces in his state by adopting a "white supremacy" platform in his present campaign.

The Administration bloc in the Senate would like to avoid putting their pals on the spot by the opening of the debate on the anti-poll-tax bill. Therefore, there is stalling and more stalling.

The Republican senators see in this situation an opportunity at their own door. Playing hard for the vote of the Northern Negroes, the Republicans may try to push the bill to the floor, taking the initiative away from the Administration advocates.

Thus the right of free franchise is tossed from one political basket to another—each side trying to make a point for itself. Poll-tax discrimina-

tion against both white and black working people in the poll-tax states, if left to be removed by the capitalist politicians, has a good chance at a long life.

Against Black and White Workers

And the discrimination is against both white and black working people. Make no mistake about that. The loud-mouthed clamor about "white supremacy" is not without purpose. It is well-timed propaganda to play on race prejudice while blinding people to the real issue, namely, that the poll tax can disenfranchise all working people—black and white.

As a matter of fact, the to-the-death fight that the poll-taxers are prepared to wage is today motivated as much by anti-labor as by anti-Negro designs. The war has brought many changes in the poll-tax states. Hundreds of thousands of workers have migrated to the industrial areas in the South. Labor's political influence has grown tremendously there—to such an extent that in one-third of the poll-tax districts of the South labor's vote can be decisive.

Here are some illustrations of the growth of the labor population:

In Mobile County, Ala., the war has brought 75,000 new residents, which is three times the number of votes cast in the entire district in the 1940 election.

In San Antonio, Texas, there have settled 96,000 newcomers since 1940. Kilday, San Antonio's congressman,

had only 56,000 votes cast for him in the 1940 election.

In South Carolina, if all the construction workers voted, they would alone cast more votes than the total 1942 vote; or if less than one-quarter of all the textile workers in the state voted, they would alone cast more votes than the total 1942 vote.

In Mississippi, the logging and construction workers together would top the entire 1942 vote. And if there were mustered to vote against him all the oil workers in his Texas district, Congressman Martin Dies would have to sing his political swan song.

In a word, the poll-tax is as much a chain on the political freedom of the white worker as of the Negro sharecropper. The machinations of the politics of both parties continue this political discrimination against both black and white worker.

Therefore, while attending to the immediate task of exerting every possible pressure to get the anti-poll-tax bill passed, Negro and white workers must understand that the job goes deeper than that. They together will have to give birth to a new kind of politics in this country, based on the great strength of the organized Negro and white workers. This is another way of saying that Negro and white labor needs its own class party to fight for its interests.

Labor's own political party is the answer to the poll-taxers, the turncoat New Deal Democrats, the con-

tinuing government agencies established mainly against workers' interests. It rules, in effect, that striking is a criminal offense punishable by starvation—for that is what stares every worker in the face when he is fired.

The case decided by the NLRB affected the reinstatement of nine employees who struck against the American News Co., Paterson, N. J., last June. The men are members of the Magazine Makers', Deliverers' Union of New Jersey, an unaffiliated organization. They had applied for a wage increase, which the company agreed to grant. But the War Labor Board refused to approve the increase.

The men couldn't understand why they were not entitled to an increase the company was willing to give them, and went out in protest. When they wanted to return to work a few days later and their union sent a letter requesting reinstatement, the company did not answer, and the men were locked out permanently.

Before the case was brought before the NWLB, a trial examiner found that the strikers' status as employees, while on strike was preserved by the Wagner Act, that the company was engaging in unfair labor practices, and that the men should be reinstated with back pay. The company filed its exception to this opinion of the trial examiner and brought the case before the NLRB.

Majority and Minority Opinion

The untenable basis for the majority decision is that the workers cannot have the protection of the Wagner Act because they were insisting on a wage in violation of the Stabilization Act. Harry A. Millis, chairman of the board, who cast the dissenting vote, disagreed, saying: "...in my opinion, the guaranty to employees in Section 7 of the act of the right to engage in concerted activities for collective bargaining and other mutual aid and protection was not intended by Congress to be completely vitiated solely on the ground that such concerted activity is not consonant with another federal statute."

But Chairman Millis was in the minority, and the majority opinion lays the ground for wholesale firing of workers who strike for their rights. Leave it to the employers to find long lists of federal statutes that

(Continued on page 4)

Italian Events

The latest developments in Italy are of great importance and significance in the development of the revolution. The most recent reports indicate that it is only a matter of time, perhaps only of hours, until the Badoglio government is replaced by another Badoglio government, but this time with the support of the "democratic" parties making up the so-called Junta. Moscow, Washington and London are all playing their role in these developments.

What they mean, and what program the Italian masses must adopt to assure themselves a future of freedom and peace, will be dealt with in a special article on the new situation written by Max Shachtman, to appear in the May Day issue of LABOR ACTION, next week.

Akron CIO Backs URWA Rank and File

By BILL FORD

AKRON, Apr. 18.—Coming with timely and needed aid to the embattled rank and file of the URWA, the Akron Industrial Union Council, central body of the Akron CIO, representing some 80,000 organized unionists, adopted virtually unanimously at its April 14 meeting an eight-page report of its special investigating committee. Some weeks ago this committee had been set up to investigate the situation at the General

Tire & Rubber Co. As LABOR ACTION readers recall, Dalrymple expelled and had fired last January seventy-two members of General Tire Local 9, URWA, for allegedly engaging in a work stoppage. Repercussions of that dictatorial action have rocked the Akron labor movement constantly since then and will continue until union democracy has been restored within the URWA.

This eight-page report by the AIUC which enthusiastically stepped

into the internal URWA picture because it has clearly seen how "an injury to one is an injury to all," speaks with the modest eloquence of workers probing ever deeper to uncover facts—ALL THE FACTS—surrounding Dictator Dalrymple's abuse of his powers under the URWA constitution. LABOR ACTION only wishes it had the space at its disposal, like the capitalist press and so-called "labor" papers, to reprint in its entirety this amazing report,

which is truly a monumental INDICTMENT of the whole Dalrymple regime and its unholy workings.

An Honest Report

The report begins by stating that the committee interviewed "no less than 473 members" and found that "the interests of the workers at General were not being properly taken care of by the local union" officers, who were weak-kneed Dalrymple

(Continued on page 2)

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

New Developments in Dalrymple Case

By BILL FORD

AKRON, Apr. 16—Sensational developments unfolded this past week in the progressive fight of tens of thousands of Akron rubber unionists to re-establish union democracy in the United Rubber Workers of America, CIO, against the hatchet work of Dictator Sherman H. Dalrymple, international president of the URWA, and his bureaucratic henchmen on the General Executive Board.

Elsewhere in this issue of LABOR ACTION is a summarized account of the Akron Industrial Union Council investigating committee's report, which places the responsibility for the union-wrecking at Local 9, URWA, squarely on the shoulders of the General Tire & Rubber Co. and the dictatorial top officialdom of the URWA, where it belongs.

Dictator Dalrymple and his crew are beginning to sweat blood over the hornet nest they stirred up in January by their unconstitutional expulsion of seventy-two members of Local No. 9. In a short time every last worker in Akron who has not already sided with the fighters for decent democratic, fighting unionism will have the facts at hand to cut down against the militant labor movement.

Dalrymple Has a Friend

As usual, the Akron Beacon Journal, spokesman for the rubber barons, is leading in this union-wrecking drive. Last Monday it published an editorial on the expulsion of Dictator Dalrymple from his own local, Goodrich Local 5, of which LABOR ACTION readers have previously been informed.

Sidestepping the question of whether Goodrich Local has the "legal right" to expel Dalrymple, which of course it has, the Beacon Journal plunged into a vitriolic denunciation of the local and its militant leadership. It boosted the dictator to the skies, sobbing that "Dalrymple's expulsion is a thoroughly petty, irresponsible, ungrateful and unpatriotic act... For doing his duty to his union and to his country he now suffers the indignity of being expelled from his own local. The dominant clique in Goodrich Local has shown its pettiness, its selfishness, its complete lack of patriotism on previous occasions. But it sinks to new depths by this unwarranted insult to Sherman Dalrymple. How long are the decent, fair-minded members of

Goodrich Local, who, we are sure, must constitute the great majority, going to tolerate the actions of this gang of lame brains?"

Poor Dalrymple! This and similar coaching from the millionaire Beacon Journal has already given him the kiss of death, so far as the Akron rubber workers go. When the rank and file read that editorial, they froze in anger for several days, bursting forth enthusiastically in defense of Goodrich Local on Friday, as did Firestone Local in a large paid advertisement in the same Beacon Journal.

