

New York Workers! Join the Workers Party Picket Line!

Picket the British Consulate, 650 Fifth Ave., Saturday, Nov. 17, 11 A. M.

Demand British Withdraw from Indonesia! Freedom for the Indonesians! JOIN THE PICKET LINE!

LABOR ACTION

NOVEMBER 19, 1945

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

HANDS OFF EAST INDIES!

U. S. Steel Falsifies Its War Profits

By M. HOWARD

The struggle between the United Steel Workers of America (CIO) and Benjamin F. Fairless, president of U. S. Steel, over the union's demand for a \$2.00-a-day wage raise seems to be deepening by the hour. Philip Murray, union president as well as CIO head, has told Fairless flatly that he wants a yes or no answer on the question, while Fairless has said, just as flatly, that U. S. Steel can't possibly raise wages until OPA raises steel prices.

Murray, in his demand for a yes or no answer, has the tremendous strike power of the United Steel Workers of America behind him. And behind the Steel Workers are the whole CIO and a large section of the labor movement of the United States. Granted only piddling wage increases demanded and desperately needed during the war, the Steel Workers are in no mood to wait longer now that the war is over. Wage demands that were necessary a year and two years ago, are much more necessary now, when cutbacks, layoffs and reductions in take-home pay have made pay envelopes but slim shadows of their former selves.

In the face of the united threat of the Steel Workers and the CIO to strike if the workers' wage demands are not met, U. S. Steel's Benjamin

(Continued on page 2)

Results of New York Elections

William O'Dwyer, Democrat-American Labor Party candidate for mayor of New York City, was elected by a record plurality of 685,000 votes in the New York municipal elections held on Tuesday, Nov. 6. The Tammany-Stalinist candidate for Mayor was elected at the conclusion of one of the most cynical and apathetic campaigns that has ever been waged in the history of New York City politics.

Max Shachtman, candidate of the Workers Party for Mayor of New York, received the small total of 869 votes. Farrell Dobbs, candidate of the Socialist Workers Party which appeared on the voting machines as the Trotskyist Party, received approximately 4200 votes. Both candidates appeared on the same line of the voting machine, with the name of Dobbs appearing first. Both figures are based on unofficial Police Department reports.

When the Board of Elections allocated positions on the voting machines last August, the Workers Party protested its unprecedented action in placing the candidates of two parties on one line. It was evident at that time that many votes cast for Shachtman would go to Dobbs. The name of Dobbs appeared in the same column with the other candidates and Shachtman's name appeared in a column that has never been used for any Mayoralty candidate.

The indicator on which appears the name of the parties, read Trotskyist-Workers, then the name of Dobbs followed by Shachtman. Since the Workers Party is known through its propaganda and factory activity as a Trotskyist Party, and since its candidate Shachtman is known as a Trotskyist, the confusion that arose is obvious.

How many votes were lost will never be known, and it is not important. In the last election held in 1941, the Workers Party received 2200 votes and the SWP received 1100 votes for a total of 3300 votes. This time the

(Continued on page 2)

"... They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they shall live..."—Atlantic Charter



Windsor Ford Strike: A Fine Example of Union Solidarity

By LEE ROBERTS

DETROIT, Nov. 11—A victory was gained by the militant strikers of Local 200, UAW-CIO, against the Ford Motor Co. of Canada, in Windsor, with the announcement that 400 Royal Mounted Police and provincial police had left Windsor on November 10. The outside police were removed without being used, because of the invincible solidarity and determination of the entire labor movement in Windsor.

In answer to the threat of force by the provincial government to break their strike, 15,000 pickets set up a two-mile barricade of 1,000 cars, trucks and buses, which jammed traffic for miles around the plant gates and left city police completely helpless. The bumper-to-bumper barricade remained for two days and was removed only upon orders of executive officers of the union, who declared that negotiations had taken a favorable turn and that the barricade "undoubtedly prevented the shedding of blood which would have been the result of any police attempt to break the picket line."

The situation in Windsor is close to a general strike. The Ford workers have been out for two months and were joined last week by 8,000 more UAW workers from thirty plants, all members of Amalgamated Local 195. Six thousand five hundred AFL workers and 5,000 members of the Canadian Congress of Labor in Windsor have already taken strike votes and are ready to walk out the minute any attempt is made to break the Ford strike. Workers of Local 195 had voted to strike four different times but were held back by refusal of the international executive board to approve their strike. When they

finally did walk out, it was still without international sanction.

Plans are being made for a possible general labor holiday of the entire Canadian union movement, CIO and AFL, in support of the Windsor workers.

WHAT THE VETS WOULD DO

Attorney General Leslie Blackwell, responsible for sending the provincial police over the protests of the Mayor of Windsor, called the strike an "insurrection" and said he was prepared to use troops and government police to break up the picket lines. Army units stationed nearby were issued kits and rifles and were confined to barracks; but the Attorney General failed to make good his threat, in the face of labor's powerful threat of a general strike. Pickets interviewed by this reporter on the second day of the barricade agreed that they had no fear of the soldiers if they were sent. "They'd join us on the picket line," they said. Several were of the opinion that if the soldiers were sent against them, it would be the "beginning of a revolution, with the soldiers on our side." Many servicemen in uniform walked on the lines with the picketers, and hundreds of the strikers themselves were returned service-

men. Said one picket captain: "If the Army comes, there'll be one big strike, from coast to coast."

George Burt, Canadian regional director of the UAW, claimed in a

(Continued on page 2)

Bitter fighting continues in the Dutch East Indies as the British forces, employing warships, planes, tanks and infantry have driven into the important naval base of Surabaya. The resistance of the Indonesian republican forces is still strong. They are fighting hard to achieve their independence not only from the Dutch, but the British as well.

No other event since the war began indicates the policies of the United Nations as this one. The republican forces have appealed to the United States and Russia to intervene in their behalf. But this is like calling one gang of imperialist brigands to oust another. The United States has made no response to the Indonesian plea; neither has Russia. To the everlasting shame of the British Labor Party, its officials head a labor government which pursues an imperialist policy no different from that of Churchill.

British Prime Minister Attlee is in Washington making speeches about the end of imperialism and the wonders of freedom while British military forces engage in a war against the republican movement of the Indonesians. This time is not one of the Crown colonies which is involved, but an imperialist possession of the Netherlands. But if Great Britain has no business in the East Indies, neither have the Dutch.

The great pressure of the imperialists has already resulted in a change in the republican cabinet. President Soekarno remains in his post in a new cabinet which retains only one member from the old. The new Foreign Minister and real head of the unrecognized republican government

is Sutan Sjahrir, referred to as a "youthful socialist leader," but a moderate.

Sjahrir has already expressed himself critically of the Indonesian youth "for committing all sorts of crimes." Obviously their main crime is that they have been fighting for independence and demanding the ouster of all imperialist rulers and their armed forces. But the real criminals in this situation are the Dutch, the British and the United Nations Organization, which is stony silent while two of its members proceed to violate the right of a subject colonial nation to assert its freedom.

Labor in the United States and all over the world must raise the cry against the Dutch and British: Get out of Indonesia!

All support to the Indonesian people in their struggle for freedom and independence!

By JESSIE KAAREN

Two news stories concerning the British Empire occupied front page prominence in most of the New York newspapers a few days ago, each of these stories being such a bitter commentary on the other, that it almost seemed their arrangement side by side was planned instead of being accidental, as it actually was. In the outside column was a description of Prime Minister Attlee's speech on leaving England for the United States to discuss the atom bomb with President Truman. It was captioned, "Atom Bomb Killed Imperialism, Attlee Declares." The story to the left of it was headed, "Ultimatum Served by British in Java."

"India's independence has been there for the asking," said Attlee.

(Continued on page 4)

British Again Foment Arab-Jewish Riots

That the British Colonial Office in Palestine has resumed its 1936 role of fomenting Arab-Jewish riots is revealed in a press dispatch from the Overseas News Service, which names names, gives dates and mentions specific places.

One such incident concerns an Arab gang chieftain who has been hiding since 1936 to escape arrest in connection with the riots. He was recently encouraged to return to his homeland, which he did on being promised immunity. He was assisted with agricultural machinery and livestock. Two months ago, he was approached by a Palestine government agent and reminded of his obligations. He was asked to organize Arab gangs in his area for the purpose of "resisting Jewish aggression." He was assured of financial aid, firearms and other equipment.

Several weeks ago, a deputy inspector of the Palestine police visited an Arab village which is situated near a Jewish community. The villagers were told by this inspector that the Jews were preparing to attack and he advised them not to wait but to go after the Jews themselves. He also promised them all the necessary arms.

These inflammatory attempts, of which there have been many, have not been successful as yet because the Arabs are suspicious of the British, fearing that they are about to be used to start a war which the British will use to annihilate Jews and Arabs.

The Jewish underground radio of the Haganah, resistance movement of the "Histadruth" (federation of labor unions and parties), has made numerous charges of similar British actions. The government has not denied any of them. It is well known, for example, that most of the Arab leaders who were exiled as a result of their activities in the 1936 fighting and also in the Nazi inspired uprising in Iraq a few years ago, have been encouraged to return and that these chiefs who are mainly followers of the Grand Mufti are very friendly with the British.

The desire of the Jewish masses for an open door to further immigration and the need of the Arab masses to shake off feudal domination and the British imperialist grip, make them natural allies. Should the critical turn of events during the next few years give rise to a unified Arab-Jewish revolutionary movement for independence this movement would be able to strike a real blow against British imperialism and for independence.

For a full story on the Palestinian situation, see story by J. K. on Page Four of this issue of LABOR ACTION.

How Frankenstein Was Defeated

By MARTIN HARVEY

DETROIT—Mayor Edward Jeffries defeated UAW-CIO Vice-President Richard T. Frankenstein by over 57,000 votes in the Detroit mayoralty campaign. Marking the campaign was the extreme bitterness of the electioneering and the record vote of 501,047 which surpassed the previous record for a purely municipal election of over 400,000 votes in the so-called labor campaign of 1937 when the UAW first endorsed a full slate of candidates.

