

Work for a Workers World;
Join the Workers Party!

LABOR ACTION

SEPTEMBER 22, 1947

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIALISM

FIVE CENTS

Organize Consumer-Union Committees!

PRICES CAN BE CONTROLLED!

Judge Fines WP Candidate; Committee Fights Ruling

By FRANK HARPER

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 12.—Republican Judge of the Common Pleas Court Harry S. McDevitt today fined I. Jack Rader, Workers Party candidate in the Fifth Councilmanic District, and Irene P. LeCompte, candidate of the Socialist Workers Party for City Council in the Seventh District, \$100 each or 30 days in jail. Also fined and likewise committed until bail was entered were Frank Carner and Mrs. P. Goldenberg, affiliates on the two parties' nomination papers.

Judge McDevitt upheld the charges of the County Board of Elections that four of the defendants were guilty of contempt of the board when they failed on September 2 to answer questions regarding their nomination papers on advice of their counsel, David H. H. Felix.

In rendering decision, the court also upheld the Election Board's disregard of claims made by the defense attorney that the Election Board on September 2 no longer had jurisdiction over the case since charges originally preferred by Thomas J. Minnick, lawyer for the Democratic Party machine, had already been lodged in a higher court.

McDevitt's action, coupled with that of the Election Board and the Democrats, gave clear indication that the two capitalist parties in Philadelphia have entered into a conspiracy to keep off the ballot all independent and labor candidates.

FILE APPEAL

Voters in the two districts and members and friends of the Workers Party and the Socialist Workers Party gave quickly and generously of time and financial aid so that the four defendants could be released within a few hours under bail of \$1,000 each. Attorney Felix immediately filed an appeal with the State Superior Court on the ruling handed down by the Common Pleas Court judge. Decision on the appeal of the contempt charges will be made at the next regular session of the Superior Court in March, 1948.

In his testimony before Judge McDevitt, Mr. Felix pointed out that even though the county commissioners who constitute the Election Board had heard no evidence from either of the two parties' candidates or affiliates, they had summarily ruled both parties off the ballot on September 4, two days after entering the charges of contempt of court. This board action entirely ignored the expressed desires of the 3,500 registered voters who signed the nomination papers circulated and presented in strict adherence to the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Both the Workers Party and the Socialist Workers Party are protesting this high-handed flouting of the public interest and have petitioned the courts to issue a writ of mandamus ordering the Election Board to reinstate both parties to the ballot. Hearings on this petition are scheduled to be held during the week of September 15.

Despite the expenses and energies involved in waging these legal struggles, the two socialist groups feel they are warranted in so far as they establish precedents for similar cases that will arise in the future when other socialist, independent and labor groups seek a place on the ballot.

The decision by Judge McDevitt was rendered with a minimum of deliberation and testimony. When defense attorney Felix expressed the willingness of his clients to explain all actions and answer all questions regarding the nomination papers if only "His Honor would bring the contempt charge phase of the case to a conclusion by ruling whether the Election Board or the Common Pleas Court had jurisdiction over

the case," McDevitt replied by issuing the four sentences and discharging a fifth defendant, a Socialist Workers Party pre-emptor, on grounds that she "obviously had less information about the case." As a matter of fact, not only were none of the defendants permitted to testify but the transcript of the September 2 hearing by the Election Board was neither read nor referred to, even though the validity of several statements made by Morris Witkin, chairman of the Election Board, were challenged by Attorney Felix.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE

Expenses of over \$200 incidental to the posting of the \$4,000 bail bonds and entering the petition of writ of mandamus were raised during the afternoon and at a joint meeting of

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Workers Go Deeper Into Debt as High Prices Cut Wages

By MIKE STEVENS

Workers went deeper into debt in the first six months of this year to buy the essentials of life, according to figures compiled by government and private sources. As a result, the total of personal debt rose more than three billion dollars in this six-month period, bringing the personal debt to a new high, estimated at 45 billion dollars.

But even this huge figure of 45 billions is not complete as to individual borrowings. It is only based on money owed in consumer credit, money borrowed on pension funds, small homes and farms, credit unions and on life insurance policies. These borrowings on life insurance are on the small policies. It is the worker who borrows \$100 or \$150 to pay a medical bill, or to clean up a lot of small debts who borrows on his policy.

This huge figure of 45 billion dollars does not include the dozens of small debts that every worker owes and which are mounting every day. Nor does it include the thousands of dollars owed by millions of workers to private or semi-legal money-lenders.

As pointed out in an article by Susan Green in last week's LABOR ACTION, the workers have already cashed in their war bonds and have withdrawn their bank savings. The workers needed this money, although they were employed, to try to make both ends meet. But even the war bonds and the bank savings were not enough to pay for the groceries, the rent and some clothes. The worker has gone into debt, and to the tune of more than 45 billion dollars.

This huge figure of 45 billion dollars does not, therefore, represent the whole personal debt, nor does it show how much money the workers had to add to their wages every week. But even this inadequate figure of 45 billions compiled by government agencies (Federal Reserve System, Federal Home Loan Bank System, Departments of Commerce and Agriculture) and private groups (Institute of Life Insurance, etc.), will continue to rise with greater speed from now on. Here are the reasons why:

1. Prices are still going up. Workers' wages have not increased anywhere near the proportion of the terrific increases in food and clothing.

2. During the past two years a worker could not, on his wages, feed and clothe his family. He cashed in his few remaining bonds, pulled out his bank savings and borrowed from his credit union or on his insurance policy. But all that is now gone and he must rely entirely on his wages. But if his wages have not been enough the past two years to make both ends meet, how is he going to pay the even higher prices for living essentials or repay the money he has borrowed (and the debt is already more than 45 billion)?

3. The government curb on installment selling will end next month. This means that buying on the "installment plan" will again be permitted. Every worker, of course, knows that when he buys on the installment plan he pays fantastically inflated prices. But every worker's family needs things it cannot buy for cash. It needs a crib for the baby, or a bed, or a stove, etc. The workers haven't the cash to pay for these things, so they will go deeper into debt for the things they need through the installment plan.

REVEALING PICTURE

The above picture is pretty black and would be blacker if we had the space to go into more detail. Nevertheless, it deals ONLY with workers who are employed. Imagine what the situation is for the workers who are unemployed today and also what it will be for the workers who will be unemployed tomorrow!

This is a revealing picture of capitalism in prosperity. Workers employed full-time at the highest union rates for their skills — borrowing money and going into debt to keep their families from being hungry and going in rags! Steadily employed workers forced to neglect medical care for themselves and their families because they haven't any money after they pay for food, shelter and a minimum of clothing! Capitalist employment which does not permit a worker to live decently or put a nickel aside for the days of capitalist lay-off and unemployment.

In addition to supporting Senator Jaspas's slate and Altieri for Mayor, (Continued on page 3)

Can food prices be controlled?

We say, Yes!

The problem is not, "can they be controlled?" The problem is WHO can control them, and by WHAT means?

There is a congressional committee traipsing around the country. Three of them, in fact. The first went into session in Providence, R. I., where prices have risen about three times above the national average. Hearings will be held in New York and elsewhere. But will they do anything to force prices down? They will not!

We have no objection to an investigation. The people ought to be fully acquainted with the sordid details of the price rise. However, the essential facts are already known. Everybody knows how fast and how high prices have risen. There is ample evidence, ample for anybody who really wants to fix responsibility, as to the cause.

The cause lies in phenomenally high profits, in food speculation, in all those things which are characteristic of the profit system, which is sometimes called "free enterprise."

Facts and figures bear this out. Last week's LABOR ACTION summarized the main figures for the meat, dairy and baking monopolies. The financial pages of the daily press, where they report profit statements and yearly incomes, bear sufficient testimony. (These reports are meant for stockholders and would-be stockholders. They are not meant to be read by the working class.) CIO officials and others have testified as to the facts.

Will Do Nothing

What then remains to be done? The answer appears to us to be a simple one: namely, a challenge, a warning that the profiteers will not be permitted to exploit the need of the people to amass greater fortunes.

Will a congressional committee do that? Can it? No! Even in the collecting of evidence, they are proving to be queasy. Already there are charges by the New York CIO Industrial Union Council that the committee is trying to "choke off consumer testimony." And when they have collected all their testimony, for report to Congress by February, 1948, it will probably boil down to some inanity, to put it mildly, intended to fix the blame on the consumer.

They'll no doubt make a big fuss about advocating "voluntary" control. Enough has been said on this score since Truman taxed his brains and came up with the proposal a year ago not to require repetition.

Judging from preliminary indications—this committee is part of a larger committee headed by Senator Taft—they will probably reprimand consumers for buying

Marie Antoinette Said:

Let 'Em Eat Cake!

Senator R. A. Taft Said:

Let 'Em Eat Less!

too lavishly. (One-third of New York City's mothers complain that their children face malnutrition because they cannot afford food in adequate quantity and quality. They'll go big for this explanation.)

And this congressional committee will no doubt say something about wages being too high! For the sake of form they might gently slap the wrist of a few speculators and profiteers whose greed is just a little too obvious.

More than that they will not do because the last thing in the world they would want is an attack on profits, the sanctity of free enterprise, and its "right" to mulct the people.

One thing is certain: they will not push a genuine price control program! Even their more liberal counterparts in government shy away from effective price control. Thus, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, who is not a man to hesitate in deploring excessive profiteering and speculation, declared in a nationally broadcast radio forum that price control was out, "the people won't go for it" or words to that effect. What he meant was that the profiteers and their government agents won't go for it. The best he could offer was: buy less.

People Can Control Prices

CIO, AFL and AVC officials have demanded in this situation that the government reinstate price control. And it is a plain enough fact that we must have price control. However, as we said above, the important questions in control are: who shall do the controlling and by what means?

We are in favor of labor massing its strength to compel a price control law. But we remember the last OPA. It was dead on its feet long before Congress put it out of its misery. Its major activities, once the war was over, appeared to be to find ways of raising prices instead of keeping them down. In other words, the price control we need is the kind with teeth in it.

What is that? The vigilance and activity of organized labor leading the people in a concrete, over-all, systematic campaign to drive prices down. How is it expressed? By organizing popular consumer committees, buttressed by union power, in every locality, city and state.

The problem resolves itself down to a simple consideration. Price control, if it is to be effective, necessarily has to be in the hands of those who do not stand to

profit from high prices. That is ABC. And it answers the WHO.

