

# THE FIGHTING WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE! WORKER

Organ of the Revolutionary Workers League of the U. S.

Vol. 6 No. 4 Whole No. 70.

April, 1941.

Labor Donated

Price: 1 Cent

## NEW DEAL PREPARES TO BAN STRIKES

What is the significance of the new mediation board of 11 members set up by President Roosevelt to check the strike movement?

### 1—STRIKES SERIOUSLY HINDER WAR MOVES

First and foremost, despite all the government talk about how small the number of strikes were, the real truth is that American industry has been seriously affected by it. Industry is so integrated that a strike of only 440 workers in the Harvill plant on the west coast threatened in two weeks time to shut down all the plane factories in that area. A strike at Bethlehem Steel for any duration

— with its billion seven hundred million dollars in war orders — would probably put the whole war preparation into a complete standstill. The shutting of the mines would have a similar effect.

It is no accident that in America, where the workers are the least class conscious, strikes are the most militant and strikebreaking the most organized anti-labor industry anywhere in the world. The capitalists clearly understand that the division of labor that exists in American industry is more pronounced than anywhere else in the world.

### 2—BOSSSES UNITED TO STOP WAGE BOOST

The second important factor in the present situation is that there is unanimous and united action on the part of the WHOLE capitalist class to stop any general movement for wage increases. Individual companies, like Allis Chalmers and Harvester, who are losing money because of strikes, are undoubtedly subsidized by the various anti-labor associations (National Manufacturers Association and their ilk) to hold out. The theory is that once an increase is granted in one important plant the general wage increase will go through everywhere. And despite the most prosperous "peace" year in the heavy industries since the war, the bourgeoisie is dead set a-

gainst giving up part of their surplus value.

### 3—CLASS PRESSURE GREATER

Thirdly, the pressure of the working class from below is at highest level in America since the 1919 strike wave, at a higher level even than the 1936-37 sitdown strike wave. But counterposed to this is the mounting wave of social-patriotism of the leaders. The failure of the workers to capitalize to any real extent on this wave of organization and militancy is the result of the CIO and AFL strait-jacket.

In 1936 the CIO had not yet consolidated an apparatus. New union leaders heading newly organ-

(Continued on Page 4)

## Waller Wins Stay

A writ of error was granted to Odell Waller, by the Virginia State Supreme Court of Appeals after a petition for a writ was argued before the court by Waller's attorney, Thomas H. Stone, assisted by Attorney Thomas Finerty of New York City.

A new reprieve will soon be announced for Waller who was originally sentenced to the electric chair last September by a "Lily-white" jury of ten farmer land owners and two business men at Chatham, Pittsylvania County, Virginia. The original date of execution was set for December 27th but the national action of the Richmond Waller Defense Committee and its national supporting groups and committees won a first reprieve for Waller until March 14th.

### NEW TRIAL MANDATORY

With the granting of the writ of error a new trial is mandatory and defense council will insist that the new jury consist of Waller's equals and not drawn exclusively from the list of poll tax payers as was the case in the last trial.

The Waller Defense Committees have launched a national campaign to bring pressure upon Gov-

ernor Price of Virginia in order to secure a change of venue for the new trial. There is ample proof that certain white landowners and business men have whipped up a lynch spirit in Pittsylvania County and it is feared that Waller's life will be in danger if Waller is returned there for the new trial.

Waller's wife, Mrs. Mollie Waller, is now making a national tour under the Auspices of the Richmond Waller Defense Committee on behalf of her husband's case and will speak in Cleveland on the evening of March 27th at Community A.M.F. church at 2226 E. 55th St. under the auspices of the Cleveland Waller Defense Committee.

The Waller Defense Committees have announced their intention of carrying this case up to the United States Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the Poll tax laws which are involved in this case.

### Vital Pamphlets

- The Workers Answer to Boss War
- Trade Unionism Today
- Negro Slavery — Then and Now
- Uncle Sam's Stake in the War
- Workers Rights or Democracy

## War Grip Tightens Over U.S. Masses

### DEMOCRATIC - REPUBLICAN BLOC TIGHTEN GRIP OVER THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

The adoption of the Lend-Lease Bill and the "all out" aid to Britain and the other "democracies" (?) by the financialists of the country is the closing act of the first phase of "our" participation in the imperialist war. And it is the beginning of a more aggressive phase of the struggle to organize the world to the needs of Dollar Diplomacy.

More than a challenge to the Axis powers and for material aid to England are the effects of Bill 1776 on the internal structure of the exploiters Republic. It is a giant stride toward a more open dictatorship over the people of the United States. It is axiomatic that when a "democratic" capitalist nation goes to war, like England, against the dictatorial capitalist nation, like Germany, the "democratic" nation must adopt dictatorial power. So too, each step toward military intervention by the United States in the WORLD war is preceded by a further curtailment of the democratic process.