During the whole campaign the initiative was in the hands of the reactionary Jeffries. It was he who determined the issues and set the tone of the campaign. Outstanding in the issues presented by Jeffries was the race question. Jeffries organized a widespread undercover anti-Negro campaign which surpassed his vicious use of the question in the last municipal election. The central idea was white supremacy in the City Hall and the maintenance of the "purity" of the all-white neighborhoods.

Spearheading this anti-Negro campaign were several bitterly reactionary neighborhood papers such as the Strathmore Home Gazette and the Redford Record, which were given city-wide distribution and which featured such front-page scareheads as "White Neighborhoods Again in Peril—Frankenstein Policy Up on Housing Negroes Here." Combined with this was the secret distribution of thousands of unsigned little cards, which first made their appearance in the last local election, which were distributed in white neighborhoods to spread the fear that the Negroes were attempting to take over the city through Frankenstein. A typical inscription on these cards, which bore no union label, was: "FORWARD! NEGROES! Unite with Frankenstein for Mayor. We Negroes Gave 21,572 Votes to Frankenstein in Primary. LET'S PUT HIM IN NOV. 6. A Negro Vote for Frankenstein Is a Blow to White Exclusive Areas."

These same elements, however, distributed leaflets in Negro neighborhoods charging Frankenstein and the UAW with being anti-Negro. In the same way they initiated a whispering campaign charging that Frankenstein was Jewish, yet distributed

newspapers in the Jewish neighborhoods charging Frankenstein with being a friend of Father Coughlin and an anti-Semite. Even the regular daily press gave support to this campaign by featuring prominently news items on the extent of Frankenstein's Negro support and charging repeatedly that Frankenstein represented only a minority of the population.

The second major issue in Jeffries' campaign which was constantly combined with the first was the "red scare" and the charge that the CIO wanted to take over the city. On both of these issues Frankenstein devoted his time to denying the charges. He did not represent the Negroes, he said, but all the people. He was not a red and the CIO did not want to take over the city. He offered no program for the Negroes to put an end to the discrimination and segregation to which they are subjected and he offered no program to labor or the people as a whole on the many vital problems which exist, foremost among them being jobs and security. His only positive statements were devoted to presenting himself as more efficient, as more concerned with improved bus service and cleaner alleys. Without an aggressive program for

labor and the people, without calling on the middle class to support labor in this program, it was impossible for Frankenstein to answer the viciously reactionary charges of Jeffries. If his denials are valid, that is, if he does not represent labor but "all the people," then why should anyone support him rather than Jeffries, who claims the same thing? If his denials are not true, that is, if he does represent labor, then why should the middle class, the storekeepers, the professionals, etc., support Frankenstein when they see no difference between "labor's" program and Jeffries' program?

With Frankenstein presenting no program, it was easy for the middle class voter to be fooled into thinking that there was some undercover plot involved in which CIO officials were going to use the city government for their own mysterious ends. The result was a sharp division between labor and the middle class which rallied to Jeffries. The key to labor's participation in politics is the question of how this can be prevented.

There is only one answer—and that answer has been tested by events in the United States and in European

(Continued on page 3)

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Windsor Ford's Militant Strike --

(Continued from page 1)

press release that the union had evidence that the provincial police had been sent to Windsor on "trumped-up" charges. Under the camouflage of "protection of life and property," police were brought in to help the company take more men into its plants. The union allowed five watchmen per shift to enter. The company has used every trick in the book, except negotiation with the union on its strike demands, to get more men through the lines. Through its fire insurance underwriters, the company appealed to the government for more protection against fire inside its \$35 million plants. Ever alive to the needs of "private property," the government lost no time in granting the company's request. But the government has thus far taken no steps to force the company to negotiate with the union and thereby put an end to the so-called fire danger.

The famous coal pile which is supposed to be burning and the gas tank near the power house which is supposed to be in danger of exploding are a big joke to the pickets at the power house, who can easily see through the company's fake claims. It was for protection against these two hazards that outside police were sent in. The union knows, however, that two additional shiploads of coal have been added to the pile without a request to the fire department by the company to extinguish the "smoldering fire," and that the gas tanks were shut off on October 1, thereby eliminating the danger of leakage. In addition, the union has offered to let

the fire department in at any time for inspection.

WHY THE STRIKE

Every person on the picket line is familiar with the issues involved in this magnificent strike. For seventeen months the union has been negotiating with Ford on terms of a contract. The company refuses to grant the union's demands on any important issues. These include: guaranteed annual wage, no reduction in take-home pay, union shop and check-off, two weeks' vacation with pay, proper grievance procedure.

In an information bulletin on their strike demands, the union states, in regard to its wage demands: "The Ford workers are on strike for an annual wage which will guarantee that they will receive sufficient money to keep their wives and families for the entire year. We know the company can afford to pay because we have the figures on the amount of money they made during the war and previous to the war. The Ford Motor Co. made \$27 million during the war before taxes were paid. They paid out \$9 million in dividends and added \$8 million to their cash reserves after taxes. They will also obtain a refund of \$1,703,000 on their taxes. The assets of the company increased from \$68 million to \$95 million."

On the subject of grievance procedure and collective bargaining, the union says: "The company will agree to recognition of stewards and committeemen but insists on certain regulations which confine the stew-

ard or committeeman to such an extent that it is almost impossible to operate the collective agreement. We feel that the collective agreement should be used to prevent grievances from accruing. The company seems to think that it can cause as many grievances to accrue as it wishes because we have a grievance procedure in the agreement to take care of them. This is a misconception of the value of collective bargaining."

UNION-BUSTING DRIVE

Every worker in Windsor feels that the struggle of the Ford workers is his struggle. The Ford Motor Co. sets the pattern in Windsor. Victory for Ford workers will mean similar victories for all workers. One picket captain from Local 195 related, as an example, that Gar Wood Co., a subcontractor of Ford, was ready to grant his workers two weeks' vacation with pay, but was prevented by the threat of W. Campbell, Ford of Canada president, to cancel his contract.

Despite efforts of the federal Minister of Labor and other government conciliators, the company stands firm in its refusal to negotiate until the strikers go back to work. Thus Ford lives up to its reputation of being interested primarily in smashing the union movement.

So important is this strike that it has become the subject of discussion on the floor of the national Parliament. In Canada, unlike the United States, there are members of the Commons who were elected on the basis of a socialistic labor program—

members of the Canadian Commonwealth Federation. The CCF members have protested the use of the mounted police in Windsor and have made speeches giving full support to the strikers. One CCF member from Cape Breton stated: "Organized labor in this country recognizes that the Ford strike is not merely a struggle on the part of the Ford workers for union security or a slight increase in wages. It is the official demonstration on the part of industry in this province to smash the unions and trade union agreements. They are not going to sit idly by and see that take place in Windsor because they recognize it as the initial wedge being driven in, action that will be followed throughout the country."

Another CCF member of Parliament, from Winnipeg, in regard to the insurance companies' pleas for protection, said: "That was a sob story on behalf of property that really got under my skin. For many long weeks 10,000 workers and their families have been deprived of their livelihood. We could have been given a sob story on their behalf, but all we got was a flat 'No.'" Criticizing the government for sending Mounties to Windsor, he said: "This creates the impression that there is a war between the people of Canada and the workers of the Ford plant. That is not the case. The people of Canada are with the Ford strikers in their desire to achieve some measure of the industrial democracy and better standard of living which they believe this war was fought for."

LEFT JABS By SHAW

The British Broadcasting Corporation omitted transmitting one part of a speech by President Truman in which he expressed the "belief" that all peoples prepared for self-government should be allowed to choose their own form of government. Of course, this was qualified in the usual imperialist style: when they are ready for it. The part omitted read: "This is true in Europe, in Asia, in Africa, as well as in the Western Hemisphere." The reason given for the omission was that it was due to the necessity of cutting down the speech to fit into the time allotted. Wonder if they can hear BBC down in India, Burma, Malaya...

Britain, France, Russia and the U. S. are disputing over the number of repatriated Germans to take into their zones, pleading that there is neither food nor shelter for them. Maybe they could arrange for some kind of a no-man's land for them to starve to death conveniently in. Practically the only humanitarian note in the whole proceedings came from "our" big-hearted government, which has become wary of Russian attempts to send the worst physical specimens west and is insisting that refugees headed for the American zone must be fit or "we won't accept them."

either the time or the money to save lives. One fine day the workers will finally get fed up, take matters into their own hands and set up a workers' government that will aid in SAVING lives, not in DESTROYING them.

The British have decided to forego the practice of giving large cash gifts to the heads of the armed forces as a reward for their services. After the First World War a field marshal and an admiral of the fleet each received \$500,000. Wonder how much that comes to per corpse?

SHORT SHORT STORY The papers report that sixty per cent of the Poles in Britain prefer not to go home.

TOTALITARIAN CULTURE DEPARTMENT:

In matters controversial My perception's fine: I can see both points of view, The one that's wrong... and mine.

Labor Notes From Buffalo

By JOHN BARNES

Even past masters of the art of deception can't fool all of the people all of the time. Less than five hundred Buffalo workers responded to the rally call of the CIO Council Committee to Maintain Take-Home Pay, which officially launched its "fight" for the 30 per cent and \$2.00 a day increase Sunday, November 4. Remembering the hackneyed hash handed out at previous rallies with labor's "friends," sleek pork-choppers and sell-out Stalinists in the spotlight, the rank and file thus showed clearly that it is fast losing faith in the tactics, program and misleaders of the past.