There is talk of a buyers' strike. We are all for that, too, though more, much more, than that is needed. In fact, there is already a kind of involuntary "buyers' strike," in the sense that increasing numbers of people find themselves unable to buy meat, butter, eggs and other essentials.

To the extent that a buyers' strike does have value, its effectiveness will be limited by the degree of organization and mass activity that surrounds it. We must remember that it is our object not to deny ourselves what we need, but to force prices down so that we can buy what we need.

We do not pretend for a single moment that popular consumer-union committees meet the whole problem. On the contrary! As we said last week and as we say elsewhere in this issue this week, a fundamental solution must drive toward the nationalization of the food and other industries UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL.

And with it goes a wide campaign to win wage increases without price increases, to insert escalator clauses in union contracts, and so forth.

Committees Can Be Formed Now

But we must get to work on these price committees immediately. It is not something that can wait. (Note that these congressional committees will report in February, and Congress will then debate it. For how long? And what are we to do in the meantime?)

The committees we propose are COMMITTEES OF ACTION which can put the squeeze on from manufacturer, to wholesaler, to dealer and fight for a price program which vests control in their hands. That is the WHAT.

Various consumer leagues already exist. They are not what we propose. In many cases they do little beyond list prices and advise cheaper buys, though that is proving to be tough, virtually impossible now.

No, we propose a form of action that will unite the millions of union men and women in common action with housewives and others in an aggressive campaign to force price control under the direction of the people who are most interested in real control and who will take direct action on prices, depending on the locality and the opportunity, while the bigger fight is being waged.

Their objective will be to force prices down, and then keep them down by patrolling the price front to guard against the slightest chiselling.

Prices can be controlled. Popular consumer-union price committees representing the great mass of people who do not live off profits, can do the controlling!

Who is Responsible for Price Rise?

Price Gougers and Their Government Stoges Seek to Shift the Blame on to the Consumer

By SUSAN GREEN

Words have begun to pour out of the capitalist mouthpieces to "explain" the highest prices in history. We are solemnly informed that there will be a reduced corn crop in 1947 due to the dry weather; that there will be 2,400,000,000 bushels, or 884,000,000 less than last year. The result, we are assured will be that animals which normally feed on corn will have to be fed on wheat, which is more expensive; and this WILL affect the price of meat, dairy products and eggs, the end products of animals. But how about the climb in prices of such foods as carrots and potatoes, coffee and groceries? Neither, however, does this explanation account for the fantastic prices of meat, dairy products and eggs NOW.

What does help to account for the alarming skyrocketing of prices NOW is the speculation of private traders in ANTICIPATION of shortages and the arbitrary marking up of prices by private enterprise to take advantage of the EXPECTED situation. Profit statements for 1947 will have the real explanation for dollar-a-pound meat and butter, for dollar-a-dozen eggs.

The speculators and profiteers are not only playing around with the means of life of the American people but also with the half-starved peoples of the war-devastated world, European and Asiatic lands, ripped and ruined by bombs, are not yet yielding normally. On top of this, the weather has not been kind to many regions, especially in western Europe. Scientists have not yet told us how to counteract the weather, having found it more important to create atom bombs. While we cannot,

therefore, prevent shortages due to the weather, we can and we must put a stop to the speculators and the profiteers who take bread out of the mouths of the half-starved to put profits into their pockets.

"EAT LESS" TAFT

But don't expect the capitalist politicians and government to take this basic approach to the price question. Instead of putting the blame where it belongs, namely, on big business speculators and profiteers, the harassed consumer is being pointed at as the culprit. For example, New York City Market Commissioner Schultz delivered himself of this bit of wisdom: "When the customer is willing to pay a dollar or more a pound for meat, naturally there is going to be someone to sell it to him."

And Senator Robert A. Taft, he of the infamous Taft-Hartley law, now seeking the Republican nomination for President, makes the invaluable contribution to a solution of the question: "People should eat less meat and less extravagantly."

Along the same line of putting the blame on the consumer, so to speak, is a 68-page report prepared for the Congressional Committee on Rising Living Costs, which starts "investigating" on September 15. Reporters say that while this voluminous document offers no solutions, it starts the legislators off from the premise that peak prices are due to "unprecedented high levels of employment and income." According to this logic, the solution to the price problem is UNEMPLOYMENT AND LOW INCOMES.

(Continued on page 2)

Primaries in Philadelphia Shed Light on Basic Error in CIO-PAC Policy

By JACK RADER, Workers Party Candidate for City Council, Fifth Philadelphia District

PHILADELPHIA — The results of the primary election held last week in this city prove the bankruptcy of the political policy of the CIO and the present labor leadership. Playing what they apparently thought was a very cunning game, they succeeded only in defeating themselves.

The CIO won only one of the four Democratic nominations, with 5,669 votes for John Welsh, UE Local 113, in the Sixth District.

For the first time this year, the Industrial Union Council, CIO, refused to endorse the hand-picked

slate of the Democratic Party city chairman, Michael Bradley. They would not break with this capitalist party, however. They formed an alliance with State Senator Jaspas and his clique of would-be ward-healers. The CIO supported a slate of dissident Democrats, who opposed Bradley's leadership. This was considered very "clever" because it might deceive a large number of workers into thinking that the CIO leadership was politically independent. Also, it might head off the growing sentiment for real independent political action through a Labor Party.

In addition to supporting Senator Jaspas's slate and Altieri for Mayor, (Continued on page 3)

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

How the Stalinist Wreckers Work in NMU

By ARTHUR STEIN

This is the second of two articles dealing with the present conflict within the National Maritime Union (N.M.U.). The issues discussed here are intended as background material for the union's coming national convention.

Last week we discussed the way in which the Stalinists, in an attempt to divide the union, are insulting Negro members with the most shameful display of paternalism. This week we shall go into the mechanics of the Stalinist control of the union and shall discuss methods of wresting control from this gang of wreckers and placing the union in the hands of the rank and file.

At the New York membership meeting on August 25, President Curran disclosed how the Stalinists had attempted—without success—to use blackmail in their current New Orleans maneuver.

Three non-Stalinist union officials in the port of New Orleans—Sullivan, Alexander and Brown—had brought the Stalinist wrath upon their heads for fighting CP clique control of the NMU. As a result, such charges as mismanagement, discrimination against minorities in the hiring hall, etc., were manufactured against them.

The NMU national office dispatched Vice-President Chester Young, a newcomer to the union who was recently elected through the machinations of the Stalinists, to investigate the New Orleans situation, and to report his findings back to the national office and the membership.

According to a letter received by President Curran from Agent Sullivan in New Orleans, the first thing Young did upon arrival was to request a private conference with Sullivan. At this conference, Young (who claims he does not belong to the Communist Party) told Sullivan that he had been authorized by the New York center of the CP to make the following offer: If Sullivan agrees to concur with charges against Alexander, no charges would be presented against Sullivan. Further, Sullivan would be reinstated into the Communist Party (from which he had recently been expelled

for working with Curran in the union), and all CP members in New Orleans would be instructed to support him.

The story is a typical one of the Stalinist method. It indicates the complete lack of sincerity with which they view all union affairs. If they had the interests of the union at heart, and if the charges they now present against the New Orleans officials were genuine, they certainly could not make deals to drop charges in return for favors. If they favor complete equality for Negro members, and if it is true (as they now claim) that Agent Sullivan is guilty of discrimination in the hiring hall, why then did they offer to withdraw charges?

As it happened, Sullivan flatly refused the CP offer. As a result, the CP apparatus saw to it that he was suspended from office and put before a trial committee.

SULLIVAN ANSWERS

Union members are now indignantly asking what is happening to their union constitution (which the Stalinists constantly claim to defend) if the CP fraction, rather than the union membership, can decide whom to put up on charges, and whom to prevent from being brought up on charges.

In the current issue of The Pilot, the NMU weekly newspaper, Sullivan answers an attack upon him by one of the Stalinist wreckers. Since it gives an intimate picture of the CP machinations in the NMU, we are quoting from the Sullivan letter at some length. The reference in the first sentence concerns the Stalinist charges against the New Orleans officials of the union.

"These charges are a tissue of lies and merely carry out the assignment of the national Communist program to destroy non-Communist officials, of which Alexander and I happen to be first on the list. The membership is well aware that a Communist [read Stalinist—A. S.] meeting was held June 8. Communists who are disgusted at the revolting tactics employed by the group of Elks who have banded themselves together for pickard and election purposes, and also to continue and make absolute their control of this union, many

who do not have two years' sea time, but who were present at this meeting, called to set the policy for the New Orleans assault and the frame-up of Sullivan, Alexander and Flattery, have advised us just who was there. Certain people were seen in New Orleans, among them Brother Rothbart, who brought down the plan worked out by Al Lannon and the Thirteenth Street gang. I am not interested in your excuses or denials, whether you were there or not. The meeting did take place with the majority of gulf agents, and leading Communists, patrolmen, etc.

"I note you refer to me as 'one of the many renegades,' and you refer to my former membership for many years. During this time I learned just how the Communist Party controls this union so easily, as you well know and cannot deny....

"You well know that every seaman's branch of the party which exists in every port is attended by the agent, patrolmen, office workers, Commie members, who are kept on the beach to carry out the decisions made at the weekly meetings, takes care of the day-to-day union business. The word 'renegade' becomes a very flattering and honorable appellation when used to describe my sewer connections with the Communist Party. In my desire to have the privilege of serving the membership, it was necessary that I join the party or fail for election, as all NMU regular and by-elections prove. While it was a very high price to pay, I feel that I was never contaminated by the ideology, and my contribution was financial...."

R. J. Sullivan, Agent Port of New Orleans.

FIGHT CP MACHINE

We now have a fairly good picture of how the CP functions in the union. Though it is actually supported by no more than a small minority of union members, it has a tightly organized machine, and by the use of blackmail, flattery and slander it controls practically all the important offices of the union. It uses this control, of course, to further the interests of nobody but the international Stalinist bureaucracy, taking orders only through those channels which lead from the Kremlin all the way down to the backs in the offices of the CP Waterfront Section in New York.

The recent by-elections for vice-president were a good example of how ineffective an unorganized opposition is against the well-oiled apparatus of the CP fraction. All the technical equipment of the CP was put into operation to insure the victory of Chester Young over Charlie Keith, a leading union militant, expelled from the CP. Enormous amounts of money were spent for

fancily printed leaflets, postage, etc. Many CP functionaries put in full time for this campaign, as well as many other Stalinists who are on the payroll of the union, and who spend the membership's dues only for CP fraction work. The margin by which Chester Young finally won was a very small one—it is true—but the fact that he did win in a union which has a majority of non-Stalinist members is regarded as a lesson by many NMU members.