### A DOMESTIC PASSPORT

Let us review some of the outstanding steps in the first phase of war preparations:

1—The adoption of the Draft law to prepare cannon-fodder for war. And above all to establish a DOMESTIC PASSPORT for the purpose of controlling all men between 21 to 35, which constitutes the backbone of our labor supply.

2—The finger printing and registration of the foreign born as another form of the DOMESTIC PASSPORT for the control of labor.

### A SUBSIDY FOR CAPITAL

3—The 35½ billions for war preparations while only yesterday we were told that if the government used only more billions for the unemployed, old aged and starving the nation would go bankrupt. But that was money to spend for the protection of human needs, while the war spending is to protect property rights of capitalism. Billions in subsidy for the exploiters but not one cent for the "forgotten man".

(continued page 3)

# SMASH FRAME UP AGAINST WALLER

Fight For Sharecroppers And Negro Voting Rights

The struggle for the freedom of Odell Waller, Negro sharecropper sentenced to death for the alleged murder of his landlord Oscar Davis in Virginia, has deep-rooted political significance.

The solid South is the backbone of the Democratic Party. Around it the Democrats build the rest of their support. The solid South belongs to the reactionary Democrats by virtue of the poll tax, which by taxing people for the right to vote eliminates all but the wealthier property owners from the poll. In the State of South Carolina, for instance, only 5.2% of the population votes, in contrast with about 50 or 60% who vote throughout the country. In order to be elected then a Democrat must get only about 3% of the people of the state behind him. The other 97% is of no significance.

## NEW DEAL FIGHTS OLD LINE DEMOCRATS

All of this is grist to the mill of the democratic party as a whole who continue to run the South but unfortunately the democrats are not as monolithic as Mr. Roosevelt would desire. It so happens that the old-line democrats, the old-dealers, even though they do not control the New Deal apparatus are in a position to do great harm in upsetting FDR's appletart. For instance, out of 38 important standing committees about 31 are chairmanned by old - deal - democrats of the South, more than two-thirds. A similar percentage prevails in the lower house. By virtue of their control of exceedingly small minorities of the upper bourbons at home, Senators like Carter Glass, Garner, Rep. Dies, etc., can perpetuate themselves in power and cause tremendous obstruction to Mr. Roosevelt's machinery.

Mr. Roosevelt, it must be stated, has purged his party of many of these elements, but nowhere near enough. The next job, in consolidating his machine, is to complete the purge in as thorough a manner as possible.

## ELECTORAL REFORM LEAGUE

How is that to be done? The answer lies in the Southern Electoral Reform League, which has the blessing of Mrs. Roosevelt and every important liberal in the South.

The plan of the Southern Electoral Reform League is simple. They are fighting, in the words of Mrs. Roosevelt, for the elimination of the poll tax and instead for STRICTER LITERACY TESTS. In their public material they lay most emphasis on this one question — the poll tax, but here and there their supporters come out — as Mrs. Roosevelt did — openly.

The New Deal hopes and expects that the lifting of the poll tax would enfranchise the lower class whites, who could be expected

to vote with the New Deal democrats against the old dealers like Garner, Glass, etc. BUT they are mortally afraid that if the disfranchised Negroes get the right to vote it will upset the whole plan. The Southern Negroes are still at the stage where they worship the memory of the Republican President Abraham Lincoln, who supposedly "freed the slaves". This tremendoes bloc of votes, unless curtailed, could swing the whole south away from the democrats as a whole to the Republicans. Hence the Reform League's proposal of a stricter literacy test, which they would not apply to poor whites but could bar most Negroes on the grounds that they cannot read or write well.

## TO BAR NEGROES

The strategy of this whole thing is so simple it must be obvious even to the blind. It is a New Deal Jim-Crow move for purely political gain. It has nothing in common with really liberalizing the voting laws in the South or bettering the plight of the oppressed in the land of the bourbons.

Yet, who is on the committee of the SERL? The secretary is none other than Frank McAlister, tenant farmers leader, a leader of the Socialist Party and key figure in the Workers Defense League. Furthermore, "Defense", official organ of the WDL, comes out openly for full and unequivocal support to the shady reform League of the New Deal.

Messrs. McAlister, Clendenin, Thomas and company are in alliance with the New Deal, Senator Pepper, Representative Geyer, Virginius Dabney and others to perpetuate this Jim-Crow campaign under the guise of "eliminating the poll tax".

## S.E.R.L. WILL PAILROAD WALLER

That is precisely where the Waller case comes in. Here is a Negro condemned to death by a jury of landlords chosen primarily on the basis of poll tax lists. If the Southern Negroes become aroused against the poll tax as a result of this case and put up strong efforts to gain the right to vote it will completely upset Mr. Roosevelt's plan of keeping them from the ballot through fraudulent literacy tests. Hence the case must be toned down as far as possible. Hence Virginius Dabney's paper, the Richmond Times, outstanding liberal daily in the South, constantly throws slurring remarks at the Revolutionary Workers League and the Richmond Waller Defense Committee, which is exposing the whole dishonest tie-up.