This latest polished performance, with the same unholy trio in the saddle, was but a continuation of the "hot air and cold water" policy still dominant here. Headed by Hugh Thompson, regional CIO director and living model of a bureaucratic success story, eight representatives of CIO internationals (five well known Stalinists among them), one priest

(public member of the Civic Full Employment Committee) and one AFL head took their turn before the microphone.

Without exception all repeated, in tiring detail, labor's case as regards the pressing need for wage increases and most, with great fervor and relish, brought forth to some degree the militant phrases and sentiments of the pre-war years. Individually each had a flavor of his own; one bemoaned the passing of President Roosevelt as a blow being felt at the present and concluded with the jewel of logic that local workers should begin to seek the local solution in one Tom Holling, Democratic Party and ALP mayoralty candidate; one admitted that "telegrams and resolutions are not enough"; another thundered that "we must take care of some congressmen"; still another quoted at length from William Jennings Bryan, Abraham Lincoln, Walter Reuther and George Addes.

Not one spoke of the absolute need of channelling the struggle into the political field; not one even so much

as mentioned an Independent Labor Party.

In the closing minutes of the meeting a collection was made toward the beginning of a pro-labor propaganda campaign in the press and radio and a statement of policy was passed putting the assemblage on record as being in favor of the raises asked.

This writer has many times in the past analyzed the role and performance of the local labor leadership. This rally changes nothing. In fact, this leadership is now, more than ever, bankrupt and incapable. The "friends" of labor, the tight-laced bureaucrats and the Stalinists have not, singly or collectively, the program or the will labor must have to achieve a genuine victory. The task of the rank and file militants continues to be the adoption of a program such as advanced by the Workers Party with the formation of an Independent Labor Party as a program spearhead. Real victory, concrete gains, cannot be hoped for or realized without such a program.

The New York Election Results --

(Continued from page 1)

joint vote is about 5200, an increase of about 2,000 votes for the left-wing socialist candidates. It still indicates that there is a long, hard road ahead to break the working class from capitalist parties.

WHAT OF LABOR POLITICS

The elections were a defeat for independent labor action, and a blow at the policies of labor collaboration with the capitalist parties. The American Labor Party which is composed of an alliance between the Communist Party and Sidney Hillman was in the vanguard of the campaign for O'Dwyer. They really carried the ball

for O'Dwyer, an unimpressive Democratic machine politician, and virtually flooded the city with their literature and loud speakers.

Despite the outpouring of money and energy, the vote of the ALP was far below expectation. They received a vote of 260,000, which is 130,000 votes less than they garnered for Roosevelt in 1944. And further evidence of their lack of appeal can be clearly seen through a comparison of votes with the Stalinist councilman candidates who ran openly as Communist Party candidates and received almost as many votes as O'Dwyer did on the ALP line.

The conclusion is obvious. Most of

the votes for the ALP were cast by Stalinists and their fellow travelers. And what is still clearer is the bankruptcy of the ALP which, excluding the Stalinists, failed to crack any large section of the New York working class. The New Yorkers just couldn't see the logic of voting for O'Dwyer as an ALP candidate, when they could cast a much more honest vote for him as the candidate of Tammany Hall.

The Liberal Party suffered a still more ignominious defeat. Their vote decreased from about 310,000 cast on their line for Roosevelt in 1944, to a mere 125,000 for Judge Jonah Goldstein, also the candidate of the Republican Party.

The Liberal Party played real power politics in their selection of a candidate. They made a deal with Governor Dewey and the Republican machine and picked Goldstein whose entire life in politics has been that of a Tammany hack. As a matter of fact, Goldstein had been bickering for the Democratic nomination just before he was offered the Republican-Liberal nomination.

Dewey and the Liberals thought they were playing smart politics. They calculated on the same vote that had swept LaGuardia into office for three consecutive terms. Besides they figured that Goldstein would get the so-called "Jewish vote."

FOR THE FUTURE

LaGuardia was the third main factor in the election. Unable to procure a major nomination for himself, he ran his protégé Newbold Morris as an independent candidate, thus insuring the victory of O'Dwyer. It has been rumored that LaGuardia made

a deal with Tammany, and in return for running Morris, Tammany will give him the nomination for U. S. Senator from New York State in 1946.

This is the background of the nominations for Mayor. The Communist-Hillman ALP supported O'Dwyer because he is "carrying out the progressive Roosevelt policies, etc." The Liberal Party selected a Tammany hack together with the reactionary Dewey "to further good government." Is it any wonder that this was one of the most dispirited campaigns in the history of New York City politics.

The capitalist parties spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on their campaign. Their speeches were heard constantly on the radio. It is difficult for a working class party to compete with the capitalist parties and their almost unlimited resources. Only with a labor candidate, and only with a working class program can these obstacles be overcome.

WHAT THE WP DID

The Workers Party entered this campaign with no illusions about the outcome. It is not a big electoral party. When it made the decision to enter the campaign, it was with the understanding that it would utilize the campaign to reach as many workers as possible with the program of revolutionary socialism, the program of the Workers Party.

The Workers Party is very proud of its accomplishments in this election campaign. It realizes that its main task in the coming period is to lead the working class of New York from its reliance on capitalist candidates and capitalist parties to genuine independent labor political action.

U. S. Steel Profits--

(Continued from page 1)

Fairless is playing a phony game. First he refused to bargain with the union and its representatives. Then, in the face of a public request by Secretary of Labor Schwelienbach that he engage in collective bargaining, although Schwelienbach clearly indicated the spirit of the whole farcical "labor-management conference" now going on in Washington by saying that "the government is not insisting upon any agreement from your corporation as to a wage increase"—Fairless replied that it is impossible for U. S. Steel to raise wages, because it can't AFFORD them unless steel price ceilings are raised by OPA.

This is a lying statement. U. S. Steel presents published reports showing its profits after taxes to be only about a third larger than they were before the war. The reports also indicate that U. S. Steel's profits have diminished drastically since 1941—or all during the war-boom years. Government analysis find that, on the contrary, U. S. Steel's real profits were more than THREE TIMES HIGHER last year than they were in the years immediately preceding the war. Here are the figures as U. S. Steel sees them, and as the government presents them:

Table with 3 columns: Year, U. S. Steel Figures, Government Figures. Rows for 1936-39 (av.), 1941, and 1942.

Table with 3 columns: Year, U. S. Steel Figures, Government Figures. Rows for 1943 and 1944.

The reason for the tremendous difference in these two columns—an average of around FIFTY-SIX MILLION DOLLARS—is hidden profits. In reporting their yearly figures, U. S. Steel hides this amount in fake "pension reserves," which will never be paid to any employees, and in padded "amortization" or depreciation of equipment figures, covering depreciation and devaluation of factories and machines that didn't take place.

Even if U. S. Steel did not report its profits 100 per cent correctly to the government, they could afford to give the wage increases that the Steel Workers are demanding. SIXTY MILLION odd dollars that they call profits is money made by the sweat of the Steel Workers of America. It rightly belongs to them as wages—not in the pockets, safety vaults and bank accounts of coupon clippers who didn't lift a finger to earn it.

Philip Murray is right in demanding a straight yes or no answer to the Steel Workers' demands. It is high time Fairless and U. S. Steel stopped telling lies about their profits and demanding "relief" from the OPA. What they mean is a "No" answer to Philip Murray. They are afraid to give it flatly because they are afraid a million striking steel workers will change their decision to "Yes."

With the Workers Party

In the future we will run a regular column on the activities of all the branches of the Workers Party. We ask all comrades to send in reports of activities, meetings, classes, etc.

We wish to take the occasion of this first column to correct an understandable oversight.

It has been called to our attention that in the final report of the PARTY BUILDING FUND in the October 15 issue of LABOR ACTION, we omitted special mention to the San Francisco Branch.

Not only should the San Francisco Branch of the Workers Party have received special mention, but the highest honors. Our comrades there not only showed their extraordinary devotion by raising almost three times their quota, but besides financial assistance they have been extremely active in the struggle of labor.

The San Francisco comrades sent in a total of \$718.50. Their original quota was \$250. Hats off to all in Frisco.

The Los Angeles Branch of the Workers Party takes this opportunity to announce the opening of its new headquarters: Labor Action, 127 South Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif. Readers of LABOR ACTION, please take note.

The headquarters of the Detroit Branch of the Workers Party, located at 3773 Gratiot, is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LABOR ACTION has already received our article on the anti-Smith picket line in Oakland. A letter was delivered to the organizer of the Socialist Workers Party the day we found out that Smith was to be in the Bay area.

The organizer of the SWP, in response to our proposal to organize a joint campaign against Smith, stated that before we could discuss matters of a joint committee we would have to thrash out whether there was indeed sufficient tactical agreement between our two organizations to warrant joint action.

They started out by stating that their idea was to mobilize the labor movement and that all efforts should be bent toward that aim. We agreed that this came first and pointed out that on the previous night one of our friends had introduced, in the Sailors Union of the Pacific, a resolution

attacking Smith, which carried; that copies of this resolution would be sent to the AFL Council and all shoreside unions. They mentioned the fact that they, too, were trying to get resolutions passed in several local unions.

We pointed out to them the Detroit experience, where the Stalinist-dominated CIO Council passed a resolution to demonstrate against Smith, but that it was necessary for us to take the initiative in distributing leaflets to the membership of the various unions, to inform them of the decision of the CIO Council and to call on them to join the picket line against Smith.

WE WENT AHEAD

The SWP flatly rejected our suggestion that we issue joint leaflets in order to back the authority of the picketing with two organizations and assure a wider circulation of the leaflets through joining forces. The SWP flatly rejected our suggestion that the two organizations try to mobilize a picket line, even if the CIO should not move.

The SWP finally again flatly rejected the formation of a joint strategy committee even though we were the only two organizations which agree that fascism must be met by direct, organized action of the working class.