Local 7 Sides with 5 and 9

The Firestone Local, second in membership size in the URWA only to the powerful Goodrich Local's 16,000 members, took up the cudgels as follows:

"The Executive Board of Local No. 7, URWA-CIO, does hereby go on record as expressing its complete confidence in the leadership and membership of Goodrich Local No. 5, and it wishes to publicly commend this local union in its fearless defense of liberty and democracy by bringing to trial one of its members, who, they feel, has violated not only the constitution of the United Rubber Workers of America, but also the oath and obligation of membership."

It pointed out that, although favoring the no-strike pledge, "We feel that this pledge has been and is being violated and taken advantage of by management in stalling on grievances, in imposing unfair working conditions, and in intimidating members and committees; and as a consequence fostering that dissension, dissatisfaction and lack of confidence in the officers of the local unions which, in the end, results in work stoppages."

"We furthermore feel that the duly elected local officers can ascertain just what is the cause and who are the guilty persons when work stoppages occur—the international officers have no right to take any action in such cases until an honest and sincere investigation has been held..."

Going on, the advertisement of Local 7 states the tremendous contribution labor is making to the war effort, but "it is not giving America away to enemies within or without."

"We further feel that we must refute and condemn the Akron Beacon Journal in its unjust, unfair and certainly untruthful attack upon the

membership of Local No. 5. The Akron Beacon Journal does not represent the opinion of the working people of Akron. It has proved that it is anti-labor. It is the feeling of the vast majority of the workers in the Akron area that everything the Akron Beacon Journal stands for, we must be on the alert against, because experience has taught us our lesson. "Lastly, we are in accord with Goodrich Local No. 5 in suspending any of its members who are in violation of the constitution, obligation of office, or sacred duty to the membership. Our members feel that we are democratically organized and can be democratically governed, and we will forever fight any infringement upon these rights."

EB Issues Orders

This statement by Firestone Local, followed up by the CIO Council's factual report, hit the press at the same time that Dalrymple's International Executive Board ordered Goodrich Local to reinstate Dalrymple into membership. President Bass of that local is "directed" to see to it that the dictator's expulsion is rescinded.

Indeed Dalrymple's board has been working overtime this year in helping him to...disorganize unions and ram violations of the constitution down their throats. Ordinarily this board meets three times a year. So far this year it has already met three times!

Just what action Goodrich Local will take at its next meeting is of course not known now. However, it will be well advised if its fighting membership acknowledges the fact that Dalrymple's rule-or-ruin mob will not hesitate even to revoke its charter, and if therefore the local complies with the international's decree it will be doing so only because it is absolutely FORCED to—now.

No thinking worker will possibly misunderstand such a necessity for a strategic retreat, although the Beacon Journal will undoubtedly crow "Dalrymple Victory" to confuse the issue. Everyone knows that this fight does NOT depend on whether or not Dalrymple retains his formal membership in Goodrich Local, a couple more months, and that the IEB merely discredits itself further by insisting on it, further violating the constitution.

Rubber Barons Gloat

Behind all this, as LABOR ACTION has insisted since Dalrymple

started his union-wrecking, the rubber barons are sitting back laughing and watching with glee how the wreckers do the dirty work for them—how they cripple and incapacitate the unions for struggle against the companies.

This fact is now proved to the hilt by a new situation. Ten days ago a strike occurred at the Seiberling Rubber Co. here, lasting for two days, in the truck tire building department. The strike was the answer to a wage rate cut instituted by the company. Promptly, two of the workers were expelled from the union and fired by the company.

On April 16, L. S. Buckmaster, assistant dictator of the URWA, announced that the action of some plant managements in attempting to lower wage rates "is putting the international union right in the middle" when work stoppages result! He says: "When workers are faced with lower wages and there is long delay in getting the controversy settled, they sometimes get out of patience and go on strike. We have no alternative but to take disciplinary action."

Nice kind of labor "leader," eh? When the workers are getting kicked around by the company and strike, the "only alternative" Buckmaster & Co. have is—GIVE THEM ANOTHER BOOT!

Oh, no, we forgot! Buckmaster and his IEB friends propose a truly startling reform to eliminate this chiseling on piecework rates. All the rubber workers need is for the War Labor Board to set up another panel, so that the international union is no longer "in the middle!"

As if the rubber workers need or want more boards and panels! They are damned sick of the existing ones right now. Buckmaster's brainstrom should be laughed out of existence by the ranks, at mere mention. Rather than tackle more panels, the workers much prefer to go directly to work against the companies. The URWA international bureaucrats, in their reactionary policies, are only aiding rubber baron J. P. Seiberling, who now announces: "So long as the war lasts, any Seiberling employee who leads a strike or incites others to strike in our plant, will not be permitted to re-enter or resume work for Seiberling."

Any policy other than RESCIND THE NO-STRIKE PLEDGE will be of no avail against such ominous threats.

Federal Shipyard Workers Reject WLB Raise of 1.2 Cents an Hour -- Come Out For Strike Vote

After ten months of negotiation, the WLB has offered the 40,000 employees of the Federal Shipbuilding & Drydock Co. raises averaging 1.2 cents per hour. Two-thirds of the employees at these Kearny and Port Newark, N. J., yards are offered NOTHING AT ALL.

The WLB proposals were promptly rejected in their entirety at a local meeting on Sunday, April 16, and a motion was passed to file a thirty-day notice of intention to take a strike vote under the Smith-Connelly Act.

The Federal yards are subsidiary to U. S. Steel and from December 7, 1941, to December 7, 1943, completed HALF A BILLION DOLLARS' worth of ships AND the new yard at Port Newark. (The 1943 production at all privately owned shipyards was nearly TWO AND A HALF TIMES 1942 production.)

Federal has a vicious policy of classifying many groups of workers far below their actual skill and trade, of refusing to correct the most obvious injustices—even those involving health and safety—and of appealing even minor rulings of governmental agencies.

The number of strikes and stop-

pages since last June are too numerous to mention.

Workers Turn Down Offer

From the very outset the workers at the local meeting made clear their determination to turn down the insulting WLB offer and to take some militant action. The first dozen speakers were opposed to acceptance; some dealing with their departmental problems, others with the offer as a whole.

Biting sarcasm was directed at the labor members of the WLB who voted (reluctantly, of course) for the results of the Atlantic Coast wage review on the ground that they represent "one tiny step forward."

The membership sat tight in their seats, alert and on the lookout for sly maneuvers after their long and bitter experiences with the Stalinists and the wet-blanket tactics of the bureaucracy. (The local is in the hands of an administrator appointed by the GEB.)

For Strike Vote

Only three spoke against thumbs down on the WLB offer or against the strike-vote proposals. One of these was forced to admit that it

would take six months more of negotiation to apply and try to broaden out the "award" if it were accepted.

The administrator promptly adjourned the meeting after the vote on the two main proposals.

The meeting fell down in not appealing to all Atlantic Seaboard locals for similar action and support. However, it is not too late. Most other locals are in the same boat. It is now sink or swim together—with the smashing of the Little Steel formula the main objective.

The NWLB Shipbuilding Commission has issued a directive order for the Atlantic Coast resulting in an average rise of one per cent in money paid to shipyard workers. These miserable wage adjustments to "correct intransigent inequities" are the answer of the WLB to the CIO Shipbuilders Union's demands of a general nine cents per hour raise.

Most of the contracts of the various locals expired LAST June, and the Atlantic Seaboard locals were to hold a conference April 19 to formulate their policy on the new contract which will date from next June. The action of the workers in the various yards remains to be seen.

6,000 Montgomery Ward Workers in Chicago and Kansas City Strike to Preserve Their Union

Six thousand workers walked out on strike April 12 at the Chicago plants of the Montgomery Ward Co. The workers struck in order to defend their union and to prevent the notorious "Monty-Ward" sweat-shop conditions from returning. In Kansas City 1,600 workers employed by the same company also struck in solidarity with the Chicago workers, knowing that unless Chicago wins, their own union is also in jeopardy.

The strike will be extended to other cities unless it is settled within the next few days.

The strike was called by Local 20, United Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Employees of America, CIO. This is the local the Montgomery Ward workers organized a few years ago and through which, after a long and bitter struggle, they were able to get a union agreement that won them many concessions and wiped away some of the worst features of the vicious speed-up and bonus system.