These members are looking to President Joseph Curran to give them leadership in organizing efforts to defeat clique control in the union. In view of the well organized CP fraction, they feel that they need a functioning body of their own to see to it that all the shady machinations of the CP are speedily exposed. They want rank-and-file candidates in the field to oppose the Stalinists in every single election.

RANKS WANT CAUCUS

So far, unfortunately, no organized effort of this kind has been made. Outside of Curran's support of Charlie Keith in his column in The Pilot, practically no campaigning has been done for anti-CP candidates. When interviewed by this reporter, Jack Lawrenson, one of the non-Communist officials, felt that endorsement of anti-CP candidates for delegates to the convention "is not necessary" at this time. Hundreds of rank and filers, however, eager to keep the union from clique control, disagree with Lawrenson on this point.

These rank and filers want to organize a caucus to defeat the Stalinists in the union.

The purpose of such a caucus, however, cannot be simply to oppose the Stalinists. Since history has proved that the CP seeks to destroy any union of which they lose control, the rank and file caucus has the important job of safeguarding the organization against such tactics.

A good example of Stalinist union-busting of this type is the New York membership meeting of August 25. The membership present had elected Curran as chairman of the meeting. They had voted down an attempt to appeal a ruling of the chair. Nevertheless, the small minority of Stalinist hoodlums kept interfering with the progress of the meeting and made it almost impossible for the chairman of the meeting to make himself heard. This incident should be regarded as a signpost to what they may do in the future on a larger scale.

NEED FIGHTING PROGRAM

Thus these rank and filers feel that an anti-Stalinist caucus should have a fighting union program to counter the chaos caused by the Stalinist disruption. Planks such as the following are being discussed around the hall.

1. Turn the CP clique out of office. Let the rank and file run the union.
2. For a militant union program to fight the shipowners—a program which remains in the interests of seamen, no matter which side Russia happens to be on in international politics.
3. For a program to combat the threatening unemployment among seamen. For a four-watch system (a six-hour day), and increased manning scales.
4. For an "escalator" clause in the contracts—an automatic increase in wages with every increase in the cost of living.
5. Against all government-shipowner interference in union affairs. For the defeat of the Taft-Hartley law. An end to government witch-hunting and red-baiting.
6. No retreat from the union hiring hall and the system of rotary shipping, with equality for ALL.
7. For the formation of an independent Labor Party, to drive the bosses' politicians out of Washington.

Notes on West Coast Labor Movement...

By WILLIAM BARTON

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 12—A comparatively minor incident recently occurred in the San Francisco labor movement that deserves some publicity. Though it is far less important than more striking developments here and throughout the country, it involves something that has been of concern to the American labor movement since its inception and is still something of an issue—the problem of immigration. Because employers had attempted to use immigrants as scabs and low-paid workers, various elements of the labor movement have at different times opposed admitting immigrants to the country. Some immediately saw the folly of their attitude as the immigrants became among the best union militants anywhere—witness the New York garment workers, the Pennsylvania coal miners and steel workers, the Michigan automobile workers. But the unfortunate prejudice still exists, despite the fact that many unions are on record for easing immigration restrictions.

Within the past year about a thousand or so German-Jewish refugees have arrived in San Francisco from Shanghai, where they had been living for as long as 14 years. Many of them began to hunt jobs on their own, particularly unskilled work in restaurants. They were often compelled to take jobs below union standards. The union concerned, Local 110 of the Culinary Miscellaneous Employees, at first protested to the San Francisco Committee for Service to Emigrants, the social work agency that had direct contact with the refugees. However, both then determined on the only intelligent plan. The committee would turn over to the union names of those seeking such work. The union would place them on any available job under union standards after the demands of their old members had been satisfied and on a strict seniority basis. Simple, obvious union procedure—but it apparently hasn't occurred to so many. Congratulations to all concerned.

The San Francisco Planning Commission has submitted a brief report on a survey of housing conditions in one area of what is actually one of the best housed cities in the country. This section, called the Western Addition, contains about 20,000 dwelling units, of which only 56 per cent have private baths, toilets and installed kitchens. More than 40 per cent have to share bath and toilet facilities with other families. About 25 per cent are one-room dwelling units and about a third have two

rooms. Sketchy reports of the survey so far seen show little more detail on the quality of the homes. Further facts and figures will be passed along as received.

The strike of the walking bosses, members of the CIO's International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, keeps right on, with a new wrinkle added by the Waterfront Employers Association. They have decided to reimburse the struck lines, Luckenbach Steamship Lines of San Francisco and Outer Harbor Dock & Wharf Co. of Los Angeles, for their "losses" during the strike. Solidarity forever!

The Sailors Union of the Pacific has presented its new contract demands to the employers. These include a wage increase of from 7 1/2 cents for ordinary seamen to 30 cents for boatswains, as well as retention of the union hiring hall. Since the latter is supposed to be in violation of the Taft-Hartley Act, this feature is receiving much publicity throughout the country. SUP leaders have threatened a strike if their demands are not completely granted.

CIO warehousemen have begun a strike against the San Francisco branch of Sears-Roebuck. In negotiating for the new contract, the giant mail order house has attempted to destroy the gains the workers made over ten years ago—including such elementary things as a union shop, seniority rights and paid vacations. Members of the AFL Department Store Employees Union working in several of the stores have pledged complete support to the strike and honoring of all picket lines.

The papers have been all a-buzz with the story of an Oakland mother who abandoned two sick children with her neighbors. The full account reveals that Mrs. Jane Dorothy Holden, divorcee mother of three young children, attempted to get her two youngest, who were suffering from whooping cough, into a local hospital. She was refused with the statement that they only took "abandoned children or those of destitute parents." Her only apparent solution was to make them "abandoned," as she left with the oldest child, aged four, to some "high, dry climate," as recommended by a doctor.

Local welfare authorities have broadcast an appeal to her to return, with the promise of a "satisfactory solution." What's this about "radicals trying to disrupt the American family"?

Cleveland Labor Campaign Gets Vigorous Start

By GERRY McDERMOTT

CLEVELAND—"We're not 'friends of labor,' we're labor itself!" That is the campaign battle cry of John De Vito, UAW committeeman and independent labor candidate for City Council of Cleveland.

The campaign of the 32nd Ward PAC Club on behalf of De Vito is well under way. The PAC Club has found a ready-made organization to fight the capitalist parties. That organization is the shop steward system in the various local unions. Under the direction of the Ward Club, the shop stewards—directly representing the rank and file of labor—have simply moved from working in a department to working in a precinct. The men who fight big business in the shop economically are now fighting big business in the neighborhoods politically.

De Vito, in contrast to the ward-heel politicians of the old parties, is running on a platform that shows exactly where he stands. He is against the use of Cleveland police on strikers. He is for a low-cost municipal housing program and public ownership of all utilities. He opposes a current plan to tear down houses to make way for a playground, and proposes instead that idle land held by big real estate companies be used for this purpose.

On the current question now raging over a raise in fare on the Cleveland Transit System, De Vito proposes to take the position that the AFL Transit Operators Union takes on the question.

The campaign will be wound up with a radio address which is being well publicized beforehand. Finances have offered no problem. Local 45 of the UAW-CIO, the largest local in the ward, has put up \$1,500 and smaller locals are putting up proportionate sums.

In contrast to the lack of interest shown by workers to PAC appeals, voters in Ward 32 responded to the campaign by unusually heavy registration on Registration Day.

A significant aspect of the campaign is the thorough drubbing that the Stalinists have taken in trying to take over the campaign. They aimed to run De Vito as an "Independent Democrat" of the Wallace stripe. Proponents of independent labor politics have won the support of the rank and file, however, and De Vito is making his complete independence of and opposition to both parties very plain.

Cleveland's other independent labor candidate, Bob Sivert, in the 22nd Ward, is also still in the running. However, the Ward Club there is new and needs additional support and experience before it can equal the 32nd Ward outfit in hitting power.

With the Workers Party

All readers of LABOR ACTION are invited to attend meetings, class lectures and socials sponsored by local branches of the WORKERS PARTY. Visit our headquarters listed below to purchase Marxist literature, the NEW INTERNATIONAL and LABOR ACTION. For information of WORKERS PARTY activities in cities not listed below, write to WORKERS PARTY, 4 Court Square, Long Island City 1, N. Y.

- AKRON**
Write to Box 221.
- BALTIMORE**
International Fellowship House, 21 West Preston St., 2nd floor. Monday at 8 p. m., 2nd floor. Public forums every second Friday of each month. Socialist Youth League meets every Monday at 8 p. m.
- BUFFALO**
639 Main St., 2nd floor. Office hours: 11 a.m.—2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Open meetings Sunday evenings. Discussion group Thursday evenings.
- CHICAGO**
1501 W. Madison Ave., 2nd floor, Chicago 7. Telephone: CHEsapeake 5738. Office hours: 3-5:30 p. m., daily. Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.
- CLEVELAND**
WP Branch meets Sundays, 8 p.m., in Room 4, Slovenian Hall, 6409 St. Clair Ave.
- DETROIT**
Election rally: Friday, September 12, 8 p. m., at Venetian Hall; For volunteer work in election campaign, send your name to local office. #341 Gratiot, Room 10. Telephone: PLaza 5559.
- LOS ANGELES**
#314 So. Grand, Los Angeles 7, Cal. Telephone: Richmond 7-3230 (if no answer, phone AX 2-9067). Office hours: 2 to 5 p. m., daily.
- LOUISVILLE**
Write to: Robert Durant, Box 1181, Louisville/Ky.
- NEWARK**
248 Market St., Newark 2. Open house Friday evenings.
- NEW YORK CITY**
CITY CENTER: 114 West 14th St., 3rd floor. Open every day from 10 a. m. to 7 p. m. Wednesday and Thursday until 10:30 p. m. Telephone: CHEsea 2-9681. BRONX BRANCH: Thursday, 8:15
- P. m., at Wilkins Hall, 1330 Wilkins Ave., Bronx.**
- HARLEM BRANCH:** Wednesday, 8:15 p. m., at the Workers Party headquarters, 2143 Seventh Ave. (near 126th St.) Room 16.
- CENTRAL BRANCH:** Wednesday, 8:15 p. m., at the City Center, 114 West 14th St.
- CHELSEA BRANCH:** Thursday, 8:15 p. m., at the City Center, 114 West 14th St.
- INDUSTRIAL BRANCH:** Thursday, 8:15 p. m., at the City Center, 114 West 14th St.
- BELLYN-DOWNTOWN BRANCH:** Thursday, 8:15 p. m., at the Workers Party headquarters, 276 Fulton St., Brooklyn, 2nd floor.
- B'KLYN-BROWNSVILLE BRANCH:** Wednesday, 8:15 p. m., at the De Luxe Palace, 534 Howard Ave. (near Pitkin Ave.).
- SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE:** Friday, 8:15 p. m., at the Workers Party headquarters, 276 Fulton St., Brooklyn, 2nd floor.
- SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE Manhattan Unit**
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- ST. LOUIS**
Write to: Douglas Bridge, 6517 Corblitt Ave., University City 14, Mo.
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Write to: Labor Action, 488 Tenth St., Room 206 Oakland 7, Calif.
- SEATTLE**
Write to: P. O. Box 29, University Post Office.
- YOUNGSTOWN**
Write to J. F. Walters, Box 605.