After Smith's San Francisco meeting had been stopped, and his OAK-

land meeting announced, we contacted the SWP again. They still would not move without the labor movement, embodied in the Council for Civic Unity, a group of CIO, Negro, Jewish and other liberal groups. We could not wait for them. There were two big union meetings to which leaflets had to be distributed on the very night the SWP had to meet to make up its mind. Everyone knew by this time that a picket line would be formed.

THE PICKET LINE

So we went ahead, put out leaflets and arrived early at the picket line. Our captain, with the assistance of the YPSL captain, took charge of the whole line. The Cannonites arrived after a couple hundred people were already marching and refused to join the line until the Council for Civic Unity showed up.

By 7:30 in the evening, when the Council sound truck appeared, there were over 1,500 marchers in the line. Our picket captain continued to direct the line, giving the slogans, talking to reporters and leading in the singing. The sound truck then took over and began turning the picket line into one of those namby-pamby affairs, talking about the "united community," issuing injunctions to the marchers to stand and sing "God Bless America." At nine o'clock the sound truck began exhorting the picketers to sing the "Star Spangled Banner," leave their placards and to go home. It was impossible to overcome the power of a sound truck and shortly afterward the line ended.

After the line had gone home, a number of us went into the Smith meeting. Smith was roundly booed by some thirty or more people from the rear of the hall. His audience consisted of about 150 people from the Ham and Egg organization.—G. H.

DETROIT—The Debs Club of Wayne University heard Ben Hall, organizer of the Workers Party, speak on "The Communist Manifesto" at its meeting on Friday, November 2.

After explaining the historic significance of the Manifesto, Comrade Hall showed how the Communist and Socialist Parties of the world had betrayed its principles. These false socialist parties must be denounced just as vigorously as Marx and Engels denounced the spurious socialism of their time, he said.

He concluded by appealing to all real socialists to join in building a party that truly carries on the traditions of the immortal Communist Manifesto.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S PRESS ACTION

BY PAUL BERN

If you're so damn smart— WHY AIN'T YOU RICH? Since we started to write this column a few smart alecks around this office, jealous of our tremendous fan mail, have been plaguing us with that question.

Of course, we are much poorer than the famous church mouse, but LABOR ACTION is certainly getting ahead. Unfortunately, LABOR ACTION is not yet rich, but it sure is getting new friends, new subscribers every week. And right now that's the wealth we treasure more than the capitalistic green stuff.

Last week we set one hundred new subscriptions per week as our mark.

To our gratified surprise we achieved that mark this week.

Table with 2 columns: City, Subscriptions. Rows for New York City, Buffalo, Cleveland, Akron, Michigan, Reading.

Let's see if we can hit the hundred mark every week!

There are many Workers Party Branches whose names have not appeared in the sub column for many weeks. How about getting into this column every week?

GET ANOTHER SUBSCRIPTION THIS WEEK! SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Turn to page 4 for Emanuel Garrett's article on our monthly magazine, The New International.

Since every LABOR ACTION reader will want to become a subscriber to The New International we have—

Philadelphia 7

New Jersey 9

Streator 3

Chicago 3

Missouri 12

Los Angeles 10

Other States 6

Total 102

Let's see if we can hit the hundred mark every week!

There are many Workers Party Branches whose names have not appeared in the sub column for many weeks. How about getting into this column every week?

GET ANOTHER SUBSCRIPTION THIS WEEK! SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Turn to page 4 for Emanuel Garrett's article on our monthly magazine, The New International.

Since every LABOR ACTION reader will want to become a subscriber to The New International we have—

Philadelphia 7

New Jersey 9

Streator 3

Chicago 3

Missouri 12

Los Angeles 10

Other States 6

Total 102

Let's see if we can hit the hundred mark every week!

There are many Workers Party Branches whose names have not appeared in the sub column for many weeks. How about getting into this column every week?

GET ANOTHER SUBSCRIPTION THIS WEEK! SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Turn to page 4 for Emanuel Garrett's article on our monthly magazine, The New International.

Since every LABOR ACTION reader will want to become a subscriber to The New International we have—

Philadelphia 7

New Jersey 9

Streator 3

Chicago 3

Missouri 12

Los Angeles 10

Other States 6

Total 102

Let's see if we can hit the hundred mark every week!

There are many Workers Party Branches whose names have not appeared in the sub column for many weeks. How about getting into this column every week?

GET ANOTHER SUBSCRIPTION THIS WEEK! SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Turn to page 4 for Emanuel Garrett's article on our monthly magazine, The New International.

Since every LABOR ACTION reader will want to become a subscriber to The New International we have—

Philadelphia 7

New Jersey 9

Streator 3

Chicago 3

Missouri 12

Los Angeles 10

Other States 6

Total 102

Let's see if we can hit the hundred mark every week!

There are many Workers Party Branches whose names have not appeared in the sub column for many weeks. How about getting into this column every week?

GET ANOTHER SUBSCRIPTION THIS WEEK! SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Turn to page 4 for Emanuel Garrett's article on our monthly magazine, The New International.

Since every LABOR ACTION reader will want to become a subscriber to The New International we have—

Philadelphia 7

New Jersey 9

Streator 3

Chicago 3

Missouri 12

Los Angeles 10

Other States 6

Total 102

Let's see if we can hit the hundred mark every week!

There are many Workers Party Branches whose names have not appeared in the sub column for many weeks. How about getting into this column every week?

GET ANOTHER SUBSCRIPTION THIS WEEK! SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Turn to page 4 for Emanuel Garrett's article on our monthly magazine, The New International.

Since every LABOR ACTION reader will want to become a subscriber to The New International we have—

Philadelphia 7

New Jersey 9

Streator 3

Chicago 3

Missouri 12

Los Angeles 10

Other States 6

Total 102

Let's see if we can hit the hundred mark every week!

There are many Workers Party Branches whose names have not appeared in the sub column for many weeks. How about getting into this column every week?

GET ANOTHER SUBSCRIPTION THIS WEEK! SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Turn to page 4 for Emanuel Garrett's article on our monthly magazine, The New International.

Since every LABOR ACTION reader will want to become a subscriber to The New International we have—

Philadelphia 7

New Jersey 9

Streator 3

Chicago 3

Missouri 12

Los Angeles 10

Other States 6

Total 102

Let's see if we can hit the hundred mark every week!

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

Published Weekly by the
Labor Action Publishing Ass'n
114 West 14th Street, New York 11, N. Y.
CH. 2-9681 (Third Floor)

Vol. 9, No. 47

November 19, 1945

ALBERT GATES, Editor
MARY BELL, Ass't Editor

Subscription Rate: 60c a Year; 35c for 6 Mos. (75c-40c for Canada, Foreign, New York City, Bronx)
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

Editorials

Support Indonesian Freedom!

The present struggle in Indonesia is not a test of the sincerity of the United Nations. That test was made long ago in the European war. If anyone still believes that the United Nations, the big imperialists and the small, stand for freedom, security and peace, he is not living in this world. The situation in Indonesia is merely one more flagrant example of the imperialist policies pursued by the victorious powers.

Great Britain retains her empire with the force of arms. Everywhere she fights desperately to prevent the freedom of the colonial peoples who are her subjects. But Great Britain does not confine her activities to the empire's possessions. No, she pokes her imperialist snout into the whole colonial world, helping the French to retain possession over Indo-China and now she is busily engaged in forcing the Indonesians to remain colonials of the Dutch.

If the British win, they will have succeeded, by the force of superior armies and the silent support of Russia and the United States, in compelling 60,000,000 Indonesians to remain the subject people of the Netherlands with a population of 8,000,000.

The United States has already rejected the plea of the Indonesian republicans to intervene in their behalf. The Administration is too occupied with the great problem of achieving American domination over the whole world to assist a struggling colonial people in their fight for independence. Instead, Congress listens very courteously to a speech by the British Prime

Minister and applauds his hypocritical comments about the necessity of freedom and peace.

Russia, busy gobbling up territory in Europe and Asia and creating satellite states in countries adjacent to her, cannot now take time out to intervene for the Indonesians, unless... unless it suits her foreign policy and fits in with the strategy of her own conflicts with Great Britain and the United States in Europe and Asia.

The real hope for the Indonesian people lies in the continuation of the great struggle they are now engaged in—pressing harder the fight for independence. This struggle must receive the support of all oppressed and exploited peoples throughout the world.

Labor must take the lead in the fight for the freedom of the Indonesians and all colonial peoples. The success of their fight will deal a death-blow to imperialism which is not only the enemy of the colonial people but of all who labor in order to live.

The war just ended had nothing whatever to do with freedom, security or peace. It was fought by the big powers to save the world for Allied imperialism. But such a victory can do the people of the world no good. Only freedom from exploitation, freedom from imperialism can create a new and better world. The struggle of the Indonesians is part of that great fight.

For the independence of Indonesia!
Oust the Dutch and British from the East Indies!
All support to the Indonesian people!

Situation on the Wage Front

The refusal of Congress to act on any bills relating to wages, job insurance and unemployment compensation is a deliberate slap at the workers of this country. This body of capitalist politicians, which acts with such haste on all legislation calculated to assist big business, to guarantee its profits, to give it price increases and tax refunds, tells labor: all we expect from you is to work hard when there is work, at whatever wages big business is willing to give you, and to keep the peace when there is no work and your unemployment compensation means that you and your families will starve.

One of the reasons Congress is able to get away with it is that they do not fear any retaliation from the labor leaders who direct the destinies of the CIO, AFL and the independent unions. These labor leaders talk a great deal about wages and the need of fighting to maintain labor's living standards. But they spend most of their

time actually trying to prevent the development of a militant struggle by the workers for their just demands.

Instead of organizing and leading the fight in behalf of the workers, the labor officials continue in the absolutely fruitless (for labor) game of pressuring the very same politicians who have made labor's position so difficult. The labor leaders continue to support these politicians politically when the crying need of the workers is a party of their own, independent from the capitalist parties.

Labor needs a militant union policy of struggle to win its demands on the wage front.