Company Out to Bust Union

Last December the company announced that with the expiration of

the union agreement it had no intention of renewing it. Its excuse was that the union did not represent over fifty per cent of the workers and therefore would not be recognized as the proper bargaining agent.

The company knows that Local 20 represents the overwhelming majority of the workers, but it was hoping that with the aid of the no-strike pledge of the CIO it could just refuse to negotiate.

The union appealed to the WLB and this body handed down an order on January 13 extending for thirty days the old agreement between the union and the company, but with the stipulation that the union file a petition with the NLRB to determine if it was the proper bargaining agent.

This WLB order meant that the union would have to prepare for an NLRB election and go through the whole rigmarole as if it were just attempting to organize the plant instead of negotiating its new agreement as the established union that it is.

The union complied with the WLB's order and made the petition,

but the company, knowing that the election would prove that they were lying, refused to extend the agreement for thirty days. Instead, they filed suit in the courts to stop enforcement of the WLB order. It did not press this suit because the Justice Department informed them that the WLB would not take any action to enforce the order without first advising the company.

A number of hearings were held after that, with the union proving that it had complied with everything the governmental boards had asked of them, while on the other hand the company had not.

The workers realized that this type of procedure was no good. It proved nothing and accomplished less. And for this reason they went on strike. The NLRB by this method can have its election—for it can count the members of the union on the picket line. The WLB did not want the workers to work without a union agreement for the next thirty days. Well, they won! The workers want to maintain their union and to better their conditions—and they will.

A great institution—the picket line!

Akron CIO Supports Ranks of URWA --

(Continued from page 1)

stages. Prior to the actual shutdown that precipitated the present crisis, the Local No. 9 members had sent to their local executive board a resolution requesting it to repair the broken-down grievance procedure. Dalrymple himself then intervened and ordered the local president to put this resolution "into the waste paper basket."

Continuing, for two pages, the report takes up all the details of the alleged shutdown, showing all the circumstances as to time, date, place, names, reasons and events. "Your committee finds, as a result of its investigation, that the seven employees above named first justifiably stopped work, and that some five or six additional band builders joined them." All the rest of the seventy-two workers expelled by Dalrymple later and fired by the company were actually locked out by the company. The seven who stopped work did so because they had to. To continue working on the roll of sticky rubber stock—piecework rates for which they were being underpaid by a foreman's order—would have meant that the evidence for their protest would have been destroyed.

Dalrymple, furnished with a list of names by his stooges, who got them from the company, proceeded to expel all seventy-two workers, including three who were not even at work that day! The workers asked Raymond Sullivan, a former president of the local, to inquire of Dalrymple why this action was taken without any investigation. The dictator replied to Sullivan "that he had better keep his nose out of the matter or he would be in the same position" as the seventy-two expelled members.

Report Backs Locals 9 and 5

Following pages of the AICU investigating committee's report recount the story of subsequent events

in the Local 9 picture that LABOR ACTION readers are familiar with. Dalrymple refused to permit a regular meeting of the local to be held in the month of January following all this turmoil, again in violation of union-by-laws. He dictatorially appointed an administrator over the local's affairs, who refused to "permit those of the officers of the local who wished to function to do so insofar as the handling of grievances and other negotiations with the company were concerned." It was found that no authority in the constitution of the URWA existed for Dalrymple's procedure, which was "expressly designed for the purpose of preventing expression of opinion by the membership and action by the membership against the unwarranted, arbitrary, illegal and unconstitutional" expulsions by Dalrymple.

The international officers further, on repeated occasions, "failed and refused to pay any attention to" unanimously passed resolutions by Local 9. They "bombarded members of the union throughout the country with numerous letters which purport to set forth the facts in the controversy. Your committee finds that some of these letters contain misstatements of the circumstances, either willful or unintentional."

Sullivan and Howard Haas, leaders of the unanimously protesting rank and file of Local 9, were hauled before the International Executive Board by a letter from Dalrymple containing certain allegations against them "which your committee is unable to find any evidence to support." They "were not permitted to present any witnesses in their defense, were not specifically advised of the charges, if any, against them, and were not permitted to question the individuals who gave the erroneous in-

formation to the international with respect to them."

In conclusion, the AICU committee, as a result of its investigation, reports that:

"1. The action taken by General President Dalrymple of the URWA in expelling seventy-two members of General Local 9 on January 8, 1944, without investigation was a violation of the constitution of the URWA, and a violation of their rights as members of the union.

"Sherman H. Dalrymple was expelled from membership in Local 5 by the members at its last regular business meeting on Sunday, April 2, 1944. He was democratically and constitutionally charged, tried and convicted on nine counts of having violated the URWA constitution. For having committed these brutal violations of the elementary democratic rights of our brother members of Local 5, the membership in Local 5 took the position that the honor of continued membership in Local 5 must be denied to Sherman Dalrymple."

Gates On Tour

Albert Gates, editor of LABOR ACTION and assistant national secretary of the Workers Party, leaves this week on a nation-wide organization and speaking tour. The tour will take him as far west as St. Louis, with stops in a number of cities and towns in the East and Middle West.

Among the topics Gates will speak on are: "The Need for an Independent Labor Party," "The Struggle for Progressive Unionism" and "Post-War Prospects for Labor." The trip will take him to a number of places to meet groups of readers of LABOR ACTION. He will also concentrate on recruitment of new members for the Workers Party.

The following is the schedule of the tour:

Rochester—April 22.
Buffalo—April 23, 24, 25.
Detroit—April 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
Port Huron—May 1.
Flint—May 2.
Pontiac—May 3.
Holland-Hudsonville—May 4.
Chicago—May 5.
Streator—May 7.
Chicago—May 8-13.
St. Louis—May 14-15.
Louisville—May 16, 17.
Springfield—May 18.
Columbus—May 19.
Akron—May 20, 21.
Cleveland—May 22, 23.
Youngstown-Warren—May 24, 25.
Washington—May 26, 27.

"2. That many employees among these seventy-two did not engage in any work stoppage of any kind.

"3. That many of these employees have been illegally and unconstitutionally penalized by this illegal action in many respects, including the loss of over two months' wages.

"4. That Raymond Sullivan and Howard Haas engaged in only legitimate assistance to these expelled members, that the expulsion of Sullivan and Haas by the General Executive Board was unwarranted, unlawful, unconstitutional and illegal, as they were denied counsel or witnesses, while Dalrymple was prompted by Patterson, URWA attorney, who is not a member of the executive board.

"5. That the actions of the General Executive Board and General President Dalrymple throughout, in connection with the controversy, have been hasty, ill-advised, illegal and unconstitutional, as most of their information came from the management of General Tire & Rubber Co.

"6. That grave injustices have been done to the seventy-two expelled members and to Sullivan and Haas.

"7. That officers of the international have been derelict in their duty in not taking action against President Harper of Local 9, under Article IX, Section 1(a), Clauses 6 and 9 of the constitution.

"8. That General President Dalrymple and the General Executive Board violated the constitution of the URWA with respect to the seventy-two expelled members and Sullivan and Haas by not following Article IX, Sections 2 and 3, of the constitution of the URWA.

"9. The negotiated policy of 1939, which was understood by all the men, was that no man was required to stay in the shop nor was he required to ask anyone if he could go home, when they were not being paid by the company, due to an act of God, or a labor dispute.

"10. To this date and in the face of all the strike and turmoil in the band room at General, the International Union has not taken the necessary steps to correct the situation or to aid and assist the union at General in solving their problem in the band room.

"11. Due to the unjust expulsion, a large number of these men have had their draft status changed and a large number have already been called into the Army and branded as strikers.

"12. That the foreman of the third shift refusing to pay past average was actually responsible for the dispute and the resulting controversy."

L. C. (Cleveland.)

A Subscriber Gets His First Issue

Dear Editor:

I have just read (with pleasure) my first issue of LABOR ACTION dated 3-27-44.

The platform of the Workers Party strikes me as being a common sense approach to the problems we face.

Its simplicity, directness and reasoning all demand support.

I am enclosing twenty-five cents for a six-month introductory offer subscription.

Kindly send same to me as soon as possible. Also send any literature or booklets you have.

P. McD. (Buffalo.)

Politicians Wrangle For Political Domination In New York Negro Congressional District

The political alliance between Tammany Hall and the Stalinists, sponsoring the candidacy of the Stalinist Adam Clayton Powell in the newly created Twenty-Second Congressional District in Harlem, is reported to be facing a minor threat.