WDL Lawyers Hold Anti-Damage Suit Clauses Are Legal

NEW YORK CITY (WDL)—There is nothing in the Taft-Hartley law which can outlaw clauses in union contracts barring damage suits against unions. So stated the recently formed Workers Defense League's committee to aid small unions under the Taft-Hartley law.

"By giving the federal courts new jurisdiction to entertain suits by employers for alleged breach of contract, the Act does not alter the contractual remedies presently available," said the committee's statement which was released by Carl Rachlin, WDL attorney. "There is nothing improper in limiting the remedies for alleged violations of the collective bargaining agreement to certain procedures specifically set forth in the contract even though the law authorizes additional ones.

Who Is Responsible --

(Continued from page 1)

Housewives are not agreeing with politicians that they have too much money. Sixty-five per cent of them belong to the families which had a total income of less than \$3,000 in 1946. They are worried and want to do something. For instance, in Springfield, Ohio, women started a chain-telephone buyers' strike, each woman receiving a call being urged to telephone five others.

In Toledo, unions voted to help in the picketing of stores to effectuate a buyers' strike. But in New York the League of Women Shoppers officially declared that the buyers' strike was failing as a tactic because the prices of SUBSTITUTES for the most expensive foods were also climbing—and people have to eat.

The fact is that rising prices have to be fought on all fronts. To fight there must be organization—organization of neighborhood consumers' committees working in cooperation with the unions.

The demand for a price control law must be more enlightened, to include the indispensable provision

that consumer-worker committees execute real local controls and not the politicians.

TASK WE FACE

Also, wages have to be higher to put more dollars into the housewife's purse and less into the profiteer's; and the purchasing power of wages should be protected by including escalator clauses in contracts.

However, the problem of the cost of living will never be solved basically unless big business speculators and profiteers are ousted from their ownership and control of the food industries. One thing or another always gives these private poachers on public health and life the opportunity to price the needs of life above the range of most of us. Our aim should be a fundamental solution, namely, the nationalization of the food industries—and not to remain under the control of capitalists and politicians, but to be placed under the control of the workers themselves.

This is the task that the present price crisis puts before housewives and workers.

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Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor...

Disputes Howe On "Crossfire"

Comrade Editor:

I want to side with Hollywood against Howe on the movie, "Crossfire." I think in his review in the issue of August 25 he underestimates both the artistic integrity of the picture and its emotional impact on audiences.

On the first count, to me it seems the anti-Semitic message—which, by the way, is simple but not "simple-minded"—is not superimposed on a "traditional cop-catches-killer" theme. What we see here is a group of soldiers, all caught in some kind of post-war malaise, becoming deeply involved in the violent anti-Semitic outburst of one of them—the murderer. Who the murderer is is known right away, but there is no evidence on which to hold him. The problem of the prosecutor then is to get this group to help. In deciding

to help apprehend the murderer, they express their stand or take a stand on anti-Semitism. The anti-hated speech of the prosecutor, which Comrade Howe thinks shows the "internal disunity of the film," is, on the contrary, an integrated part of the whole. The speech is not just a propaganda spiel in general, like what we found in Chaplin's recent "social significance" pictures. The prosecutor is speaking to a Southern soldier, himself by implication acquainted with anti-Negro prejudice, in an effort to win him over to help in a plan to pin down the anti-Semitic murderer. To my mind, here is a moral contribution—namely, the Southern boy consenting to help—rarely found in a film.

As to the film's ability to make an audience FEEL, in capital letters, my impression is definitely that it has that power. I saw the film in a small theater in a New Jersey town surrounded by summer resorts most of which are, sad to relate, "restrict-

ed." The audience was made up almost 100 per cent of the Gentiles who spend their summers in these resorts. Knowing this, I watched the people around me. At Robert Young's pointed thrust at just such restrictions as they are practicing, it seemed to me that people actually squirmed in their seats. Be that as it may. But in the audience were many youngsters whose social ideas are not yet formed. It is inconceivable to me that these kids of parents with anti-Semitic ideas, should not have been disturbed in their minds by the contrary ideas of the film.

Neither Comrade Howe nor I expect Hollywood to give a socialist analysis of anti-Semitism and race hatred in general, nor to advocate the basic solution. Yet within their own limits, the products of Hollywood, of publishing houses, etc., can help create certain attitudes on burning questions, attitudes that are for the good rather than otherwise. I

think "Crossfire" is such a product, only that and nothing more. The simple message—namely, that what anti-Semites "know" about Jews is just not so and that anti-Semitism involves all of us—though placed in the usual Hollywood medium, goes over, I think, because of the unusual integrity of purpose.

Susan Green, New York.

Adds to Editorial On the Legion

Editor:

At a recent meeting of an NAACP branch, during the American Legion convention, a member asked a special privilege to present a motion to the branch.

He said he was a member of Boro Park Post, Brooklyn, which is eager to present to the Legion convention resolutions for FEPC, anti-lynch and anti-poll tax legislation. It was his considered opinion that the support

of the NAACP to the Boro Park Post would be of considerable help. The president of the branch correctly analyzed the American Legion as anti-Negro and completely reactionary and, in his opinion, saw no merit for the NAACP to have anything to do with them. Of course, his conclusions were incorrect.

There was a great deal of discussion, in which one member pointed out that while it is true about the reactionary character of the Legion, nevertheless it was the duty of the NAACP to support any progressive measure wherever possible, and give aid and encouragement to any section or organization which is willing to fight for it. The NAACP branch voted for the motion.

Needless to say, the resolutions never reached the convention floor. The above mentioned facts are just an addition to your editorial on the Legion in the September 8 issue of LABOR ACTION.

M. HALL, Brooklyn,

INTRODUCTORY OFFER TO LABOR ACTION
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Editorials

A Vital Lesson In Storch Vote

A highly important political campaign ended last week in the 8th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, which includes the industrial city of Allentown, with the trouncing of the CIO-supported candidate for Congress, Philip Storch, by the Republican nominee, Storch, running on the Democratic ticket, polled 29,967 votes. The Republican candidate, Franklin H. Lichtenwalter, won by a margin of 17,000 votes. The Storch vote was some 5,000 votes less than the Democratic Party had polled the year before.

This local election received an amount of national attention far beyond that originally given a Congressional by-election. The top brass of the Republican party was in there to manage the campaign. The Democratic Party sent in at least one of its top strategists to observe the possibilities in the CIO campaign for Storch, for that is what it was. And the CIO poured in some of its brightest young men. So bright that shortly before the election they confidently predicted victory by a margin of several thousand votes. And the newspapers assigned some of their chief reporters to comment on the election.

On all sides it was considered a tie. The Republicans made it a test of the support they could muster for the Taft-Hartley law. The Democrats, while they did nothing in the campaign itself, viewed it as a test of the "labor vote." The CIO started it purely as a test of the provisions in the Taft-Hartley law which forbade union support of political candidates, and then also made it a test of PAC's vote-getting ability.

We also think it a test—not of the Taft-Hartley law, not of the "labor vote," but of the stupidity and backwardness of the labor leadership.

Let us get the facts down first. Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District is a terrifically gerrymandered district. Industrial Allentown is tied to rural and conservative Bucks County, and industrial Bethlehem is cut out. The Democratic Party, here as elsewhere in Pennsylvania, is the creature of the Republican Party, living on its suffrage. It apparently did not even intend to put a candidate in the field, until the CIO offered to nominate Storch. There is evidence that the CIO originally conceived it as a nominal campaign to test the Taft-Hartley provisions. Murray Reuther, other CIO leaders, had public statements printed in their respective union papers endorsing Storch.

The Republicans seized upon the occasion to "teach the CIO a lesson," by making the Taft-Hartley law the main issue in the campaign. They imported a large, high-powered staff and put up a campaign fund estimated as high as \$200,000. The Republicans already had every newspaper and every radio station in its two counties embraced by the District, and in Philadelphia 30 miles away. Storch evidently tried to inject some other issues like housing, but in the end the CIO-PAC campaign fell into the Republican design of concentrating on the Taft-Hartley law.

So much then for background, with one further and important addition. It would not be difficult to understand the low vote in Bucks County, generally a prosperous truck farming region and the milk shed of Pennsylvania, as well as the suburban residence of many wealthy Philadelphians. But, Storch also lost three to one in those districts where the steel workers lived!

Victor Riesel, New York Post columnist (and we'll have another word to say about this aspirant to the gossip saloons of Broadway in a moment), quotes a local union business agent as saying, "My God, in the district where there are labor people, we still didn't get the vote."

Now, there is indeed a great deal of significance in this election. Not what the Republicans, Democrats, or Victor Riesels make it out to be. The Republicans see it as a victory for the Taft-Hartley law. The Democrats see it as witnessing the limitations of the "labor vote." Said one Democratic Party big-wig: "The labor people can help you if they do it quietly. If they bring in the brass band they'll hurt you." And Riesel, a "labor" reporter who tries to affect a hard-boiled Broadway style and generally appears to be most titillated by rubbing shoulders with some big-shot nobody in Lindy's restaurant, also thinks the labor crowd is too "noisy."

And the labor leaders were indeed too noisy... for the Democratic Party! That's the main point. There is real significance in the vote in the districts where working men live. It does indeed prove that the "labor people" can help the Democrats only to a certain extent because the working man is not deceived.

Regardless of how much enthusiasm PAC can put into a campaign, if it is run on the Democratic ticket it is not an independent campaign, and gets labor nowhere. In Pennsylvania, where a recent poll showed few people thought there was any difference between the Republicans and Democrats, this is bound to be disastrous. It is equally disastrous any place, not in the size of the vote which may be larger elsewhere, but in the consequences.