Labor needs its own political party, a real Labor Party, to carry on its fight on the political front.

Achieve these two things and the labor movement will have truly advanced with seven league boots.

The Camera Eye

By LIBBIE COLEMAN

LOVE ON THE DOLE, at the World Theater. Love on the Dole is the story of Hankey Park during the dark days of the early thirties in England. The people who live there—workers, the houses they live in—slums, and the conditions of their harried lives are the components of Love on the Dole.

Many things appear in this movie of a London slum. Through the Hardcastle family we see the daily routine of existence for these people. This family of four, of whom the father and both the children are working, live in a small box of a house, with no electricity, no plumbing. The kitchen is the living room, the bedroom is shared by the boy and girl with only a curtain hanging down the center of the double bed to give a makeshift privacy. The Hardcastles breakfast on a balled egg, split three or four ways, with a piece of bread for substance. And then off to the factory to earn enough to provide for another day like the one before.

Such a life can be bearable only when the certainty of the pay check makes up somewhat for its pitiful meagerness. But as the great depression creeps over England and one factory after another lays off the majority of its working force or closes down entirely, even this certainty vanishes. Thereupon the dole makes its appearance, to become the mainstay of life for most of the families of Hankey Park.

Sally and Harry Hardcastle are the young peo-

ple, and in them we see the hopes and frustrations of a whole generation. Harry in his new suit goes courting his girl, takes her to Blackpool for a week of unbelievable luxury on his racehorse winnings. Then with the loss of his job and the coming of their baby his aspirations for a home and security turn to despair and he joins the millions of young-old men without a future. The physical and moral disintegration, the family split asunder in a decaying world are made powerfully graphic.

In the case of Sal and her lover, Tom, the crisis becomes more apparent. Tom, a Labor Party man, is the voice of salvation to the dispossessed of Hankey Park. The message he preaches is organization of the working people in the Labor Party, with overtones of a future socialist economy. But here the voice is weak, the problem misunderstood. No tool nor any method, beyond a Labor Party, is suggested for the realization of such a goal. And when Tom is killed by a policeman, a representative of the constitutional order he sought to uphold, in a workers' march which he sought to divert, the irony is inescapable. There is certainly a lesson here in what is left unsaid. Love on the Dole did not state the final, the obvious conclusion—that a revolutionary socialist party must be the lever, working through labor's party, by which society can reconstitute itself as a socialist order.

This omission is perhaps to be expected. It may only be a source of wonder that the picture is as honest as it is. For there is a vengeful bitterness in the prosaic facts of these lives which speaks louder than words. For those who see it, Love on the Dole is a movie that will not be forgotten soon.

An Analysis of GM's Proposal

LONG HOURS DEPRESS WAGES

By ERNEST LUND

General Motors, through its president, Charles E. Wilson, has proposed that labor work a forty-five hour week at straight time with a slight hourly increase in order to earn as much per week as it did during the war on overtime wages.

Two weeks ago we discussed the peculiar reasoning behind this proposition. We pointed out that it was designed to appeal to the worker's desire to earn living weekly wages and try, thereby, to induce the worker to forget how many hours he must work to get them.

We pointed out that Karl Marx had long ago shown that under capitalism the wage level is regulated but not determined, in the main, by the cost of living. That is, the capitalist buys (i. e., hires) labor power in a market at a price whose value is based upon what it takes to produce and maintain the laborer.

However, there is another side to it. Wages are also affected by the competition among workers for the available jobs. This is really the law of supply and demand as it operates in the labor market. When there are many workers available and few jobs to be had, the bargaining power is all on the side of the capitalist. Those workers who are unemployed for a long time will be inclined to accept less in order to get a job and earn a living for themselves and families.

INDUSTRIAL RESERVE ARMY
Marx pointed out that it is the normal and necessary condition for capitalism to have this backlog of unemployed workers or the industrial reserve army, as he called it. It is the existence of this reserve army that acts as the great weight that constantly tends to press wages down to and below the cost of living.

We saw what happened during the war when industry, absorbed the unemployed and the industrial reserve army vanished. Labor was

placed in a very strong position to bargain for higher wages. If a worker did not get what he asked for on one job he could always go out and get another one for more money. "But wait," you say, "what about the job freeze and the wage freeze?" Of course, we have not forgotten them. But they just prove our point. Capitalism could not operate during the war without an industrial reserve army to drive down wages to and below the cost of living. It was therefore necessary that in the place of this industrial reserve there was set up a government power to hold down wages and freeze workers to their jobs.

It is one of the economic laws of capitalism that the greater the number of unemployed workers, the greater is the pressure upon wage levels. Conversely, the fewer the number of unemployed workers, the more easily the employed workers are able to increase their wages.

While always seeking to make workers work longer hours, the capitalists, especially in times of depression, seek to lengthen the hours of work. By doing this they achieve two aims. In the first place, they find it easier to reduce the hourly rate of a worker who is, let us say, working forty-five hours a week than of a worker who is working thirty hours. The forty-five-hour man feels that even with a cut in hourly rates he is still able to earn a living by the long week he works. The thirty-hour man, however, will be inclined to resist an hourly cut all the more because his short week already leaves him with a slender weekly income. We see therefore, that even though a worker is paid by the hour and not by the week, longer hours tend to result in more work for less money.

The second aim that the capitalist achieves with longer hours is that the number of unemployed is greater. If fifty per cent of the workers are employed sixty hours a week and the other fifty per cent

are not working at all, those not working will prove such a pressure upon wages that those working may in the end earn in sixty hours what they formerly earned in forty.

HOURS AND WAGES

If, however, the workers were 100 per cent employed at thirty hours each, the absence of any army of unemployed to beat down wages would mean that all the bargaining power would be in labor's hands and they could strike to increase hourly rates.

We see, therefore, that there is a relationship between long hours and low wages and between short hours and high wages. The longer the hours, the lower the hourly rate in the end. The shorter the hours, the higher the hourly rate in the end.

This, of course, is not merely theory any longer. The long years of experience of the trade union movement have proved it to the hilt. It is a lesson that every worker must remember. It is because of this that the auto workers must fight against the scheme of General Motors to dangle a long work week in front of them as an inducement to get a big weekly wage. The long work week will only mean more unemployed auto workers. This in turn will only mean more men driven to desperation by want and used as a pressure to batter down the wage rates of the employed.

The auto workers, together with the workers in steel, rubber, radio and machinery—in short, the working class as a whole—should today stand for a thirty-hour week and an increase in hourly rates sufficient to maintain the wartime take-home pay. This is the road to more jobs, shorter hours and higher wages. The scheme of General Motors is the road to fewer jobs, longer hours and lower wages.

Next week we will consider Mr. Wilson's arguments in behalf of longer hours as a means to increase production.

DEMOBILIZATION

The Servicemen As Hostages

By JOE LEONARD

The "duration" ends on the homefront—but the "duration plus six months" is withheld for the men who fought.

Even before the formal surrender terms were signed, most of the wartime restrictions were abolished. OPA abolished the rationing; ODT abolished travel restrictions; OWI abolished itself altogether; WMC is tucked under the Department of Labor after abolishing wage, job and hour freeze; Congress rushes to abolish the excess profits tax. Priorities, rationing, ceilings, freezes, censorship, taxes—everything but military service. Those who got the sour end of the "equality of sacrifice" jokes during the war were given the sour end of the reconversion plan at the end of the war. The joys of victory, like the suffering and fighting, were by no means equally distributed.

The speed with which the administration ended the duration on the home front in fact, if not by pronouncement, stands in sharp contrast to the demobilization plans. It was bad enough in October, 1941, when the men who had been drafted for one year of peacetime military service were not released when their year of service was completed. Now, with no war on the horizon (at least they SAY there isn't) the Administration is trying to play the same game.

DECLARE THE DURATION

The Selective Service Law provides that a man can be deprived of his civilian rights only because of, and six months longer than, the threat of war or invasion. The war is over, but the politicians know, behind all the speeches about a lasting peace, that another war is in the offing. That is why President Truman will not announce that the duration has been reached. That would mean that the draftees must be released within six months. So, although the duration is obviously reached as far as the agencies and restrictions on the home front are concerned, the soldiers and sailors are forbidden their speedy enjoyment of victory. Obviously a demand that the President declare the date of the duration is in order.

The continuation of the Selective Service Law after the home front wartime measures have been abolished is not only unjustified, but undemocratic. It is for the American people to decide and discuss the question of universal peacetime military training. Congress neither discusses, nor votes, nor asks the people to discuss or vote. Congress simply pretends the war is still going on.

Millions of civilian war workers are being laid off. Some of them are being drafted, against their wishes and those of the majority of the American people, to serve under military discipline, at military wages, for an indefinite period of time. This is involuntary servitude, not justified by sanction of the people nor by the government's previous reason of war danger. Anyone but a Supreme Court Justice can see that it is involuntary servitude and unconstitutional.

But the government knows that the American people will not much longer tolerate the continuation of Selective Service. So it is preparing a bait—conscription for all youth. The Administration says, in effect, "We'll abolish the draft—after we pass another draft law." Heads we win, tails you lose. Do we have to pay a price to get rid of the draft boards?

SERVICEMEN AS HOSTAGES

The Administration has another bait. It is playing the civilians against the servicemen. The servicemen are the bait; they are being used as hostages. The brass hats say the men in uniform must be replaced by others before they can be released. A lot of ill feeling is being stirred up by this hostage system, but the Administration evidently hopes that servicemen and their families will support conscription if it is held up as a price to pay for getting a discharge. "Let us draft replacements, so we can send you home" is the line they are trying to sell the soldiers and sailors. We do not want peacetime conscription and we do not want ransom discharges with the liberty of those who have not been in uniform.

The Army and Navy are trying desperately to get enlistments. Reviews, public inspection of battalions, speeches, all kinds of inducements seem to have little effect in arousing militaristic spirit. Americans just don't want to be professional military men. And they don't want to continue serving under the professional military men they've met in this war.