Opposition of some of the Tammany district leaders has developed, and there is the possibility of Republican sponsorship of A. Philip Randolph for the post.

It's All a Matter of Income, After All

Dear Editor:

Wealthy Cleveland women, living in the exclusive Shaker Heights suburb, demonstrated recently that patriotic appeals to do war work are meant for working class women only—not Shaker Heights "ladies."

Recruiters from the War Manpower Commission, out to recruit women for war work, failed to obtain a single recruit from the ritzy neighborhoods of Cleveland. They weren't asking them to do factory work; oh, no, just office work! And they approached only those with no children.

Excuses were that bridge or bingo took up their afternoons; or that caring for their apartments was all they could do; or that more income would put them in a higher tax bracket.

An apartment house custodian commented: "Whatever made you think you could recruit women up here? They're crying on my wife's shoulder all the time to get her to do washing for them, or to come up and clean... We have full laundry facilities, but they won't even do their own work."

These same women probably get all hot and bothered about "unpatriotic" strikers. It's all a matter of income, after all.

L. C. (Cleveland.)

Detroit Readers, Attention:

ALBERT GATES
EDITOR OF LABOR ACTION

will speak on

How the No-Strike Pledge Strangles Labor

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, AT 8:00 P. M.

at

2650 Arndt (at Gratiot and Chene)

ADMISSION FREE

LABOR ACTION fights for the interests of labor in the shops, mines, mills and offices; forearms you with facts, analyses and a PROGRAM. Here's how to get your copy every week.

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Introductory Offer—Only 25¢ for Six Months

Clip here and mail with twenty-five cents for your Sub TODAY

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

Yes, I'd like to receive LABOR ACTION.

Enclosed find twenty-five cents to cover full cost of my introductory six-month subscription.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Readers may use this blank to subscribe for friends or shopmates. Send in the quarter end and we'll do the rest! If you are a subscriber whose sub expires with Vol. 8, No. 17, send in your renewal with thirty-five cents. This is your last issue!

"New Era" By Johnston Is a Droll Affair

By WALTER WEISS

There has been a good deal of talk in the news lately about a "new era" of close cooperation between business and labor. Such talk has been heard before; but, except on occasions of diplomatic politeness, it has come mainly from politicians, liberals, Earl Browder and labor leaders of the William Green stamp. Now it is coming from the top-notch leaders and organizations of big business.

On February 18 and 19 the National Association of Manufacturers, no less, held the first of a series of conferences on post-war problems. Every significant organization of big business was represented, even the "front" groups for business: veterans (American Legion), "farmers" (Farm Bureau Federation and Grange), and goodwillers (Rotary and Kiwanis). Into this den of newly tamed tigers were invited delegations from the AFL and CIO, big shots like Watt, Carey and Golden.

Like other meetings of "allies" (the Teheran conference, for example), the sessions were closed, but AFL's Watt was made chairman of a press committee and, flanked by several reliable business men, announced results at the end of each day.

On the first day, it appears that the conference decided that "conflicting interests... must collaborate instead of fighting each other," that there must be "a post-war era of expanding production and larger national income," and that "there must be more equity in the distribution of the national income." These fine aims must be achieved through the American system of private enterprise, free competition, and free labor. Otherwise the government would take more and more power, to the detriment of both capital and labor.

On the second day, getting down to serious business, the conferees reached unanimous agreement that there must be speed in reconversion, quick relaxation of government controls, and a system of democratic checks on contract termination, disposal of surpluses, etc.

In other words, the labor leaders endorsed in general the big business philosophy of "free enterprise" and in particular the Baruch plan for giving the capitalists—almost for nothing—just about everything they have been looking for. In return, labor received some fine promises, such as some new chickens in some new pots after the war and "democratic controls" (that is, a few labor representatives—maybe—to cover up the dirty work, as they do on the War Labor Board now).

"BROTHER" CAPITAL IN ACTION

Just two days later Robert Gaylord and Eric A. Johnston, presidents of the National Association of Manufacturers and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, bitterly condemned labor members of the War Labor Board for making public their own cost-of-living report, showing a 43% per cent rise. It jeopardized "the chances of presenting a unanimous report" together with the business and public members of the WLB. Of course, the latter two groups had been stalling for months and were determined anyway to accept the Labor Department's "official" 23 per cent figure. Still, this action by labor was no way to collaborate with business.

The most publicized of the big business offers to labor to date has been a speech by Eric Johnston, president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, made in Boston on March 13 and printed in full in the April Readers' Digest. This speech has been hailed by almost every newspaper columnist in the country as a masterpiece of common sense and of sane, progressive "Americanism." Johnston, who has been invited by Stalin to visit the Soviet Union, has even been suggested as a dark horse for the Republican nomination for President.

What has he to offer labor? He admits that management as well as labor has been guilty of some "deadly sins." "I think," he says, "that we all ought to hit the sawdust trail together." But he feels that "the public" is at present aroused against labor and that labor now has a "priority at the mourners' bench."

This so-called liberal and cooperative capitalist leader, like every good capitalist who has made Pegler his Bible, lists all the usual sins of the unions: refusal to admit new members, undemocratic administration, concealed finances, restraints on production, unnecessary strikes, violence and threats during strikes. With a straight face he grants that some capitalists (not so much now, of course, but once upon a time "in the dark past") committed crimes almost as bad: monopolistic practices, suppressing inventions, secret rebates, control of corporations by a few insiders, hired thugs, etc.

JOHNSTON'S IDEA OF "HALF WAY"

Mr. Johnston says he is willing to meet labor half way. He will do his part to correct the sins of management, if the unions will clean house too. He has two main demands to make: that the unions stop encouraging Congress to pass ruinous tax laws against the corporations (he isn't joking, not at all) and that they stop all mass picketing.

On this matter of mass picketing he becomes quite stern. It can be stopped, he says. England forbids it by law. "It is beginning to be forbidden by law here, and with trials you won't like. It is only a step from mass picketing to the sit-down, and only a step from the sit-down to the revolution."

"Watch your step, gentlemen of labor. Stop mass picketing."

In return for so trifling a concession as total disarmament by labor, what are the capitalists ready to do to meet the workers "half way"? Besides giving up their evil monopolistic practices, so far as these really exist, Mr. Johnston feels that the corporation should try very hard to furnish steady employment and should favor more adequate unemployment insurance.

When it comes to any practical proposal for fuller employment in the post-war period, however, such as a thirty-hour week, this capitalist liberal becomes highly indignant, why, such a plan, he sputters, leads straight toward the idea of gaining prosperity by not working at all (New York Times Magazine, March 26).

LABOR LEADERS ACCEPT THIS FRAUD

In spite of the obviously fraudulent nature of the new line of the capitalists—as proved both by their words, as we have just shown, and by their present activities in fighting any change in the Little Steel formula—the labor leaders keep playing the game. During the past week the AFL staged a big forum on post-war problems in New York, invited the capitalists to participate, and arranged a radio program, featuring AFL Secretary Meany and Eric Johnston, to glorify free labor and free enterprise.

The labor leaders, now getting it in the neck from Roosevelt and his government agencies, afraid to rely on the rank and file of their unions—that would mean strikes and an Independent Labor Party—terrified at the prospects of post-war unemployment and disorder, turn for salvation to THE CAPITALISTS!

These latter gentlemen, seeking immediate support for their post-war thievery, as embodied in the Baruch plan, and appreciating the demonstrated value of the labor leaders in keeping the rank and file under control, have evidently decided to temper their usual hard-boiled attitude in labor relations with a bit of hypocrisy and conference table good fellowship, which British employers have often found useful.

But do workers want a raise now? No, that would be inflationary. Do they want a thirty-hour week after the war? Simply absurd. So say both Eric A. Johnston and Henry J. Kaiser. And aren't they the most "co-operative and progressive" of business men?

AFL Post-War Plans Are Nothing New-- A Professor Says Facts Are Not "Scientific"

(Continued from page 1)

Every imperialist nation has done this, at one time or another, for over a hundred years.

In its statement the AFL takes a position against world poverty. They say that "poverty, unemployment and widespread insecurity are not endurable in the midst of potential plenty." Not endurable to whom? The starving millions of Europe? The millions of colonial serfs writhing under the imperialist lash? The stricken workers of Hitler's concentration camps? The exploited millions of Japan and China? The hundreds of thousands in Stalin's "socialist" factories and prison camps? Not endurable to the hard-pressed working class in the United States?