There is no substitute for independent labor political action! Writing on the Storch campaign at the time that Murray and Reuther endorsed him, we said that it was not and would not and could not be an independent campaign, and that labor could not profit from it. We don't know if Storch would have polled more votes on a Labor Party ticket! We know that the same votes, generally viewed as a trouncing on the Democratic ticket, would have had imposing meaning on a Labor Party ticket.

More than that, it would have been a beginning toward mobilizing the vigorous power of labor independence. And that would have given Democrats and Republicans alike reason for concern instead of joy.

There is a great lesson in this campaign. The

campaign illustrates the futility of trying to use the capitalist parties, just as the futility and DANGER of supporting "friends of labor" has been demonstrated over and over. It illustrates the need, as well, for a program that will give labor confidence and rally to its side the poor farmer, harassed professional and so forth.

Opposing the Taft-Hartley law is not enough of a program. Oppose it with what aim in mind, to win what? The campaign, if it was to be waged at all, had FIRST to be fought as an independent labor campaign, and SECOND, on an aggressive labor program on houses, prices, and other issues which would have constituted a class challenge to the political parties of capitalism aimed at the creation of a workers' government.

For such a party and such a program there would really have been occasion for brass bands and noise. For the Democratic Party, for leading labor deeper into the morass of capitalist politics, it is best to do it "quietly."

The steel workers of Allentown had the right to expect something more than a labor face on the rotten body of the Democratic Party. They judged correctly. They were not deceived. The Murrys and Greens of the labor movement may never assimilate this lesson, staunch advocates as they are of the capitalist system, but the lesson should sink deep into the ranks of labor.

Don't Blame It On the Hungry

You've probably heard it on the radio, or read it in the capitalist press. We refer to the infamous claim that exports to feed hungry peoples in other nations are responsible for high prices.

The charge has a double purpose: to steer attention away from the real criminals in the price situation, that is, the profiteers; and to cut the food allotment to other peoples when in fact they should and CAN be raised.

According to a Department of Agriculture spokesman, anonymously quoted in the New York Post of September 15, the amount of food being shipped abroad these days is so small, with the exception of wheat, "that you can stick it in the corner of your eye." And of wheat there is more in the United States than we can possibly use. (That won't prevent the baking monopolies from trying to put over a price increase!)

Almost no eggs are being shipped abroad. Yet the price for first grade eggs is topping \$1.

Only 0.4 per cent of butter produced here is going abroad, mostly to Cuba and other Latin American countries which normally buy their butter from the U. S. Yet butter is way up on the price list.

Milk products? Only 2.9 per cent of this went overseas, and that mostly skim milk which is little used in this country.

This year's shipment of meat will be below that of 1946, and then it was 3.6 pounds per capita against a domestic consumption of 64 pounds per capita.

Oh, yes. Some evaporated milk was shipped to hungry children. Really scandalous isn't it? Especially when you consider that there are stocks of 12.2 million cases of evaporated milk in this country compared with 4.8 million cases at the end of August, 1946.

All told seven per cent of U. S. food production went overseas last year. This was two per cent less than in 1944. And the total figures will be lower for this year.

The scandal, as we see it, is not that food shipments are so high as to force prices up, but that they are so low. The peoples of Europe and Asia are hungry. Thousands and millions are starving to death. It is our responsibility to see that they are fed.

Yes, at the very moment when the American working class is most concerned with the problem of feeding itself, we think it the duty of the labor movement to intervene actively on behalf of the hungry peoples of the world. The rich are not hungry. You can be sure of that. It is our people, workers, who are starving. And we must reach them the hand of solidarity in pushing a real program of assistance.

This country has a tremendous productive capacity in food as well as in other commodities. Other countries, like Argentina, have great food-producing capacities. For people to go hungry in this atomic age is purest insanity, criminal insanity, the insanity of a capitalism which dooms people to hunger.

There is plenty for all. It is not the hungry millions who are forcing higher prices on us. It is the profiteers and their rotten, depraved, malignant system who impose high prices on us and starvation on millions of people.

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WORLD POLITICS

OFF LIMITS
By
James M. Fenwick

Is British "Socialism" to Blame?

By IRVING HOWE

The current severe economic crisis in England has given American capitalist propagandists a field day. They have spread themselves all over the newspapers with pontifications about how British "socialism" leads to economic crisis while American capitalism means prosperity. This is a very important matter; in the coming months the newspaper columnists will be playing it for all it is worth. It is therefore worthwhile to examine it here for a moment.

We shall pass over for the time being the babble about American capitalism bringing prosperity. We shall pass over for a moment the still vivid recollection of 20 million unemployed in the early thirties, of Hoovervilles, of \$8.00 and \$12.00 a week jobs; and we shall pass over the present "prosperity" of \$1.00 a pound for butter and outrageous rents and savings eaten up by the rising cost of living.

IS THERE SOCIALISM IN ENGLAND?

Let us see, however, who is responsible for the economic crisis in England. First of all, we must ask ourselves: Is there really socialism in England? There is, it is true, a Labor Party government, that is a government led by a reformist party which claims to be dedicated to a slow and "gradual" transition to socialism. But in fact this government has maintained intact both the basic structure of British capitalism and private ownership of industry. Private property is still by far the prevalent economic form in England. A few industries, most of them on the verge of bankruptcy and no longer profitable to their owners, have been nationalized: coal, civil aviation, telephone. "Under discussion" are plans for nationalization of inland transportation and electricity and parts of the iron and steel industry. Under pressure from U. S. capitalism, the British Labor Party government has postponed plans for nationalization of these parts of the iron and steel industry. But even if the maximum plan for nationalization is achieved, not more than 20 per cent of British industry will be nationalized; the other 80 per cent will remain in the hands of private capitalists. That means that the capitalists who have been so handsomely "compensated" in the nationalized industries can reinvest their "compensation" in private industries. Capitalism continues as the basic economic form in England.

The extent and nature of nationalization in England goes little beyond the state ownership of what we would call "public utilities" in this country. That is, in no way whatever the same as socialism. It does not involve, as would socialism, the control by the working class of the basic means of production and their planned utilization for the welfare of all. The degree of nationalization in England and in other countries is basically a symptom of the decline of capitalist economy which takes the form of the capitalist state coming to the aid of one of its ailing branches.

So we see that it is preposterous and demagogic to speak of the "failure" of British "socialism" as opposed to American capitalism—if only because there is no socialism in England.

WHAT CAUSED THE BRITISH CRISIS?

But let us look a little further. We hold no brief for the present British government; we have repeatedly condemned its wretched foreign policy as well as its domestic policy of perpetuating capitalism. But we must say that to blame it for the present crisis, which is deep-rooted and goes far back into British history, is a bit of cheap fakery.

The basic reasons for the British crisis may be listed as follows:

(1) British industry, pioneer of industrial capitalism in the 19th century, is by now outmoded. What is re-

quired is a tremendous capital outlay to modernize and reorganize British industry. The coal industry alone needs some \$500,000,000 to be modernized. Though the first of the major imperialist powers, Britain is now paying the price for this primacy by lagging behind the industrial plant of the U. S. and, before the war, Germany.

(2) The area of British foreign investment has narrowed. It has been steadily squeezed out by "benevolent" U. S. capitalism. British income from foreign investment has dropped from 20 per cent in 1938 to 9 per cent in 1946. During the war and post-war period, Britain lost \$5,000,000,000 in foreign assets, mostly to U. S. capital. In addition, Britain has had to retreat in its major base of imperialist operation, India, even though it still maintains (and intends to maintain) a strong economic and political hold over that nominally "free" country. Since Britain was never even near to being a self-supporting country and lived largely on profits from investment abroad and export of its industrial products, the decrease in both of these, as a result of U. S. competition and the general economic disintegration of Europe, has provoked the current crisis.

(3) The war, in which British imperialism fought for its life, left it staggering. A large part of its industrial plant was overworked, neglected and destroyed during the war. Much of its shipping was destroyed. Its labor force has been depleted and weakened by years of war and malnutrition. This, as the other causes listed here, is not the responsibility of the British Labor Party government; it is the result of the general decline of both world and British capitalism, with its economic crises and wars.

(4) British imperialism maintains at present enormous military outposts throughout the world. Expenses for such outposts have risen from 2 per cent in 1938 to 18 per cent in 1946. In a sense the British Labor Party government is responsible here; that is, in the sense it has continued the imperialist policy of its predecessors, the imperialist regimes of Chamberlain and Churchill. But that means that the blame must be placed on the capitalist, imperialist policies of the government, not on its non-existent "socialist" nature.

HOW CAN THIS BE SOLVED?

The British crisis points, however, to one essential fact. The current crisis is perpetual, chronic, unremitting; no partial measures can solve it. The British crisis cannot be solved in isolation, no more than can the French or Italian crises. What is involved is a total disintegration of world capitalist economy, one of the signs of which is the top-heavy role of U. S. capital, which has now put not merely Europe but almost the entire world on ratons.

What is required is a European socialist federation, one which can pool the continent's resources for a coordinated economic plan of reorganization and modernization of its industry, for immediate destruction of black markets and profiteering, for revitalization of the morals of the working class which will feel that it works for itself and its future rather than for its exploiters. Such a European socialist federation would break down the insane economic borders which today cripple Europe. It would put an end to the equally insane military expenditures in preparation for a Third World War which make economic reconstruction impossible, and it would serve as a rallying point for the entire world. Such a federation would mean the death knell to both world capitalism, which finds its present last stronghold in the U. S., and to Stalinist totalitarianism, which is the OPPOSITE of the freedom and security that socialism envisages.

Without such a federation; there is no hope for Europe. Without it, Europe will be gobbled up either by Moscow or Washington. Without it, the Third World War of atom bombs and jet planes is inevitable. The Socialist United States of Europe—that is the basic, permanent way out of the present debacle.

Primaries in Philadelphia--

(Continued from page 1)

the CIO put up several candidates of its own in the Democratic primaries. These candidates were not put up because the CIO leadership felt the need for labor representation, but because they were unable to make a suitable deal with Bradley. There is, unfortunately, plenty of proof for this.