The Administration and the brass hats have a hope, however: maybe when mass unemployment really clamps down on the country a year or two from now, men will be willing to enlist. But that means, if the Army and Navy are not to start building up from scratch again, that some men in service now must not be discharged until the new enlistments begin to come in. New draftees and hungry "volunteers"—it is for them that the brass hats are waiting. That is why they are stalling on discharges.

The demobilization problem is only one aspect of a larger problem—the problem of the next war. Not one single political leader of either big capitalist party has dared to promise that there will not be another war. Not one single "representative of the people" has dared to say: "We are making the peace as it should be made. We are winning the peace. There will be no more wars." After World War I everyone who believed there would be no more wars urged disarmament. Who do you see urging that now?

LOS ANGELES READERS:

LABOR ACTION FORUM

The British Labor Government —Will It Bring Socialism?

WHY DID LABOR WIN IN THE BRITISH ELECTIONS?

WHY DID FRANKENSTEIN LOSE IN THE DETROIT ELECTIONS?

THE FIGHT TO BUILD AN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY IN AMERICA...

Speaker: GORDON HASKELL

EMBASSY AUDITORIUM FRIDAY EVE.
843 Grand Street NOVEMBER 30

The Issue of Military Training

The issue of compulsory military training is at present one of the important problems facing the working class and the organized labor movement. A correct attitude toward it by the revolutionary socialist movement is essential to the development of a struggle against the conspiracy to establish permanent and compulsory military training.

In the article which appeared last week in LABOR ACTION on compulsory military training and a people's referendum by Susan Green, an editorial insertion was made which stated that we were for "military training only if it is under workers' control."

The editors are in receipt of a communication from Susan Green which says in part:

"I wish to state, in the columns of LABOR ACTION, that the following paragraph in the article 'For a People's Referendum on Compulsory Military Training' under my by-line, issue of November 13, was an insertion by the editors for which I am not responsible.

"Precisely because peacetime military training is aimed for a third imperialist world war and because the militarization of the youth is aimed for a third imperialist world war and because the militarization of the youth is aimed against labor, labor cannot be pacifist. LABOR ACTION therefore stands for military training only if it is under workers' control."

"The idea of 'military training under workers' control' does not express the position of the Workers Party or of LABOR ACTION, as far as I know, and I certainly do not subscribe to this false and confusing notion. It is in line with the fantastic SWP (Socialist Workers Party—Ed.) policy on training army officers under union control—with which we, of course, disagree. Whatever the editors had in mind, the formulation is wrong theoretically and most misleading in the article in question."

Comrade Green is partly correct in her objections. What is correct, is that the insertion quoted is "confusing" standing alone without the necessary qualification and explanation. The position of the Workers Party and LABOR ACTION should be clear from the many writings which appeared in the paper over a period of five years, and as recently as October 29 of this year. Writing on President Truman's proposal for universal and compulsory military training, the editors wrote:

"... we recognize the kind of world we live in, a world of increasing totalitarianism and fascism which stems from capitalist imperialism and war. We recognize the need for labor and all the exploited peoples who have no stake in capitalist-imperialist wars to defend themselves against aggression, domestic or foreign. Hence we believe that labor must be trained in the art of defending itself—not by the reactionary brass-hat-ridden Army and Navy, which is the military arm of the capitalist class, but through a workers' militia organized and controlled by labor."

MILITARY TRAINING—FOR WHAT?

Standing by itself, the slogan "military training only if it is under workers' control," is ambiguous and could be misleading, especially in view of the fact that the SWP has a thoroughly opportunist position on this question which rests on the premise: capitalist military training under union control. This is like saying: We are for the Truman government but under workers' control. In addition, the SWP position does not limit such military training to officers only. That is not our position. We are against any form of capitalist militarism, which is imperialist.

The slogan of "military training under workers' control" conceived of as a system of training independent from capitalist government and the professional military apparatus, is a class slogan, and is identical to the concept of a workers' militia, organized for the defense of the interests of the people against reaction and fascism.

While the idea contained in the above quotation is entirely abbreviated, it is nevertheless clear that we are:

1. Against capitalist compulsory military training because it is imperialist and serves the interests of reaction.
2. Against pacifism, because otherwise, labor is doomed to defeat.
3. In favor of military training for the workers independently organized and controlled by labor, but against capitalist military training.

AGAINST CAPITALIST MILITARISM

The slogan of "military training under workers' control" standing alone in the midst of a struggle against compulsory military training could lead one to believe that we therefore accept the Administration plan, provided it is carried out under trade union control. That would be a class collaborationist, that is, an opportunist position. It is this position of the SWP against which we have written.

Everyone knows, however, that we are against any and every form of compulsory military training under capitalism. The drive for compulsory military training is connected with imperialism and the preparations for a third world war. It would strengthen reactionary and totalitarian trends. We counter the proposal of the administration with a class slogan, for independent working class training, organized by labor, controlled by labor, for the purpose of preparing the defense of the workers against reaction. This is the traditional position of the Marxist movement.

Frankenstein's Defeat - -

(Continued from page 1)

For labor to win the support of the middle class it must come forth independently as an organized force, it must propose something new, it must utilize the natural opposition of the lower middle class to big capital by proposing an alliance against big capital and the political representatives of big capital who oppress both labor and the middle class. When the opposite is done, as in Detroit, when labor is made to appear as identical with the ordinary capitalist political, who is out for personal gain, then the middle class chooses the old established politician. Detroit workers, although they have

no love for Frankenstein, held high hopes in this election, built up large-

Civilization, Capitalist Style

Allied bombers destroyed or badly damaged 3,600,000 German dwelling units, made 7,500,000 people homeless, killed some 300,000, and wounded 780,000. The price the Allied paid: 79,265 U. S. and 79,281 British airmen dead; more than 18,000 U. S. and 22,000 British planes destroyed.

—Time, Nov. 5, 1945

ly by the pro-Jeffries press, which kept calling Frankenstein a labor man. The tragedy of this election is not Frankenstein's defeat but the possibility that, having falsely accepted Frankenstein as a labor candidate Detroit workers may become disillusioned with independent labor politics.

This must not be allowed to happen. There was no independent labor candidate in the Detroit elections. Independent labor action did not fail; it wasn't tried. What is called for now, as it was called for before, is the formation of an independent Labor Party which can genuinely represent labor and can take the lead in the struggle for political power.

Where Does Argentine Labor Stand?

By Susan Green

The political situation in Argentina is by no means settled. The present lull following the stormy days of October augurs more trouble to come.

Even though Peron, after his phony arrest and hasty return to Buenos Aires, is not a member of the reconstituted government, he is undoubtedly the strong man behind every move. He is determined to become president of Argentina by "popular choice" in a so-called free election, which is supposed to take place some time in 1946.

Since all but a meagre ten percent of the Argentines are opposed to Peron and his military-fascist government, he is making use of his military forces, his secret police, his stoges and goons, to "pre-dispose" the population to cast its "free" vote in his favor when the elections are held. However, spokesmen for the Argentine people say that they are in no mood to tolerate an electoral fraud based on strong-arm and secret-police terror.

Against this background, we have recently been told in this country that the Argentine workers are supporters of Peron. When in August Peron bombastically declared: "I do not fear civil war because I am prepared for it . . . I have at my disposal 300,000 soldiers and 4,000,000 workers armed with clubs," all politically sane people raised an unbelieving eyebrow regarding those 4,000,000 workers. Now, however, we are asked by some of our legislators and columnists to believe that Peron has labor's support and is—after all is said and done—"the people's choice."

WHAT IS THE TRUTH

The first thing to do is to nail the lie that the military-fascist dictator Peron and his governing clique have Argentine labor's support. There is a mass of evidence available from Latin American experts.

Harry B. Murkland, specialist on Latin American affairs, wrote in *Current History*, October 1945, that while Peron at first created some confusion in the ranks of labor by his terroristic methods after his false promises, his arrest of militant leaders, his appointment of his own stoges as leaders, the confusion was short-lived. "To the eternal credit of Argentine labor, he [Peron] was able neither to bribe nor frighten enough of it into his camp to give him the authentic character of 'people's choice'."

This comes from the columns of the conservative *Current History* magazine. From the Latin American Affairs Committee of the CIO comes a strong statement denying that Peron has Argentine labor behind him, and blasting Senator Robert LaFollette for publicly spreading this falsehood. The CIO committee points out that "the few unions that Peron could really claim for himself were dominated by appointed henchmen and goons acting in connivance with the regime's secret police." About the so-called pro-Peron "labor" demonstrations, the CIO committee declares "they are usually staged in strategic areas of Buenos Aires by imported hoodlums, and sympathetic police concentration provides theatrical effects that cause them to be noticed by the population."

Supporting the contentions of the CIO committee is the statement of Dr. Alejandro M. Berraondo, a Buenos Aires lawyer, general counsel for the major Argentine motor transport lines, in this country to get help for the anti-Peron forces. He limits Peron's labor support to five or at most ten percent. He says that the major source of Peron's small following is in his stogie-controlled National Federation of Argentine workers, with a membership of 125,000—and many of whom are anti-Peron. The fact is that the great mass of workers are trying to maintain independent unions opposed to the state of military siege imposed by Peron, and are fighting for free unions and for full democratic rights.

WHAT LABOR WANTS

As to the so-called pro-Peron labor demonstrations, Ray Josephs, in *Latin America* for five years as correspondent and author of "Argentine Diary," says that aside from the army and military police, Peron's supporters "come from the worst thugs in Avellaneda, an industrial suburb of Buenos Aires." Mr. Josephs describes how on October 17, Peron began bringing in truckloads of these hoodlums, giving them weapons, money, free entrance to brothels, use of public buildings and theaters as quarters. This criminal riff-raff staged the demonstration for Peron, forcing passers-by to shout for Peron. This element also attacked the Jewish district in the capital.