True, their present condition is not endurable to these millions. But they are forced to endure these things and the AFL gives them no ray of hope. They are not told what to do, they are not given a program for world labor as a class, they are promised no aid in the struggle which they carry on today.

The AFL's "Program"

The AFL, however, does have a "program" for international peace and economic and political security. What is it? The Atlantic Charter and the Four-Nation Declaration of Roosevelt, Stalin, Churchill and Chiang Kai-shek. They don't want a world government, but the United Nations are to form a "General International Organization." Presumably it is this international organization that will function as policemen of the world. What the AFL leaders really call for is the domination of the world, after the war, but the United Nations, but principally by the United States.

They are imperialist minded, demanding the continuation of the world as it is and defending the imperialist of the ruling classes of England and the United States. Fur-

thermore, they are white imperialists, calling for the continued exploitation of the colonial peoples by their present masters. This is all their "program" means and all that it can mean.

The AFL "planners" remember that there is such a thing as "livelihood," that is, the workers must eat, wear clothing and have a house to live in. They are for feeding the starving peoples of the world after the war. They want labor on the staff of the UNRRA. They call this relief, "charity," and do not believe that the people of other countries "or the United States would profit from continuing charity after the restoration of normal conditions."

This is a very noble sentiment, coming from these well-fed and high-salaried bureaucrats. It is in the best tradition of the "Sixty Families," who were always afraid that "charity" would demoralize the workers. This statement, too, will meet with the full approval of the NAM, whose members fear that the Hottentots will get too much U. S. milk and there will not be enough left for the babies of the steel workers and coal diggers.

The AFL world "program" calls for long-range economic planning and "a certain number of international functional agencies... to insure the consistent development of sound economic policies in a world which will be increasingly responsive to the advances in technology..." What does this mean? What are sound economic policies? Since the AFL is committed, as much as the NAM, to the continuation of capitalism as a sound economic policy for the U. S., a sound economic policy in world planning can mean only the same thing.

In turn, this can only mean the continuation of national economic and political rivalries which lead to imperialist forays, plunder and imperialist wars. Thus do labor leaders

put forth their "plans" for world peace, security and justice

Other Proposals

There are other international proposals which we can only mention. The International Labor Office "has abundantly justified its existence." The Permanent Court of International Justice should be adopted (where have these people been for the past twenty years?) And for the safeguarding of "human rights" there should be a permanent international institute. It is assumed that all of these institutes, courts, organizations and commissions will be functioning under the protection of the bayonets and navies of the victorious United Nations.

This is the AFL's contribution to foreign and international politics. It is a stale and dusty document out of the cellars of imperialist balance of power politics. It does not even approach the empty vaporings of Woodrow Wilson... It seemingly is not aware of the history of the world since the Treaty of Versailles. It pays not the slightest heed to the rumblings from the underground movements of Hitlerized Europe, to the insistent demands of the Italian workers, or to the anti-imperialist struggles of the Chinese masses. It expresses no sympathy for the traduced workers of Germany and Japan or for the aspirations of the black millions of Africa.

These bureaucrats of the labor movement, fat from their millions in per capita tax, do not know that world labor has moved beyond their day and their time. Combers is dead and Gompersism is no answer to the world problems of the working class; certainly not today. Those workers of occupied countries, including Italy, will read this rubbish with disgust and loathing.

Certainly they want democracy, freedom, security and peace. But

they know that these can come only with the development of their might and their power organized in the trade unions and workers' political parties. They are beginning to learn that the "public conscience" is a capitalist and imperialist conscience, that international cooperation is the practice of diplomatic trickery and fraud, that economic cooperation between nations is a brotherhood of death organized by armament manufacturers, and a pillaging of the plain people by cartel agreements.

Working Class Plans

We of the working class must have our plans for the post-war world. But for us the post-war world is part and parcel of the world today and the world of the past. Our first consideration is the fact that an impassable gulf exists between us and the capitalists of our own country, and that this same impassable gulf spreads itself between the workers of every other capitalist country and their ruling classes. The present war does not dry up that gulf, does not destroy this barrier between us as workers and our capitalist and imperialist oppressors.

Our real guarantee against post-war insecurity or fascism is the organization of the working class—as a class—in every capitalist country, Germany, Italy and Japan included—into an international brotherhood of the toilers, organized into strong world unions and a world political party of the working class. Then we can talk about the "public conscience" because we, the majority of the people, will be that conscience. We can talk about peace because we who have no interest in war will not plunge the world into war. We will have security because we, the people, will own and control the instruments of production which are the foundation of security.

A Seabee and a C. B.

It was quiet sitting in the hospital room. The little radio gave off muffled music. It would soon be nine o'clock and "lights out."

The Seabee, who was thin and baldish but very cheerful, squirmed in bed.

I saw in the faint light the empty pajama leg and the stump.

"Do you mind talking about it?" I felt guilty asking.

"It don't bother me." He was gently rubbing his one good leg with both hands in a curious manner. "I got hardened to it. I'm a C. B. You know what that stands for?" He laughed softly, "Confused bastards."

—From Earl Wilson's column in the New York Post.

Fear Inflated Stomachs

The War Labor Board announced not so long ago that practically every worker had received his little fifteen per cent Little Steel allowance by now and that the main job from here on would be to see that sneaky employers didn't try to give their workers more than fifteen per cent.

You may think there aren't any such employers, Well, the W. & J. Sloane Co., a fancy furniture house on Fifth Avenue, New York City, decided to give each of its 280 employees a pint of milk daily, free and for nothing—probably to keep them from running off to some war factory.

The regional War Labor Board approved this action but warned other companies not to do the same without getting permission. Who knows, asked the board, but that some misguided employer might try to give away a whole meal? This could very well violate the stabilization program, break the hold-the-line order, and be highly "inflationary."

So that's what the danger of inflation is: a danger that workers might inflate their stomachs with food!

Of Special Interest to Women

By Susan Green

The vast range of commodities that go under the name of textiles makes that field of manufacturing of special interest to women. Whether it's panties for the baby or overalls for the man of the house, whether it's a kitchen towel or drapes for the living room, the housewife is dealing with textiles.

And they are plenty dear these days—and the quality is terrible.

You have heard it said, no doubt, that it is those awful wages that account for skyrocketing prices. With textile prices as high as they are, on that theory, the wages of textile workers should be right up on top.

However, when you pay fifty cents for a pair of panties that used to cost ten or fifteen cents, it is NOT because the wages of textile workers are making war millionaires out of them. Here are the facts about textile wages.

The CIO Textile Workers Union is now arguing before the War Labor Board for a raise for textile workers. The average cotton-rayon textile worker makes fifty-seven cents an hour. If he works a forty-hour week, he earns \$23.80, from which taxes, etc., are deducted. He can't exactly roll in milk and honey on that wage.

Taking five typical textile communities in the North and South, the union showed that on the basis of a budget devised, BACK IN 1935, by the WPA for relief workers, it would take 29.33 a week for a family of four to subsist. That miserable budget allows for only the cheapest food and housing; for no automobile, of course; but not even for haircuts or newspapers; and for no recreation other than one movie a month. This budget is based on making an overcoat last six years, a summer suit five years, a sweater four years, a work shirt three years.

Now get this point straight! The textile workers can't afford even this kind of substandard budget that was the miserable lot of WPA relief workers in 1935! And this is at the height of a war boom that is making the war profiteers Midas-rich.

The interest of women in the textile industry is not only that of the housewife buying wearing apparel and household furnishings. Women workers have always been employed in the textile industry in large numbers.

In fact, about the first machines to be used in manufacture were textile machines, and a great majority of those first mill workers were women. Before the war over a half million women operated the machines in the textile mills of the country, by far outnumbering the men.

Textile employers' preference for women workers is not that they want the feminine influence in their mills, but because women workers were and are paid low wages. Cheaper labor equals higher profits. For the same reason, a great deal of child labor has been used in textile mills, and textile companies have been bitter enemies of child labor laws.

This is the background of the textile industry. It was built on cheap labor—on the meanest exploitation of women and children. In 1944 the textile companies are living up to their traditional practices. The wages of textile workers are so low that the WPA relief worker of 1935 was better off.

The prize package, to be unwrapped last, is this: The textile companies have the gall to declare before the War Labor Board that if the textile workers get "any substantial wage increase" it will have to be passed on to the public in the form of higher ceiling prices "on practically all cotton products."