NOT INDEPENDENT

Two CIO candidates were James Jares of the Steel Workers and Herbert Moyer, secretary of the PAC in Philadelphia. Neither of them put up any kind of fight. Their fight was strictly within the Democratic committee and ward-healing ranks. They did not at any time present a program of any kind. They did not hold meetings, go on the radio, issue public statements to the press, or visit house to house in their districts to speak to workers. The entire CIO ticket ran on one program: repeal the Taft-Hartley Act. That and that alone is all they mentioned. This appeared on one leaflet which is all

WDL WILL AID HICKMAN DEFENSE

CHICAGO (WDL)—At the suggestion of Myra S. Bordon of the Chicago CIO Council, the Workers Defense League has joined in the defense of James Hickman, Negro steelworker charged with murdering David Coleman, landlord of a tenement where four of Hickman's children were burned to death on January 16.

Previous to the fatal blaze Coleman stated he would do anything to get the tenants out "even if it takes fire to do so," according to witnesses at the coroner's inquest and before the city's fire attorney. That the fire may have been set deliberately was indicated by testimony that an unidentified man was in the building the night of January 16 and warned tenants to leave because the building was on fire.

According to the Hickman Defense Committee, which the WDL has joined: "The real criminals in this case are the real estate interests who promote restrictive covenants which drive Negro tenants into fire traps where they are at the mercy of ruthless landlords."

they used in the campaign.

The CIO leadership participated in the Democratic Party primaries in spite of the fact that the Democratic Party is a political "dead duck" in the state of Pennsylvania, and particularly in Philadelphia. The Democratic registration in Philadelphia is now 290,093. In nine months the Democrats have lost 49,604 registrants. Since 1938 the Democratic Party has lost steadily and consistently. It is a thoroughly corrupt party, even from its own capitalist point of view. Its corruption is different from the Republicans, who get theirs directly. The Democrats get their patronage from the handouts and leftovers which the Republicans feed to them so that they do not become extinct.

SUFFER DEFEAT

The CIO leadership decided to participate in a Democratic Party which is nothing but a shell. Not only is the Democratic Party a capitalist party, but it is, locally, the front for the Republican Party. Only two weeks ago a poll conducted by the Bulletin showed that 64 per cent of the people saw no difference between the two capitalist parties and did not believe that anything would change if the Democrats replaced the Republicans in City Hall. The CIO leadership deliberately ignored what every worker knows and understands.

It is not the small number of votes which constitutes this defeat. It is the fact that there is nothing to show for it. If an independent Labor Party received 10,000 votes, as Jares did, these votes would signify that at least that many workers were ready to build and support independent labor action. A labor campaign would have aroused the working class. The workers are more than ready for a Labor Party. This is proved by the fact that the Republican registration has not increased proportionately with the drop in Democratic registration. Most workers just do not register at all, or register non-partisan.

It is proved by the election campaign of the Workers Party, where the program of independent labor politics was welcomed in over 5,000 workers' homes visited. The reason the Democrats and Republicans threw the Workers Party nomination off the ballot is their fear of indepen-

dent workers' politics.

The failure of PAC is the failure to develop a workers' program to defend labor's rights on the political field. PAC's failure is the stupidity and criminality of playing the losing game of capitalist politics, instead of pursuing aggressive labor politics. Almost two years ago, the CIO here voted to set up ward PAC committees, to organize itself on a party basis. It has not done so. This failure has come home to roost.

29 More Arrests In Palisades Anti-Jim Crow Drive

CLIFFSIDE PARK, N. J. (WDL)—The campaign of the Committee of Racial Equality and Modern Trend to end racial discrimination at Palisades Pool was marked by 29 more arrests on August 31.

Nineteen were manhandled and arrested when they attempted to picket the Cliffside Park entrance and hand out leaflets protesting Palisades Pool's ban on Negroes. One was seized inside the park because he had a camera. Nine were arrested, on the New York City side of the 125th Street Ferry for picketing in an attempt to stop New Yorkers from going across to Palisades Pool.

The 19 arrested in Cliffside Park were tried October 15 along with nine others seized on previous week-ends for attempting to picket and hand out leaflets. One of those involved, Lise Wertheimer, has already been convicted and fined \$10. Mayor Pesin and Hiram Elfenbein, attorneys for the Workers Defense League, are handling these cases.

The nine arrested on the New York side are being defended by Conrad Lynn and Theodore Diamond, WDL attorneys. An interracial group headed by Lynn, which has been conducting a similar campaign at Rockaway Beach on Long Island, won a second victory when Benjamin Fielding, New York City license commissioner, ordered Curley's Bathhouse to cease racial discrimination or face immediate revocation of its license. Like the Park Inn Baths, against which Fielding issued a similar order early in August, "Curley's" complied.

"I'VE BEEN ROBBED!"

A couple of weeks ago an old IWW friend of ours stomped into a Philadelphia branch social. "So this is where the revolution is going to start in Philadelphia!" he boomed, rubbing his hands. "Well, I can't think of a better place for it to begin!"

Our wobbly friend is right out of the old tradition. One of his favorite ways of collecting a crowd for a street corner meeting is suddenly to start roaring, "I've been robbed! I'VE BEEN ROBBED!" and continue in increasing panic. When a crowd gathers around he continues yelling, "I've been robbed! I've been robbed by John D. Ford and Henry Rockefeller!" He then takes off from that point.

After reading about the rise in the cost of living in the papers the past few days I feel a little like our wobbly friend. Not that I need a newspaper to inform me on what has been taking place. But the cold statistical evidence on the rise of the cost of living, and the worried, hypocritical, or idiotic comments accompanying such data, are a little overwhelming, even for a person like me who normally reads cornflake boxes, the directions in three languages on shoe polish, army training manuals, and Jean-Paul Sartre with impunity.

A FEW FACTS

According to the New York Times of September 6, "For the ninth consecutive week and more months than it cares to remember, the Bureau of Labor Statistics . . . has had to announce gloomily, 'Wholesale prices again reach new peak.' This means, of course, still higher retail prices in the future."

"Food prices have led the way in the general upward trend. Thus, while the over-all cost of living has gone up about 25 per cent in the two years since V-J Day, food prices alone have jumped more than 40 per cent." This rise strikes particularly hard at low-income groups, a large proportion of whose budget is spent on food. With the impudence and ignorance which make a person wonder if we haven't been mistaken in the initial letter of his name all these years, Taft replied for the capitalists that people should eat less. So simple!

"In the fourteen months since prices have been allowed to find their own level in a 'free economy,' apparel prices, including shoes," continues the New York Times, "increased about 20 per cent, and housefurnishings about 18 per cent, while rents went up some three per cent. . . ."

Profits, needless to say, are booming along at record levels.

BEGINNING AND END

Prices have increased most sharply in the period following the lifting of OPA ceilings. It is of this period that Earl Bunting of the NAM as late as last July had the gall to state: "It is amazing that the lifting of controls has resulted in such moderate price increases. . . . there is much reason for the people of this nation to look forward to the future with confidence."

However, it is only hacks like Bunting, who are paid to swear solemnly that shinola is really that other stuff, and vice versa, who view the future with any sort of equanimity. Already commentators are sweating out the next stage in the boom and bust cycle—the lifting of federal controls on installment buying on November 1.

The current revelations on living costs very neatly expose those professional Washington weepers who only a few days ago were wringing their hands over the lack of real necessity for veterans to cash their terminal leave bonds and the inflationary potentialities inherent therein.

Actually, veterans, whose savings have been smaller, whose rents have been higher, who have necessarily been forced into poorer paying jobs, or who have been struggling through school on a miserably \$65 to \$90 a month, are among the economically worst off. And the inflationary trend was started long before they received their terminal leave cash—definitely since OPA ceilings were lifted, and even before that.

The agitation of the past few weeks over prices once again points up the necessity for veterans in industry and school alike to begin the struggle for a bonus. For the student veteran it means, additionally, a fight to raise subsistence allotments.

Men, we've been robbed!

Detroit WP Candidate Questions Mayor Jeffries On Jim Crow Textbook

September 12, 1947.

Open letter to:
Mayor Jeffries
George Edwards
Detroit Board of Education
Gentlemen:

I write you because you are the officials responsible for the conduct of the affairs of our city.

My attention has been called to an official textbook published by authority of the Board of Education of the City of Detroit which contains a deliberate slur on the Negro race. The book in question is labeled textbook number 266 and is entitled "Picture Story Reading Lessons: Dictionary." As an illustration of the letter "S" it portrays a Negro child under the heading "Little Black Sambo." This stereotyped portrayal obviously devised by some ignoramus in your Board of Education is repeated throughout the book and reminds one of the lessons for children in Hitler Germany in which Jewish children were employed as models in classes in "racial superiority."

I, for one, insist that you immediately remove this text book from circulation. After removing the offensive section, might I suggest that as an illustration of the letter "S" you use the portrayal of a thug under the title "scab" and the heading "strikebreaker employed to destroy labor unions."

Will you please inform me as to the disposition of this letter.

Yours truly,
HERMAN BENSON.

A Paper in the Interests of Socialism
Published Weekly by the
Labor Action Publishing Ass'n
114 West 14th Street, New York 11, N. Y.
General Office: 4 Court Square
Long Island City 1, N. Y. Tel.: IR08888 6-5117

Vol. 11, No. 38 Sept. 22, 1947

EMANUEL GARRETT, Editor
EDITORIAL BOARD
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Subscription Rate: \$1.00 a Year; 50c for 6 Mos.
(\$1.25 and 65c for Canada, Foreign). Re-entered
as Second Class Matter, May 29, 1946, at the Post
Office at New York, N. Y. Under the Act of
March 3, 1879

Wave of Strikes in Poland Is Symbol of Mass Resistance Against Stalinist Totalitarian Rulers

By A. RUDZIENSKI

We have recently received detailed reports concerning the wave of workers' strikes in Poland, which are caused by the terrible exploitation and oppression of the Polish proletariat by the Stalinist-Quisling authorities. The strike-wave in 1946 embraced all the important industrial centers of Poland, Silesia, the coal basin of Dombrowa, the textile industries centered in Lodz, the metal industries of Posen and the ports of Gdynia and Danzig.

Stalinist imperialism in Poland has lowered the living standards of the Polish proletariat ten times over, introducing "Socialist" methods of piece-work, prizes, bonuses and other "Stakanovist" measures which cloak the inhuman exploitation of the working-class. Before the war, workers' wages ranged between 100 to 300 zlotys (20 to 60 dollars per month). It should be added that the purchasing power of this sum was much greater than its nominal value in dollars indicates. Now the average wage ranges from 3,000 to 5,000 zlotys a month (in the black market one dollar is equal to 1,000 zlotys) that is, three to five dollars a month. This situation is hardly alleviated by the ration coupons which permit the worker to acquire food at controlled prices. Consequently, the poverty of the workers is unspokeable, and the strikes have, first of all, an economic character.