There is no need to labor the point further. Those 4,000,000 workers "armed with clubs" are not using them to keep their arch-enemy in power.

The question now to be answered is this: Why the sudden desire on the part of certain opinion-forming elements in this country, to make Peron appear to have labor and popular support?

WHO WILL DOMINATE S.A.

Is the State Department preparing the ground for initiating a more friendly attitude toward the Peron regime?

Arnaldo Cortesi, New York Times correspondent in Buenos Aires who has sent his paper very informative reports, wrote that "Robert LaFollette's statement that Peron has support of the working class was taken to mean a more lenient attitude towards Peron." Logical enough.

The withdrawal of Ambassador Spruille Braden—ostensibly to kick him upstairs to become Assistant Secretary of State—can also be interpreted as a reign of leniency. Certainly Braden was doing all right in Argentina as far as getting the support of the "democratic" forces is concerned. His outspoken support of the latter won him and the United States great friendship in all anti-Peron circles. At anti-Peron demonstrations cries of "Viva Braden!" "Viva los Estados Unidos!" mingled with "Death to Peron!" But suddenly Braden was needed more in Washington than in Buenos Aires.

Is some deal being arranged behind the scenes? The conflicting imperialist interests in Argentina are complicated. The United States is bent on displacing Great Britain from its first place in Argentine investment and trade. Argentina itself and the United States are competitors in the export of cattle and grain, and besides Argentina's ruling class wants to challenge U. S. domination of South America. However, the Nazi defeat has made Peron more than willing to fry other fish; he got all he wanted from that source. Are our "democratic" imperialists afraid of the forces of true democracy in Argentina, as they are all over the world, and willing to talk business with the forces of "law and order?" Developments in the near future will give us more light on what is taking place.

It is a lie that Peron has the support of the people of Argentina. It is a lie that he has labor's support. The Argentine masses want to get rid of the Peron regime. They want an end to the military siege under which they are living. The workers want their full democratic rights.

Horse-Trading On Palestine

Oil Versus Jewish Immigration

By J. K.

Last minute horse-trading between the American and British governments is holding up announcement of a decision on immigration of Jews to Palestine. Last August, the British cabinet notified the Jewish Agency privately that the White Paper restrictions would be continued and that only 1,500 immigration certificates would be issued monthly. The Agency refused to negotiate on the basis of this offer.

About the same time, President Truman came out with his appeal for 100,000 immediate certificates based on the Earl Harrison report of intolerable conditions in the Displaced Persons camps in Germany and Austria. This put the British cabinet under the embarrassing fire of its own Labor Party colleagues, the United States government, the organized Zionist movement and Palestine, and Jewish and humanitarian opinion throughout the world.

Thus sorely pressed, Prime Minister Attlee countered the United States suggestion with the request that the U. S. accept a limited form of joint responsibility over Palestine. Judging from newspaper comments, President Truman was at first reluctant to do this but later entered into negotiations to "cooperate in a joint policy on Palestine, thus putting an end to the main British objection that the Americans have been very generous with advice but refused to take responsibility." (Herbert Matthews writing from London in the *New York Times*.)

If the Matthews report is correct

and the United States and Great Britain have agreed on a joint policy in the Middle East, it still does not indicate a liberalization of immigration to Palestine, except perhaps to a very small extent. What it does mean is that the United States has decided to bolster weakening British prestige in the Middle East.

In fact, Attlee hinted in a press interview that there is a plan to remove the Jews from camps in Europe to camps in North Africa, as if it is pleasanter to endure slow death in a sunnier climate. Some such plan must have entered into the British-American discussions, otherwise Attlee would not talk about it publicly.

President Truman is following in the footsteps of his predecessor. He too plays both sides of the fence. The publication of the Roosevelt-Ibn Saud correspondence was very shocking to the Zionists, who considered Roosevelt their great friend. The fact that the correspondence was published only after the Saudi Arabian potentate threatened to make it public is an indication that Roosevelt planned to play the game indefinitely.

HARMFUL ZIONIST POLICY

Despite this blow to their aspirations, the Zionists continue to call for a Jewish commonwealth by British consent. Nowhere do we see any acknowledgement by them that this program is hopeless and that it is playing into the cunning hands of British and American colonial statesmen, who wish for nothing better than a deepening of the cleavage between Jews and Arabs in Palestine.

Despite the calmness of the Palestinian Arab masses in the face of all

this provocation, there is no doubt that tension in Palestine is at the point of explosion. The British have piled troops and armaments into this tiny corner of the Middle East, thus casting one more inflammable element into a critical situation. British and American business interests are doing all they can to prevent a liberal immigration policy by exaggerating Arab threats to stop the oil business.

In this talk of oil versus Jewish immigration, we tend to lose sight of the main obstacle to Britain's making good on its original promise to the Jew. For if it is Jewish-Arab fighting which the British fear, then why do they go to so much trouble to fan their antagonism? If the Arab lords are the main cause of worry, then why do the British make more trouble for themselves by organizing them into an Arab League?

It is only now that the big reason for the extremely intransigent attitude which both the British and the Arab nationalist leaders have adopted is beginning to be understood. Both imperialist and feudal considerations dictate that they put a stop to the further industrialization of Palestine with all that it implies. The development of Palestine would bring about a bigger Arab proletariat, a heightening class consciousness and a Jewish-Arab labor rapprochement. It would mean the end of British imperialism in the Middle East (an imperialism which has already been struck a blow by Egyptian nationalism) and it would spell the end of Arab feudal domination.

Even the limited immigration of

100,000 Jewish refugees is a fore-runner to greater industrialization. The Zionists, who are so careful not to make their demands sound excessive, have had to couple the application for that many immigration certificates with a request for loans for electrification, and other engineering and industrial projects.

The fact that the opposition is led by the British and the feudal lords does not mean that the Arab masses are not also bitterly opposed to Jewish immigration. With the Zionist program what it is, it is only to be expected that the landless, poverty-stricken peasants of Palestine would resent what appears to be Jewish wealth and Jewish determination to rule the whole country. And in Egypt and Syria, where nationalism is more articulate and better organized, anti-Semitism is the safety valve for anti-imperialism.

The chief responsibility for the lack of Arab-Jewish unity, rests with the Jewish labor movement because it is the most politically advanced in the country. It should have been the most active force in organizing joint Jewish-Arab worker and peasant unions, fighting for an independent Palestinian government based on universal suffrage and majority rule.

Many militants in Palestine acknowledge this now, but so far no party has come forward with the slogan of joint Jewish-Arab action against British and American imperialism in the Middle East. Until the Jewish labor movement abandons its slogan of a Jewish commonwealth and calls on the Arabs for a joint struggle, there can be nothing but riots and slaughter.

Why Every Reader of Labor Action Should Read The New International

By EMANUEL GARRETT

We know that you are already a reader of *LABOR ACTION*. You may even have guaranteed regular receipt of the paper by subscribing to it. If you haven't yet subscribed, you should. But it isn't the purpose of this article to sell you *LABOR ACTION*. We want to talk about another publication, one you ought to read as regularly as you do *LABOR ACTION*. This other publication is the *NEW INTERNATIONAL*.

Actually the two publications, one a weekly paper, the other a monthly magazine, go hand in hand. The informed worker is the worker that reads both of them, as well as such other printed matter as is issued under the imprint of the two periodicals and the Workers Party.

We have to understand our problems so that we can solve them. It's no small job working to replace the powerful, complicated, entrenched capitalist system by OUR system of society, SOCIALISM. To do it, and we MUST do it, we must know how capitalism operates in all its complexities, what makes it tick and grow deadly sick—and deadly sick it is. We must know how to destroy it, how to build socialism. We must, in short, understand and discuss every phase of our contemporary social, political and economic life—including those matters of international politics and socialist program that may seem far-fetched and distant at first glance.

Oust Imperialism from Indonesia --

(Continued from page 1)

"... the only obstacle so far, a very grave obstacle, has been the failure of the Indian communities to agree among themselves. . . . The foundation of world order must be laid in the hearts of men. I go to America . . . to see how best we can lift from the ordinary man and woman this spectre of fear that haunts him today. I want to consider with them how best our common ideals of peace, freedom, tolerance and economic prosperity for all people can be realized. . . . I want a world which will be safe for the common man."

BRITISH ULTIMATUM

What a hypocrite! Reading the story to the left of this column, we see that British warships are shelling the Javanese city of Surabaya with its defenseless tightly packed population of 500,000. Let us see what it is that the British demand to make Java "safe for the common man." Their ultimatum called for surrender of all arms by the natives, arrest of the leaders, the police chief and the Indonesian administration heads!

Naturally, this ultimatum was rejected. To make Java "safe for the common man," British ships shelled the harbor and British planes dropped 500 pound bombs on the city. Thousands and thousands of civilians were killed in the massacre, according to latest reports, and the bombing continues. The report also states that no Indonesian troops are visible in the city, and that Indonesian women are removing the bodies. The British call this "fanatical" resistance to law and order.

The capitalists don't neglect education. They have at their disposal schools, newspapers, radio stations and countless other vehicles through which they justify, propagandize and educate for THEIR social system. More than that, the university mills, political machines and numberless institutions of learning or colleges yearly turn out thousands trained in the justification and operation of capitalist society.

We haven't the money they have, and we haven't the facilities. But we have something far more powerful. They don't have it, and they know it. We have the unassailable doctrines and principles of socialism with which to confute them, and to DEFEAT them. But we have to know these principles thoroughly, and we have to apply them to the problems of the world.

And, applying them, we must organize, band together, join a revolutionary socialist party, the Workers Party, so that we can actively intervene in the struggle of workers everywhere against the capitalist system everywhere.