But the OPA doesn't even wait until the wages of textile workers are increased to raise prices on textiles. A week or so ago a New York Times headline read: "TEXTILE PRODUCERS GET PRICE RELIEF." The OPA allowed the manufacturers to pep up their prices on chambray shirting, basic denim and other weights and finishes of denim. In other words, the prices of work clothes will be going up some more.

You may think you need relief from the already exorbitant prices of textiles. But the OPA doesn't see eye to eye with you. It figures that when textile mills doubled their profits in 1942 over 1941, that wasn't yet enough. When fifty-three specific textile companies made even more than that and in 1942 tripled their pre-war profits, that still was not enough. So you will pay more for shirts, overalls and many other things—WITHOUT THE TEXTILE WORKERS GETTING A PENNY MORE IN WAGES.

While on the subject of prices, profits and wages, here's a morsel much more juicy than the kind of steak a working class family can get these days.

With prices of meats doing their bit to have made the increase in food prices today nearly 75 per cent over 1941 prices—and packing house wages so inadequate that workers leave that industry to try for better jobs—George A. Eastwood, president of Armour & Co., is one of those who do all right for themselves.

IN 1943 HE COLLECTED A SALARY OF \$102,560.

Do you think there may possibly be some connection between the high prices you pay for meat and the high salaries the packing house big shots pay themselves?

Just as happened during the last war, so now talk is beginning about women sitting in at the peace conference. Mrs. Roosevelt, who says she "adores being sixty," feels she is too old to fill the bill. Such women as Madame Chiang Kai-shek and Queen Wilhelmina, Mrs. Roosevelt thinks, should be included—Wilhelmina not being too old because

A Professor Says Facts Are Not "Scientific"

By SAM ADAMS

With an air of apparent impartiality, the President has established a Cost-of-Living Committee to investigate the exact state of affairs on the home front as it affected the overwhelming majority of the people. This investigation of the cost of living came after clamors by the labor movement to change the Little Steel formula and to establish a measuring stick for wages which would truly conform to the irising living costs.

Since then several reports were made public. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, a government body, estimated the rise in the cost of living at 23.4 per cent and then declared that wage increases granted more than matched this rise. Then retired self-satisfied.

This report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics was immediately challenged by the labor members of the President's committee. They declared that the cost of living had actually risen by 43.5 per cent and that the wage increases granted to workers did not conform to this stupendous rise. Moreover, millions of workers received wage increases not comparable even to the low figure of 23.4 per cent, while other millions have received no increases since the war began.

The labor members of the committee pointed out that the BLS figures overlooked some extremely important factors. Among these were that the overwhelming majority of the workers expended their wages on those items whose increases were the highest, as, for example, food and clothing.

The most interesting aspect of this dispute is that the index on the cost of living for farmers issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics shows the cost of living at 42.6 per cent, a figure almost identical to that issued by the labor members of the President's body.

ENTER THE PROFESSOR

Now comes a professor, one Dr. Willford I. King of New York University, a man who usually produces "economic analyses" for business organizations, to refute the contentions of the labor movement. This august gentleman has just prepared a report for the National Industrial Conference Board which says that the rise in the cost of living has been only 20.8 per cent.

What's wrong with the figures of the labor members of the President's committee? According to the professor, who works for big business organizations, it seems to have "the earmarks of rather an argumentative brief than a scholarly scientific document." "Scholarly!" "Scientific!" These are mighty impressive sounding words, and authoritative to boot. But let us see what is actually involved.

The labor movement contends that the "official" statistics do not take into consideration important items that do not appear in "scientific analyses" but which are nevertheless real to the workers of the country. Among the things which go to make up the real level of living costs for the people are: the black market, which gouges the poor; deterioration in the quality of goods sold the people by profiteering manufacturers; moving expenditures for war workers; higher prices in war production centers; dual residence and increased taxation on those least able to pay. These things must be added to the actual rise in living costs over current wages.

Do these things go to make up the cost of living? Obviously they do. But the genial professor denies it. They are not scientific because they do not necessarily show that prices have risen.

The black market? Piffle, says the professor, it really doesn't amount to much. Then he goes on to blame the workers for trading on the black market, when in reality the existence of the black markets can be placed directly upon the inefficiency and inability of government agencies to stop them, and the refusal of "honest" business enterprises to abstain from trading goods in such a profitable way. The workers are really at the mercy of the black market, which has many ramifications.

DISPOSED OF WITH SWEEP OF PEN

How is it possible to exclude the existence of the black market from the rise of living costs which the workers actually meet? Only with the sweep of an opinionated pen of a university professor whose problem of existence is relatively simple!

Take the deterioration in the quality of goods. The fact is that prices for clothing have risen tremendously. But more important, the poor quality clothing for which the same prices are charged as for previously higher quality goods—and higher prices for the quickly-deteriorating clothing—may not show up so high in "statistics," but to the masses of people paying for them, this is a real rise in the cost of living. Is this scientific? Maybe it isn't for the professor, but it is a fact, and that makes it scientific enough.

What about the higher cost of living in war centers? This isn't recorded in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nor in the figures of the big business organizations, who take averages for the whole country, rich and poor alike, cities and rich suburbs alike. But it is an uncontroversial fact that the cost of living is higher in places like Detroit, Akron, Chicago, St. Louis, etc., than it is in other places in the country. Is this real or not? Well, just ask any worker living in war production centers!

What about expenditures in moving and the maintenance of dual residences? Have the workers voluntarily done these things, moved and maintained double homes? Obviously not! They have been compelled to do these things by the conditions created by the war. Are these expenditures real or not? Of course, they are, and no professor, working for big business, can gainsay them. Do they enter into the living costs of the workers? How can anyone deny it, you ask? Well, big business can. Its hired propagandists can. The Bureau of Labor Statistics can. And the War Labor Board, acting under the instructions of the President and his War Stabilization Board, does!

We could go on at great length to show that actually the figures issued by the BLS and the business organizations are played with and interpreted to suit the purposes of these bodies. They in no way actually interpret the real cost of living.

The labor movement, however, has taken into account what the masses of people actually spend in order to live. The CIO and AFL have shown that one-third of the working people have not received a raise since the war began—that one-third of the nation lives on substandard wages—that the war has increased the living costs of the workers in a real and substantial way over and above any wage increases granted. The tangible factors cited by the labor movement are real. Their figures are really scientific.

The figures of the so-called "experts" are pseudo-scientific since they are colored to sustain the viewpoint of all the forces fighting the wage demands of the great mass of workers in the country.

LABOR ACTION

A Paper in the Interests of Labor

Published Weekly by the
LABOR ACTION PUBLISHING ASSN.
114 West 14th Street New York 11, N. Y.
(Third floor)

Vol. 8, No. 17 April 24, 1944

ALBERT GATES, Editor
GERTRUDE SHAW, Managing Editor

Subscription Rate: 60 Cents a Year
75 Cents for Canada, New York and Foreign

Re-entered as second-class matter May 24, 1940,
at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the
Act of March 3, 1879.

The Jewish Question and Palestine -- An Editorial Statement

The criticism by our contributor, Ben Hall, is essentially correct, and we endorse it.

The horrible persecutions of the Jewish people at the hand of reaction in Europe—and not only in Europe—and the apparent hopelessness of their position in the Old World, has created increased sympathy in recent times for the program of the Zionist for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

Victims of Both Imperialisms

LABOR ACTION, like the Workers Party, is unreservedly on the side of the Jewish victims of reaction and militantly opposed to anti-Semitism in any and all its vicious forms. While condemning the bestialities of fascism, we have also exposed the hypocritical pretenses of friendship toward the cruelly tormented Jewish people by the Allied governments. In spite of the numerous opportunities that have been open to these governments to help rescue tens of thousands of Jews from Axis Europe to comparative safety, next to nothing has been done. Conferences have been held and promises made for the sole purpose of evading the question. The latest decision by the Churchill government to close the doors of Palestine completely to Jewish immigration—and to Jews only—is only the most shocking example of how lightly the lives of Jews weigh in the scales of British imperialism. The acquiescence of Washington in the Churchill policy, ostensibly out of "military considerations," merely shows that so far as the Jews are concerned there is no fundamental difference between the two imperialist powers.

LABOR ACTION demands that all restrictions be removed from the right of Jews to migrate to Palestine and, for that matter, to any

other country; and we demand further that Allied government facilities be placed at the disposal of the still living victims of Nazi terror so that they may be snatched from otherwise certain extermination. For us in this country, this demand includes removing all the bars that have been set up against the unrestricted right of asylum for refugees to the United States.