In the Dombrowa basin, once the traditional stronghold of the revolutionary workers organizations, writes "Robotnik Polski" (Polish Workers), organ of the Polish Socialist Party in exile, no week passes by without strikes in the factories and mines. In the "Paryz" mine a strike takes place every week. In the "Renard" mine, once the traditional fortress of the Communists, one strike lasted from the fifteenth to twenty-third of April, 1946. The immediate cause of the strike was the manner in which food provided by the UNRRA was distributed, part of it being stolen by the Stalinist administration before it was passed on to the workers. Despite police

pressure, the workers did not return to work until they obtained a satisfactory division of the UNRRA food.

CALL SILENT STRIKE

In the foundry "Huta Bankowa," once a fortress of the old Communist Party, the workers asked the union secretary to have the Ministry of Labor approve their leaving the foundry. The secretary, Pilat, once a reformist and now a faithful lackey of the Stalinist government, declared that he would not think of intervening and "if anybody is discontented he can go into the forest" (join the resistance bands). An unusual strike took place in the "Bedzin" mine, a silent strike. When the factory administration questioned the workers, nobody answered. Seven persons were arrested, among them one woman worker. The silent strike lasted three days.

In the "Poko" foundry, a strike against inadequate food lasted 10 days. In the coal basin of Dombrowa, even the wives of the militia-men demonstrated against the deteriorated situation. The Prefect (woyewoda) promised them an improvement in conditions, emphasizing, unbelievable as it may seem, that the police would also go on strike if the situation did not improve. Both the silent strike as well as the demonstration of the members of the militia reveal the weakness of the Stalinist regime and its lack of a social base among the most industrialized proletariat of Poland.

Strikes have occurred in many important factories of industrial Lodz, now Poland's biggest city and the center of the textile industry. In the factory "John," a woman worker received as the balance of her wages 260 zlotys which she threw in the cashier's face. The whole factory went out on strike to demonstrate solidarity with her.

In the "Krusche Ender" factory a strike broke out to force an increase in food rations. The Stalinist police and the GPU broke the strike by arresting many participants. Strikes have also taken place near Lodz, in

Pabianice and Zgierz in an attempt to increase wages. Strikes for the same reasons have also occurred in Czestochowa and were brought to an end only when the authorities promised to meet the workers' demands.

In Posen, a very important strike took place in a factory employing 6,000 workers, which took the form of a "sit-down" strike. The secret police, the "Bezpieka" started to make arrests but were hampered by the workers' wives. After three days, the authorities promised an increase in food rations and the strike was halted. In spite of this promise, reprisals continued after the strike had been ended.

In the Baltic ports strikes for an increase in wages occurred. At a workers' meeting in "Nowy Port" the police intervened and were greeted by the workers with a shower of sticks and stones. The police retali-

ated with machine-guns massacring the meeting.

OPPOSED TO STALINISM

The most striking characteristic of these strikes in Poland is that they take place in those areas and factories which were previously the stronghold of the revolutionary movement, places the writer of these lines is well acquainted with. This signifies that the most conscious and educated strata of the Polish industrial proletariat is opposed to Stalinism. The "economic" and spontaneous character of these strikes is explained by the absence of a revolutionary party in Poland. This vacuum is filled by the illegal—PPS (The Social-Democratic Polish Socialist Party).

On the other hand, the methods of the government and the Stalinist administrations acquire the character of "totalitarian and Stalinoid-fascist"

terror as a French comrade correctly wrote, in describing the Stalinist methods in the Renault factory in Paris. The openly revolutionary clashes between the Polish workers and the Stalinist police, and the demonstrations of the militia reveal the sharp revolutionary crisis that exists in Poland and indicate the perspective of its revolutionary solution.

The strikes reveal the totalitarian and reactionary character of the Stalinist regime and the parasitic character of Russian imperialism and its occupation of Poland. We advise those unfortunate "Marxist theoreticians" Frank, Germain, Cannon, etc., to teach the massacred Polish strikers, the benefits of the Stalinist "social revolution" in Poland. For us the strikes of the Polish workers are a much more important illustration of Marxist theory and revolutionary policy than the abortive centrism of the epigones.

Answers Michigan Committee On Platform of Detroit WP

Below we publish a letter sent by Herman Benson, Workers Party candidate for Mayor in Detroit, to the Michigan Citizens Committee in answer to a questionnaire received from that organization. We are not printing the questionnaire because its nature is clear from the replies.

Michigan Citizens Committee
Dear Sirs:

The answer to all your questions is indicated in the enclosed pamphlet: "Stop the Enemies of the Working-people" and the election card. I ask you to consider them as part of this reply. For your convenience I summarize them here:

Questions 1 and 2: HOUSING AND RENTS

My answer to question 1 is "Yes." My platform reads: "For real rent and price control laws enforced by committees representing unions, consumers, housewives, tenants. Against rent increases and price increases. Fight against evictions."

The key to my platform and its enforcement is the organization of the people themselves to enforce and to police price and rent control. Rent control will be made a reality not only when the necessary laws are passed but by the organization of mass tenants' councils and committees to enforce these laws by united action.

To relieve the housing shortage, new low-cost homes must be built. My platform reads:

"For a \$250 billion five-year program of public works on a national, state and city basis to provide low-cost housing, slum clearance, modern transportation, community and recreational facilities. Of this, \$3 billion to be utilized in the Detroit area for such purposes and to provide new housing for up to 200,000 families. Finance this program by taxing the profiteers."

In such a program we must ignore the property rights of the real estate sharks who profit from the perpetuation of slums and who allow the homes of working-people to fall into decay.

Questions 3 and 4: DISCRIMINATION AND POLICE BRUTALITY

My platform reads: "Full social, political and economic equality for Negroes and all minorities. Enforce the Dignity Law. Abolish restrictive covenants." It goes without saying that I will take whatever steps are necessary to pass FEPC legislation on a municipal, state and national basis. I represented my party, the Workers Party, on the committee which delivered the petitions to the county clerk during the recent campaign for a state FEPC and turned over 2,000 signatures gathered in the name of the Workers Party.

My platform deals with at least three aspects of the question of racial discrimination:

(1) It is necessary to wipe out the very possibility of racial prejudice by providing security, plenty, and freedom for all.

(2) Every trace and vestige of discrimination and segregation in our national life must be eradicated, in the North as well as in the South. In Michigan as well as Mississippi.

(3) To prevent the organization and instigation of anti-Negro, anti-labor riots and police brutality and to bring them to a speedy end if they do occur, it is necessary to organize Labor Defense Guards under the direct control of the organized labor movement to defend all the people from illegal, fascist violence. The validity of this policy is revealed by your own question which you address to me. You refer to race riots and police brutality.

ity in the same breath. This is correct, for the police have always shown themselves to be sympathetic to fascist elements. It would be suicidal to depend upon such a reactionary police force to act aggressively against anti-Negro fascist rioters.

Prior to the riots of 1943, my party organized public meetings to the extent of its ability under the title: "Smash Klanism in Detroit." At these meetings and in our press we advocated the formation for reasons cited above of Labor Defense Guards by the unions. Unfortunately we were not influential enough to persuade the unions to take this road. Had our program been adopted when we proposed it in May and in April, the riots of June would have been speedily smashed and the unity of Negro and white workers further cemented.

Questions 5 and 6: SCHOOLS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

These questions are already partially answered in our plank on public works quoted above. It is not at all necessary for me to elaborate any new plans of my own for rebuilding the city of Detroit. The City Planning Commission has already mapped out a program to meet the needs of the city. The Housing Commission of the UAW has excellent plans and suggestions.

But these fine programs will remain scraps of paper until the taxation and financing program of the Workers Party is adopted. We propose to tax the big bankers and industrialists. We propose to place on the top of the agenda the health of the community and to ignore the property rights of the big landlords and capitalists.

Question 7: HOSPITALS AND HEALTH

The problem of financing adequate hospital and health facilities is identical with that of financing public works in general and is therefore already answered in this letter. Needs in this field are at least as pressing as the need for new housing. Once the necessary funds are made available from the profit-swollen treasuries of the rich capitalists, there will be no difficulty in effectuating plans which can be elaborated by committees of hospital workers and public-minded doctors. They will be able to suggest the best ways of utilizing the funds and the precise amounts to be allocated for these needs.

Question 8: MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

I favor the expropriation of big industry and its operation under the control of democratically elected shop committees. In accord with this principle I favor the municipal ownership of public utilities operated under the authority of union committees. These committees, directly concerned with the welfare of the people, must be superior to and in charge of all officials.

While I, of course, agree that all revenues from the operation of the utilities must go toward improving service and to help finance better schools, etc., I cannot agree with what seems to be implied by your question. Such revenues cannot be and must not be the main or most adequate method of financing public works. This would mean to rely upon revenues, most of which come from the people themselves, to finance municipal improvements. The necessary revenues must not and cannot come out of the pockets of the working-people in any form at all. We say: Tax the rich capitalist class.

Copies of my platform and program are enclosed.

Yours truly,
HERMAN BENSON.

September 5, 1947.

Price of Capitalist Rule Seen in Housing Crisis

By JACK RADER, W. P. Candidate for City Council, 5th Phila. District

PHILADELPHIA. — What is the price of capitalist rule? How much does it cost to keep the Republican and Democratic parties in power? How much does it cost in terms of misery and tragedy, say in a city like Philadelphia, where the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Sun Oil Co. are the masters for whom the Republicans and Democrats run the city.

The price is the price we, the working class, the majority, pay to the economic and political overlords. And we keep on paying as long as we live, with labor and insecurity, racial and religious hatred, death in imperial wars, and the years of unemployment and hunger which every depression brings.

But now everyone is working. Even in its prosperity capitalism enforces misery and uncertainty upon the workers. We work, but food and clothing and housing in proper quantity and quality remain out of reach. Most workers in this year of prosperity, are barely scraping along and making ends meet. Yet this is called "good times." Prosperity then, is always prosperity for the capitalist class.

THE GOLYEAN CASE

The miserable failure of capitalism to provide decent homes for people is a frightening illustration of

how, even in the best of times, when almost every worker is working, the most elementary physical human needs are still hardly attainable. All sorts of modern techniques have been produced, yet houses remain scarce. They are not being built, and those that are are out of reach of the worker who builds them. Everything that exists for a good life, but all that is good is siphoned off by the ruling class.