Very well, isn't *LABOR ACTION* sufficient? No, we of *LABOR ACTION* say it isn't. *LABOR ACTION* is our fighting paper. Through it we intervene in the daily issues of working class life—jobs, union militancy, against fascism, against imperialism; and while we advance our program for the immediate solution of these pressing problems, we agitate for the fundamental solution of ALL these

problems, and many more—namely, Socialism.

But space, and the things we must concern ourselves with in *LABOR ACTION* make it impossible to cover all the problems that need to be covered, or for that matter all the aspects of any given problem, in the columns of *LABOR ACTION*. Nor will we be able to do this in the eight-page *LABOR ACTION* that is an absolute necessity. That is why we say that *NEW INTERNATIONAL* is an indispensable reading supplement to *LABOR ACTION*. We, that is we of *LABOR ACTION* and the Workers Party, and you who merely read *LABOR ACTION* and are thinking of joining the Workers Party, we both of us need the *NEW INTERNATIONAL* for our education and better understanding. An educated worker is a socialist worker, and a socialist worker is the most effective worker.

You have heard that the *NEW INTERNATIONAL* is "deep stuff." We call it a theoretical organ of revolutionary socialism. But theory, this "deep stuff," is, as we understand it, fundamentally related to the practical issues of our daily factory or union life. It's a theory of working class action, investigation and politics, and therefore it is not too "deep" for a worker to understand. Certainly, we must try to understand it.

Let's take one case. You will read in the *NEW INTERNATIONAL* articles of policy, analysis or discussion on the question of National Libera-

The British forces are carrying out a joint policy decided on by Great Britain, United States and Holland. American armaments, supplies, food, medicine and even American uniforms have been rushed to the British. The Dutch are sending in second line defense troops.

All three nations are concerned only with recapturing the rich sources of oil and rubber which they have been milking from Java for decades. The fact that the Indonesian people have come out so strongly for self-rule, have formed a republican regime, have amassed a native army counts for nothing when weighed on the imperialist scales of these three nations. Because what Attlee meant when he said, "I want a world which will be safe for the common man" was that he wants a world which will be safe for British and other imperialists.

INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT

The Indonesian republican government has rejected the hypocritical offer of the Dutch for a "partnership" in Indonesia. This offer consisted of "a council of ministers under a Dutch government general . . . suffrage to be the subject of consultation . . . an increase of Indonesian citizens in the general service of the kingdom . . . and recognition of the Indonesian language." Is it any wonder that the conciliatory president of the young republic, Achmed Soekarno, begged the Dutch not to make the terms public in fear of inflaming further the Indonesian people.

The British army is enacting this same counter-revolutionary role in

Indo-China, paving the way for French troops to reoccupy that territory. British and French soldiers and sailors have resumed the fighting after a lull of several weeks in an attempt to stop the widespread sabotage and guerrilla attacks of the Annamites (Indo-Chinese). A few days ago, French ships fired machine-gun volleys into sampans moving up and down the river. Units of the RAF are also fighting in Indo-China against the nationalist guerrillas.

Will the nationalists of Indo-China and Indonesia be able to stand up against such slaughter? "War or revolution raging fiercely for years and years . . ." is the answer given by Dr. Mohammed Hatta, nationalist vice-president of Java in rejecting the Netherlands proposal. "Not for a moment will Indonesia countenance any form of colonial status, whatever form or garb or fancy name it is given . . . This may be the Dutch idea of bringing peace and order . . . but it will never end in Indonesia's being brought under Dutch control."

The answer also depends on the outside aid given to these colonial peoples by the labor movements of other countries.

WORLD LABOR SOLIDARITY

In Korea, China, Japan, India, and in the Philippines—wherever people are oppressed by western imperialism, eyes are turned to see what the workers of the imperialist nations will do. The Indian nationalist movement has pledged full support. It has protested the use of Indian troops in Indonesia and Indo-China. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, leader of the All-

India Congress Party, has offered to go to Indonesia to help but he has been denied a passport and travel facilities.

Agitation of Australian workers against the use of Australian troops has resulted in a government order forbidding Australian aviators from leaving the country to join the Netherlands' forces. Indonesian seamen walking off Dutch vessels that were loading supplies for the Netherlands government in American ports were hailed at a meeting in New York where a collection was made to enable them to ship for home in vessels of their own choosing. The British crew of the ship *Moreton Bay* struck when they reached Sydney, Australia, refusing to take their ship with its 1,600 Netherlands troops destined for Indonesia, any further.

The Indonesians are putting up an heroic fight, using whatever arms they can steal in an uneven battle with American tanks, British aeroplanes, bombs and other heavy armaments, because freedom means more than life as a colonial slave. An American working class demonstration of solidarity similar to those which have taken place in the countries mentioned here will be tremendously effective in preventing the United States from shipping armaments and supplies to Asia—armaments that have no other use but to suppress the just aspirations of the Asiatic people for freedom.

Ship Profits Come Before GI's Return

By Ray Mantler

The government's policy of demobilization, three months after V-J Day, moves very slowly. In explaining this situation, the official "Army Hour" over Station WNBC, tells us the problems of policing Europe and Japan require the continued services of American troops. Since the end of the war, 55 Victory ships have been transferred to private companies. These ships could carry over 150,000 troops. Other millions could be brought home in the 400 vessels the War Shipping Administration sent to the graveyards. The slogan is obvious, "Stall the Demobilization."

Another factor in the situation is the unwillingness of Army and Navy officials to give up their troops. They are jealous of the positions they acquired during the war, and they are anxious to maintain them.

The National Maritime Union, for its own peculiar reasons, has indicated who is really to blame for the slow demobilization. During the recent dock strike, the *Herbst* papers blamed the longshoremen, and later, the members of the NMU, for holding up the transportation of troops. Giving the lie to this the NMU has unanimously adopted a resolution. It has given the government a deadline, up to Dec. 1, 1945, to increase the tonnage assigned to return the GI's from overseas. If the government and shipping companies don't comply with the union's ultimatum, the merchant seamen will refuse to serve on commercial vessels. The declaration is valuable because it shows the GI and his family how the cards are stacked and who is really to blame for the delays. The government keeps the GI's abroad, and at the same time permits the shipping companies to increase their golden hoard by engaging in commercial shipping.

This policy of the NMU also cements a solidarity between the veterans and the labor unions. Other unions should emulate this policy. Labor should be in the forefront, in fighting for the rights of the GI's. The government will find it difficult to recruit strikebreakers from ex-servicemen who know that labor has helped to bring them home.

Unfortunately, the policy of the NMU flows from the relations between Russia and the U. S. Joe Curran, president of the National Maritime Union, is very closely associated with the policies of the Russian government. At present, due to the strained relationship between Russia and the U. S., Curran, as well as other members of the Communist Party, are following a policy of "rattling the saber" at the State Department. It should be remembered that it is this same Joe Curran who shouted vociferously for the upholding of the no-strike pledge during the war, and promised to uphold it even after the shooting was over. Of course, his former policy was based on the premises that the U. S. and Russia would continue on friendly terms.

PROFITS VS. GI'S

In spite of this, the statement itself is valuable. It points out to the soldiers and sailors, that while they are permitted to rot in overseas camps, the shipping companies are coining gold by engaging in commercial shipping. During the war alone, American Export Lines made \$2,985,000 after taxes. American President Lines made \$1,864,000 after taxes. These are typical examples. They would like to continue to make this kind of money, and with the consent and assistance of the government, they are continuing to do so.

The union action also indicates to the soldiers and sailors that they are being kept abroad to follow the imperialist policies of the U. S. government. They are being kept there to shoot down the anti-fascist democratic elements of Europe who are not satisfied with American "liberation."

Ford Co. Rejects Women's Seniority

By LARRY REYNOLDS

DETROIT, Nov. 14—In an attempt to force the Ford Motor Co. to recognize seniority rights, the women of Local 400, Ford Highland Park, have thrown a protest picket line around the company's employment office. While hundreds of new people are being hired every day (including an occasional woman), thousands of women with seniority, some as high as 27 years, are still without a job and struggling to live on \$20.00 per week unemployment compensation.

According to a leaflet distributed at plant gates by the women and approved by the local executive board, there are today only 323 women working in the plant, while in May 1944 there were over 5,000 women employed.

Yet 2,200 new men who never worked at Ford's before have been hired while close to 5,000 women with seniority are still on the street.

The company claims that there are no jobs that women can do, and that the mass lay-off of women is a natural and inevitable result of the return to peacetime production. The union points out that the largest job in the plant, the tractor job, employed thousands of women during the war at the River Rouge plant, before it was moved to Highland Park. In addition, according to union representatives, there are many light jobs which women can handle, now performed by men who in many cases have less seniority than the women. The company has turned down repeatedly all proposals to arrange for the rehiring of those workers still on the seniority list. In so many words, the company has announced that it is getting rid of women, that it hired women only for the duration of the war, and that it has no intention of recalling them regardless of seniority.

The backbone of the union movement is seniority rights. Because of the inability of "free enterprise" (as exemplified by the Ford Motor Co.) to provide jobs for all who need and want to work, labor has struggled for many years and has won the recognition of seniority rights as the basis of job security. At no time does the union agree to dispense with seniority rights of any section of its membership. The UAW-CIO does not now and never did agree that women were to be employed only for the duration of the war. Women are union members with full and continuous seniority rights under the contract. As some of the women pointed out, the union cannot afford to let the company get away with this because it would be setting a dangerous precedent which could allow the company to get rid of other sections of workers, such as older men, some of whom have already suffered the same fate as the women.

The company, as always, is trying to use the hiring of veterans as a weapon against seniority. As soon as the picket line demonstration was started, November 8, Ford issued a statement that the company is hiring only veterans, and implied that the women were demanding the veterans' rightful jobs. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The company is hiring as many non-veterans as veterans. The only way seniority rights for veterans can be really secure is by protecting and strengthening seniority rights for everyone, as many veterans themselves can testify after working in a Ford plant for a while.