At the same time, however, LABOR ACTION opposes the program of Zionism, which misleads the Jewish people, at best, and leads them to even greater disaster, at worst. While the present statement does not aim to be, and is not, a declaration on all the aspects of the "Jewish question," the views of LABOR ACTION on Zionism and Palestine can be asserted with adequate definiteness.

Zionism and Imperialism

The program of Zionism—and this includes all its wings, from right to "left"—is based in practice on collaboration with British or Anglo-American imperialism for the purpose of imposing the rule of a Jewish minority over the Arab majority that inhabits Palestine.

All the arguments put forward in favor of Zionism, including the argument that the Jewish minority has brought "industrialization" and "civilization" to Palestine and its inhabitants, are as hoary with age as every argument that has been put forward in apology for imperialism. The test for all the Zionist and pro-Zionist groups is the fact that not one of them has come forward with the demand that the most elementary democratic right of a modern civilized community—the right of self-government—be extended NOW to the people of Palestine.

To make this demand and fight for it would mean a real break with

Comment On Articles On Zionism

By BEN HALL

Two articles dealing with the Zionist question recently appeared in LABOR ACTION, one entitled "Division in Palestine Labor" and the other "Change of Policy on Palestine." Both are characterized by entirely impermissible concessions to the ideology of "leftist" Zionism, in particular to that of Hashomer Hatzair.

Reporting on a meeting of the executive of the Histadruth, the anonymous writer in LABOR ACTION of March 13 states that the left wing voted against the slogan of a "Jewish Commonwealth" and called for the creation of a "Bi-national state with the Arabs." What is this bi-national state?

Criticism Bi-National State

Meir Yaari, one of the theoreticians of the Hashomer Hatzair, in a pamphlet entitled "Analysis of Zionism," points out that the principle aim of Zionism is to obtain a majority for

the Jews in Palestine. A "bi-national" state which in principle must have a Jewish majority—what is that but a leftist formulation for a JEW-ISH state with an Arab minority?

In the same issue of LABOR ACTION the author states that the left wing is for an agreement with the Arabs against an agreement with the British. The slogan of the left wing for unity with the Arabs bears a purely liberal and sentimental character.

In the first place, where does Hashomer Hatzair come out for the slogan of "Independence of Palestine from imperialism"? In April, 1938, a thesis of the HH in the United States read: "The demand for the institution of a direct fight against English imperialism is one we have always considered valueless." And further on in the same thesis: "The best solution for us in this historical period is the Mandate..."

In the March 20 article in LABOR ACTION, Jessie Kaaren points out that the Arab masses are landless.

Where does the left wing issue the slogan of "land to the masses"?

"Leftist" Cover

No "left" wing which refuses to raise the slogans of "Freedom from British Imperialism" and "Land to the Masses" can establish unity between the Arab and Jewish masses. All its pious hopes for unity only serve to give a "leftist" cover for Zionism.

It is because of these political concessions to Zionism that Kaaren can write that the Arab chiefs could not continue to keep the masses subjugated to British and American imperialism "if Palestine were to continue to be industrialized and developed under Jewish leadership."

This is 1,000 per cent false. Under the present Zionist leadership, including that of the Hashomer Hatzair, it is GUARANTEED that the Arab chiefs will be able to keep their hold over the Arab masses—regardless of the industrialization of Palestine under that same Jewish leadership.

Assembly in Palestine, and the independence of Palestine from foreign rule which these demands imply.

Further, the Zionist servants and collaborators of imperialism understand that the REALIZATION of these elementary democratic demands would mean the establishment of an independent sovereign state in which the Arab majority of the population would, in all probability, be the political majority. This is precisely what these pseudo-democrats and pseudo-socialists refuse to countenance. They are prepared to consider the independence of Palestine and democratic rights for its inhabitants ONLY if they have first guaranteed themselves a majority by means of which they may rule the Arabs. Until they get this numerical majority, they work, fundamentally, with foreign imperialism against the Arab people instead of working with the Arab people against imperialism.

The kind of reason given by the spokesmen of Zionism against the advocacy of democratic rights and na-

tional independence for Palestine NOW is on exactly the same level as the arguments of our own Bourbons against allowing the Negroes to vote in the South. "They are too ignorant. They are too backward. They are tools in the hands of demagogues. They may vote in governments to rule over us."

Zionism Boomerangs

The practical result of the reactionary policy of Zionism in Palestine has been to aggravate the situation of the Jews AND to make it easier for the feudal-minded Arab landlords, religious leaders and politicians to dominate the minds and actions of the Arab peasants. All the Arab rulers need tell their followers is this: "The Jews (i.e., the Zionists) are ready to do anything in the world for you except grant the right to decide your own fate."

LABOR ACTION, as an internationalist organ and a comrade of all the oppressed and persecuted, the Jews included, is in favor of the elimination of all national, racial and religious barriers and discrimination. It is, therefore, opposed to immigration bars of any kind, be it in the United States or anywhere else. Given the desperate position of the Jews in Europe today, LABOR ACTION is consequently opposed to any barriers set up against the admission of Jews to Palestine, and we condemn the perfidious, typically imperialist Palestine policy of Great Britain.

The program of Zionism, however, is anti-democratic as well as anti-socialist and anti-internationalist. In its place, the internationalists, the socialists in Palestine—both Jewish and Arab—must put forward a fundamental program for the socialist reorganization of the country as part and parcel of the socialist reorgan-

ization of Europe and the Near East. The Socialist Program

One of the indispensable elements of such a program now is the demand—put forward in deeds as well as in words—for the complete independence of Palestine, for the immediate granting of democratic rights to all its inhabitants, including the right to vote and of democratic elections, and the establishment by universal suffrage of a sovereign National Constitutional Assembly to decide the government of the country and its laws; and finally, for land to the peasants.

An independent Palestine must establish adequate and genuine guarantees protecting the rights and possibilities of economic and cultural development of all minorities in particular, which would assure these minorities against discrimination or persecution in any form whatsoever. It is only on such a basis that the peaceful and harmonious cohabitation and development of all the national and racial groups in the country are possible.

Only by fighting for such a program is it possible really to cement the relations between Jew and Arab, to break down all the barriers and antagonisms between them, to free the Arab masses from the domination of their reactionary chiefs, and to free the Jewish population of Palestine from service, voluntary or involuntary, in the camp of the main enemy of the Arab peoples, British imperialism. Only by fighting for such a program can the industrialization of the country acquire a genuinely socially-progressive character, not achieved, as it has been up to now, at the expense of the interests of the workers and the peasants of Palestine.

Wallace's Job in China

By L. K. LOW

Last year Madame Chiang Kai-shek toured the United States and made eloquent speeches in behalf of "her people." This year Vice-President Wallace will return the compliment. The reasons for both visits lie in conditions prevailing in China.

In the recent period, desertions from the Chinese army to the Japanese have increased. So poorly paid and ill fed are the Chinese soldiers that substantial numbers have joined the Japanese merely to get something to eat. The Chinese Minister of Information at Chungking admits that these desertions have taken place but pathetically expresses his conviction that the delinquents will repent when Anglo-American aid underwrites an offensive. To this miserable depth of dependence upon Allied imperialism has the Chinese government fallen!

Chiang Kai-shek's Dictatorship

The absurdity of Chiang Kai-shek's claim that he represents the Chinese people becomes daily more obvious. Recently, Sun Fo, president of the legislative Yuan, confessed that "the Kuomintang is an infinitesimal portion of the population." REPRESENTING LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE. After sixteen years of so-called political tutelage, "there is not one member of a hsien [county] council nor one hsien administrator who has been elected to his office by the people of the nation."

Sun Fo, the son of Sun Yat-sen, frankly asserts that the fascist practices and machinery of the Kuomint-

tang have nothing in common with the "Three People's Principles" laid down by his father. The more dependent Chiang Kai-shek has become upon the Allied imperialists, the less willing has he been to yield democratic rights to the Chinese people and the more the right wing elements have gained ascendancy in the Kuomintang.

But both Roosevelt and Chiang Kai-shek are learning that the might of American arms alone is not sufficient to humble the peoples of the Far East. The juggernaut of Anglo-American imperialism moves slowly in India, Burma and China because the natives of those areas either suspect or already know that they are really its victims.

Hence, the proposed visit of Wallace to China is admittedly an effort to reassure the Chinese people that

America fights for the "century of the common man."