In the city of Philadelphia last week, Charles Golyean placed his two children, Carol 5 and Charles, Jr., 4, in the custody of the Society to Protect Children from Cruelty. "I hate to do this," said the father, as he brought the youngsters to the home, "but I just had no place to keep them until I find a home."

The Golyean family lived at 1026 Susquehanna Ave. until the house was sold and they were evicted. The family was forced to break up because they could not find a place to live together. All they could find were single furnished rooms renting for eight to ten dollars a week. And in these rooms there are no children allowed. (The capitalist newspapers often yell about how socialists want to destroy the family!)

The Golyean family separated into four parts. The two children went to the Home. The father is looking for a relative, while expecting another baby. Grandmother Golyean has no

place to live at present and is traveling between relatives' homes. Mr. Golyean stated his case simply: "I have looked for a house I can rent, in the city or in the country."

This is in America, in Philadelphia, in the year of prosperity, 1947. The Golyean family is not homeless because it has committed a crime. In this rich country there are not enough houses to go around. Capitalism cannot supply enough roofs to go around. Capitalism cannot supply enough roofs to cover its misery. Workers are forced into degradation. It takes its toll from children as well as adults by breaking up the family. Is it any wonder that Philadelphia has one of the highest juvenile delinquency rates and it is still increasing.

THE MELVILLE CASE

The case of Mrs. Fannie Melville, aged 60, is even more tragic. Mrs. Melville had lived in her apartment for seven years when the house was sold. The new owner declared he did not want women and children for tenants. This was his excuse for evicting his tenants and raising rents to the new occupants. He raised rents \$10 a week for a room. Mrs. Melville could not pay and anyway the landlord didn't want any old women around.

She could not find another place to live. One night she told a neighbor: "I don't know what I am going to do.

English Workers: Poorly Fed Poorly Housed, Poorly Clothed

LONDON.—As in every country of Europe, the heaviest burdens of daily living in England fall upon the weary shoulders of the working class housewife. Hers is the problem of keeping things going in face of the constantly shifting conditions and handling the intricacies of the rationing system. For, although the war is more than two years ended, rationing in England is as tight and strict as it was during the war's most difficult days. The housewife of a family of four, living in London and quite typical of the country, has given us the following outline of living in England today.

There are four people in her family, including two children. One is a bright school-girl; the other a small baby. The total weekly family income averages \$32, a substantial workers' earnings for England. The husband is a hard worker, whose salary goes exclusively for support of his family.

No savings are possible. Approximately \$20 is spent each week on food. This, together with \$8 weekly rent, leaves a balance of \$4, to be spent for recreation, clothing and general expenses! Obviously, savings and special comforts and luxuries are out of the question. It should also be emphasized that a weekly salary of \$32 is, in England, extremely high and unusual. Twenty dollars to \$25 are far closer to average weekly earnings.

FURTHER REDUCTIONS ARE IN SIGHT

Virtually everything is still rationed—and most strictly—in England today. The prospect is, during the coming winter, for a series of further reductions in the quantity of goods obtained today under the ration system. Food, clothing, electricity—all are rationed. Every available food, except fish and fruits and vegetables (during the season for these foods) are on the list. Bread, butter, eggs, meats, canned goods are sold on ration cards, received yearly by each member of the family. Babies receive extra milk and baby foods. There is sufficient bread, virtually no tea or butter or meat (20 cents worth of meat per individual, per week!). One ounce of bacon and one egg per week to each card holder. The price of food is rather cheap because of government subsidies, but fruits and vegetables are, by American standards, fantastically high (a small peach costs 12 cents).

As a result, the average English person receives little to eat and his diet is horribly monotonous. There isn't anything decent to cook with. Although standards and staples are available, nothing required to vary a diet can be had. A luxury black market exists, but insignificant compared with countries on the Continent. But the rich have another advantage which enables them to live at far higher standards. They can eat in restaurants, whereas a family such as the one we are describing obviously cannot. The rich can therefore supplement their diet at the restaurants several times each week where, incidentally, much more variety is available. This is the substitute for Europe's open black market. A fair restaurant meal costs \$1.

POORLY FED, POORLY WARMED, POORLY CLOTHED

Other shortages are numerous. There is little soap, and power cannot be used for hot water. English homes rarely have any hot water for normal purposes. Since English homes do not have central heating—except for the most modern, expensive apartments—the question of coal for winter is basic.

Each home will be allowed about one ton, of newly increased prices, for the approaching winter. This is less than one-half what is required for the period. English homes are about 50 per cent heated; French about 33 per cent heated and German entirely unheated! Here is as good a comparative description of living standards as can be found. Furthermore, all clothes, except for hats, are rationed. An English worker cannot buy whatever clothing he may be able to afford or need. Under the coupon system, he can get about one suit (or coat) and one pair of shoes per year. Anything else is out of the question—he lacks the points.

The great mass of the English working class are, even by the highly improvable American standards, poorly housed, poorly warmed, poorly fed, poorly paid and poorly clothed. The Labor Government has simply better rationed and distributed the general poverty; it has had no success in the direction of raising standards.

Candidate Fined--

(Continued from page 1)

the Socialist Workers Party and the Workers Party held this evening in the Militant Labor Hall. The joint meeting was chaired by Max Geldman, organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, who introduced I. Jack Rader, Workers Party organizer, and the other three defendants.

The joint meeting also discussed details concerning the political rally and social to be held under the auspices of the Provisional Defense Committee for Political Rights of Independent Labor Candidates on Saturday, September 20, at 1303 W. Girard Avenue. The Provisional Committee consists at present of elected representatives of the Workers Party and the Socialist Workers Party. Contacts have been made with several individuals prominent in liberal and labor circles who have expressed interest in helping to form the committee on a permanent basis.

The Workers Party Philadelphia Branch is thankful for and appreciative of the support which the readers and friends of LABOR ACTION have given them in this campaign crisis.

delphia there is no functioning unit of the Workers Defense League or of the Civil Liberties Union so that such a permanent Committee for Political Rights is an urgent necessity here.

The joint rally and social will be addressed by Defense Attorney David H. H. Felix and by Candidates Jack Rader and Irene Le Compe. The subscriptions and proceeds of the social will be used to defray the legal expenses of approximately \$300 which the two parties have incurred in the fight for a place on the ballot in addition to the \$200 incident to the bailing of the candidates and affiliates.

The Workers Party Philadelphia Branch is thankful for and appreciative of the support which the readers and friends of LABOR ACTION have given them in this campaign crisis.

What Kind of People Are Congressmen? Read Jack Ranger's Article on Congress in next week's LABOR ACTION

Evictions on Rise; City Officials Duck Housing Emergency

By HERMAN BENSON, Workers Party Candidate for Mayor of Detroit

DETROIT — Common Councilman Comstock, who lives in the well-kept and comfortable rooms of the Hotel Tuller, says that there is no rent emergency in Detroit and if there is one, it is "just a baby one." Meanwhile, a city survey of vacant dwellings available in cases of emergency to house evicted tenants living in the streets revealed that in this city of almost two million people, there are some 100 empty places, including hovels. Rumor hath it that overturned furniture cases thrown into empty lots were inadvertently included in the survey, having been confused with some of the available "dwelling units."

The number of new eviction suits filed daily equals 150 and is expected to increase as the profit-hungry landlords seek all sorts of pretexts to get rid of tenants and to take advantage of rent increases made possible under the new federal law. Most of these suits involve families with children.

Landlords, as is well known, do not want their precious property, some of which has been improved as recently as 25 and 50 years ago, to be damaged by dogs, cats, pests and children. The landlords' lobby in Washington and Lansing can be expected to press for the passage of a new "Callahan Rent Law" which will provide for boards of inspection to make certain that couples without children who move into apartments do not circumvent agreements with their landlords to remain childless.

MEETING THE CRISIS

The prospect for the future—the immediate future—is the eviction of hundreds of families who will have to live somewhere—in the parks, in the streets, in municipal lodging houses. This is slowly convincing the "liberal" officials of the city that action must be taken to meet the housing crisis. Faced with the prospect of hundreds of children freezing to death in the winter streets, these men say that something must be done. It must be admitted: they are liberals. Circuit Court Commissioner William J. Cody suggests that the Common Council pass an ordinance banning evictions in "hardship" cases. George Edwards, who is president of the Common Council and a well known liberal, is also in favor of such a step—if it is legal. And the Council is now engaged in legal researches into the legality of banning landlords from throwing children onto the streets. Meanwhile, eviction cases and evictions continue.

But Edwards and other city officials have not always been so terribly concerned over the niceties of the law. Not long ago there was a

shortage of gasoline in the city. The Police Department needed gas to run its cars. That was a real crisis! Edwards, who was acting mayor at the time, threatened to solve that shortage by stopping private autos on the streets and taking away their gasoline.

Of course, such drastic action undoubtedly would have been justified. Suppose it was necessary for the police to dash to some picket line to crack the heads of strikers, as they have in the past weeks. And suppose they couldn't get there for lack of gasoline. Why, the whole structure of "orderly" city government would fall to pieces. But for a mere matter like stopping evictions, it is preferable to act without due haste and with due consideration for all the rights of all the landlords.

WHAT THE WP PROPOSES

Our program is not so "liberal." We believe that less consideration must be shown for the rights of the landlords and more for the tenants, most of whom are working people. Less concern for the needs of the police department. More concern for the needs of the people.

We propose first of all the immediate declaration of a city housing emergency, accompanied by a moratorium on all evictions from homes, owned or rented. No more evictions of people who merely want and need a place to live. This goes for "hardship" cases and all others.

If it is necessary to house families or individuals because of emergency, places can be made for them. One immediate possibility is the eviction of all real estate companies from their big offices. These companies aren't doing any good. They just take up space to keep their files and desks which they use to devise ways of raising rents and pushing evictions. They don't BUILD new low-cost homes. They don't repair old homes. They are just there for the needs of the parasites and real estate sharks. One real estate company alone, Homer-Warren Company, with a suite of offices in the Dime Building, could make way for at least a dozen or more families.

And there need be no difficulty in enforcing these laws. There are hundreds of thousands of organized workers in Detroit. Many of them are tenants. They can be mobilized when necessary to enforce these laws. Tenants' councils have already been formed in many neighborhoods. More can and will be formed. They too can be mobilized by the thousands to enforce these laws.

Emergency measures like these and others which make the rich, the big real estate operators responsible for meeting the immediate crisis, can be enforced until we can go forward to a program of construction of low-cost public housing paid for by taxing the profiteers.

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By PAUL FROELICH
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