But it will take more than Wallace's demagoguery to impress the Chinese masses. China is now in her seventh year of war. Her dead can be counted in millions. The heroism and sacrifices of the people can be seen in marked contrast to the fawning servility of the Chinese ruling class to Anglo-American imperialism and to the greedy luxurious lives of the profiteers and speculators.

With every year the hardships of the masses have increased with little or no compensation in military successes and no advances toward popular government. The American State Department, in alliance with Chiang Kai-shek, maintains a strict censorship over news from China, but we may be sure that Wallace's trip at this time is motivated by serious political considerations.

Japanese Workers Defy Government

In spite of the iron-bound Japanese censorship, London has learned about popular disturbances in Japan. One of Japan's two leading newspapers, the Osaka "Mainichi," arrived in London with reports of the suppression of food riots in Kagoshima, of the repression of the Japanese Farmers Union, of a decree disbanding the new "Shakai" or Workers Party that held a mass meeting in Tokyo attended by 40,000.

From "Mainichi" it is apparent that the government broke up this meeting of the Japanese Workers Party, causing thirty-seven casualties, of whom seven died of their injuries. The Farmers Union was prohibited from holding meetings and from taking in members; its funds were taken from it and its journal suspended.

The food crisis has resulted in the theft of government rice from a railway station in the town of Kiasetsu. Nineteen were arrested. For holding a meeting to demand an increase in rations, seven were arrested.

Like workers throughout the world, the Japanese workers are struggling against the powers over them for their human needs.

The Cost of Living On the Carpet Again

The echoes of the war over the rise in the cost of living since 1941 are still reverberating. The CIO-AFL claims prices have gone up 43.5 and substantiates that claim with irrefutable statistics, documents and arguments. The government claims costs have gone up only 23.4 per cent since 1941 and does not bother to prove its claim.

Now a new battle of this war develops. HOW MUCH HAS THE COST OF LIVING GONE UP IN THE PAST YEAR ALONE—FROM 1943 TO 1944?

You probably gasped with indignation when you read in your newspaper that the official report of the government's economic agencies says: "The cost of living as a whole is slightly lower than it was a year ago today."

This report was released on April 7. It was signed by Fred M. Vinson, Director of Economic Stabilization; Chester Bowles, OPA Director; Marvin Jones, War Food Administrator; and William H. Davis, chairman of the WLB.

On receiving this obviously false report, Mr. Roosevelt expressed his joy that the stabilization policy is working so well.

Upon the release of this report that flies in the face of all known facts, the New York Post conducted a survey in New York City to get the reaction of housewives. Here are some typical replies:

"Food prices have gone up ten or fifteen per cent in the past year. Living costs have gone up so much that our budget for my parents and a sister is way above last year. One of the reasons is that clothing prices have gone sky high."

"There is no question about food prices going up. I can tell it by our budget, which has increased in the past year, and it's ridiculous for anyone to say that clothing prices haven't gone up tremendously."

The New Jersey CIO Council also went to work on the April 7 report of the government. It obtained figures from a survey of housewives in Paterson, Newark, New Brunswick, Trenton and Camden. The women listed what they actually had to spend in order to supply a week's meals for their families. THE FINDINGS WERE THAT THE COST OF FEEDING A FAMILY HAS GONE UP TWENTY-SEVEN PER CENT IN 1944 OVER 1943.

This rise in food costs is so drastic that it throws "completely out of kilter the time-honored statistical practice of

allocating one-third of a worker's wages to food," according to the New Jersey CIO.

Philip Murray further pointed out that, according to government figures—of another government department—THERE HAS BEEN A TWENTY-ONE PER CENT INCREASE IN FARM PRICES FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 1942, TO JANUARY 15, 1944—which covers the year in question. It is, of course, absurd to suggest that this increase in farm prices has not been passed on to the consumer.

But here is more evidence as to the absurdity of the April 7 report which so overjoyed the President.

Recently the New York State Department of Labor made up a minimum budget for the woman worker. Here is a quotation from the New York Times on the subject:

"The major item responsible for the highest cost of living was food. Food costs were shown to have advanced almost one-fourth in a year. Next was the personal essentials of a working woman—permanent waves, powder, lipstick, cold cream, dry cleaning, shoe repair. These items, listed under the heading of clothing upkeep and personal care, rose 12.1 per cent. To clothe herself according to a 'minimum decent standard,' the woman worker must spend 5.5 per cent more than a year ago. Her rent, including fuel and light, is up 3 per cent."

This gives a general idea of what happened to prices in New York State during the past year. From what we know about the way government figures play down the real price situation, the above noted increases are just a hint of the reality.

The unadulterated gall of Vinson, Bowles, Jones and Davis in reporting that "The cost of living as a whole is slightly lower than it was a year ago today," hits a new high.

The White House acceptance of this lie is another slap in the face of labor.

The explanation for this gross lie about the cost of living is simple: LABOR IS ASKING FOR MORE WAGES TO MEET THE ACTUAL INCREASE IN THE COST OF LIVING. The government has no facts with which to fight the workers' just demands; so it fights a propaganda war of falsehoods.

In the eyes of every worker, every housewife, every unprivileged person, the capitalist government stands revealed as a servant of the large companies who are battling labor's demands for amply justified pay increases.

THE WEARING OF THE RED!

MAY DAY Celebration

MAY DAY, 1944—Fourth Anniversary of

LABOR ACTION and the WORKERS PARTY

GREETINGS BY: { Max Shachtman
David Coolidge
Reva Craine

MUSIC — DANCING — SINGING — REFRESHMENTS

SUNDAY, APRIL, 30, FROM 6:00 P. M.
CARAVAN HALL, 110 EAST 59TH ST., N. Y. C.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 (including tax and refreshments)

Tickets at Labor Action, 114 W. 14th St., N. Y. C.,—or at the door

NLRB Backs Bosses Against Strikers --

(Continued from page 1)

the workers will be violating when they go on strike!

Losing No Time

Already the New York Times comes out with a sure-fire defense of Mr. Seiberling, president of the Seiberling Rubber Co. of Akron, who only a day before the NLRB decision made his own ruling that strikers "will not be permitted to re-enter or resume work for Seiberling." The New York Times asks: "Can it not be argued that Mr. Seiberling's announcement is pretty close to the intent of the Connally-Smith Anti-Strike Act?"

That is the way the wind is blowing!

The repercussions of this decision were immediate and unmistakable. Here is another instance. The NLRB handed down its decision on April 16. ON THE NEXT DAY Curtiss-Wright fired 119 workers who had struck in protest against plant guards patrolling rest rooms and against other grievances.

It is true that the case at Curtiss-Wright was not strictly similar to the case decided by the board. But employers are not too particular about details. All they need is a broad hint that they can go ahead—and they do!

Up till now more subtle ways were used to get rid of strikers. One was to change their deferment status and pull them into the Army. With the NLRB decision to back them up, open firing by the employers will be in order.

It turns out now that the General Tire & Rubber Co. was a brave pioneer when it fired sixty-seven members of Local 9 of the URWA, who were supposed to have been on strike. It was showing not only other employers the way, but presumably also the majority of the NLRB.

And what about the Dalrymples? What about the other discredited labor leaders who are actually or in effect conspiring with the capitalists by suspending striking workers from union membership?

The dangerous decision of the

NLRB has brought this whole situation to a head. This poisonous boil must be lanced—and no time is to be lost.

The protesting workers in Dalrymple's union are showing the way. Local 5 of the URWA expelled Dalrymple. All labor traitors should be treated likewise. At stake here is nothing less than the survival of the unions as instruments of working class struggle. The rank and file can make its answer clear on whether or

not militant unionism is to be restored and to develop.

Regardless of their conniving or timid leaders, the rank and file will definitely have to repudiate the no-strike pledge. The restoration of real collective bargaining and of the right to strike as the only bargaining power labor has, is the next point on the agenda.

The vicious decision of the NLRB cannot be allowed to stand!

A Filthy Labor-Hater

Speaking in Denver recently, Warren H. Atherton, the fascist-minded national commander of the reactionary, boss-controlled American Legion, referred to the Los Angeles power strike in the following words:

"The leaders should be dressed up in electric chairs and a full current turned on to prove that the government of the United States knows how to punish traitors."

Here in a nutshell is the reason why LABOR ACTION has been urging all union men to get out of the anti-labor American Legion—here is why it is so necessary to have an organization for servicemen closely connected with the unions. The American Legion is no place for returning soldiers.

Atherton's burning hatred for labor should move every workingman veteran of World Wars I and II to give him him and his outfit a swift kick on the way out.