The liberals in the South are working to get the case settled as quickly as possible with some compromise such as life imprisonment or fifty years, or something of the sort. Hence the Workers Defense

## A.F.L. Leaders Scab On Harvester Strikers

CHICAGO, March 24th. — As we go to press the strike of 13,000 International Harvester Workers in three different plants in this area is in a critical situation. The company has been able to get a temporary injunction against mass picketing so that the plants can be open today. The AFL, with Irving Brown a former Socialist and Lovestoneite, as its organizer, has been obligingly playing the role of strikebreaker and has been mobilizing scabs to smash through.

The demands of the workers are for a three week vacation with pay, an end to the vicious piece-work system, and full recognition of the union.

The CIO Farm Workers Equipment Organizing Committee, with Grant Oakes as its chairman, has been able to keep the plants closed thus far. But the fight within the CIO over the question of setting up a city wide council (see our ar-

ticle on this question in other columns of the paper) has seriously hurt effective picketing and protection.

An independent company union which has now been disbanded as a result of an NLRB ruling immediately turned itself into an AFL union and is playing open anti-strike role.

Regional director Pugh of the CIO has called together presidents of the CIO locals (198 locals) to plan action to help Harvester, but no really important plans were formulated.

The Harvester strike is a key strike in the country. More men are involved than anywhere else. The Harvester workers can not afford to permit the plants to re-open.

Smash the injunction! Spread the strike to the rest of the Harvester plants and to other important plants — steel and packing-house, in the Chicago area! There lies the road to victory.

League — who are on this dirty deal — have refused constantly to bring this case down to the working class in the trade unions and the Negroes in the South (they have even refused to set up a local of the WDL in Richmond where they have active members) and have instead concentrated only on raising funds from liberals.

Hence people like Pauli Murray and many other WDL members have been whispering about the need for a possible "compromise" (read: sell-out) of the Waller case. Hence the charges by Attorney Finerty, socialist and WDL leader, that the Richmond Waller Defense Committee, which originally took the case, won its first victories without the help of a single other organization and carried the financial and other burdens of the case for the first few decisive months — that the Richmond committee is "irresponsible".

## NO MORE SCOTTSBORO SELL-OUTS

The sell out of Odell Waller as quickly and smoothly as possible is a key prerequisite of the New Deal forces and their reformist allies. So long as the Waller case is not disposed of, the Southern Electoral Reform League must mark time until Negro and proletarian hatred against the poll tax and literacy test system has cooled.

The RWL urges all the comrades in the Socialist Party, the two Trotsky groups and the other organizations supporting the WDL

in this case to seriously consider these facts. Do they want to endorse a Jim-Crow New Deal policy? Do they wish to permit their leadership to work hand in glove with this New Deal socialist alliance to use the Waller case as a little catspaw to keep the Negroes in the South disfranchised? Do they wish to support another Scottsboro "compromise"? Or are they willing to help build a true defense for Odell Waller, to expose these underhanded maneuvers and rotten deal with Mr. Roosevelt and his representatives. It is ludicrous to talk of "fighting capitalism", of "fighting against Jim Crowism", of "fighting against the war", and at the same time to support the Socialists who have capitulated bag and baggage precisely to the Jim-Crow, New Deal, war-baiting forces.

**ODELL WALLER SHALL NOT BURN! SUPPORT THE RICHMOND WALLER DEFENSE COMMITTEE! BURN JIM-CROWISM OUT OF THE UNITED STATES!**

Comrades of the Socialists, Trotskyites, NAACP, and other working class organizations make your protest against the policies of your leadership known. Get in touch with the Richmond Waller Defense Committee, 1103 E. Main St., Room 429, Richmond, Va., and the RWL to do your bit to liberate Odell Waller.

April, 1941.

## THE FIGHTING WORKER

Central Organ of the  
REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE, U. S.

(Affiliated to the Provisional

International Contact Commission  
For a New Communist (4th) International)  
Subscriptions: FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR

Published once a month by

DEMOS PRESS

855 N. Ashland Ave.

Chicago, Ill.

### U.S. Sabotages Social Needs

The United States Government has appropriated in the last year 35½ millions of dollars for war preparations. Just to give you an idea of the magnitude of the sum, it is more than the income of any nation in Europe, including England and Germany. If distributed amongst every man, woman, and child in America, it would net each and everyone of us about 240 dollars. It could pay the WPA bill on the present basis for about 35 years. At the rate of a million dollars a hospital, we could build 35,000 hospitals. At the rate of 10,000 dollars for a little bungalow for a working class family, it could shelter 3½ million working class families. Needless to say, however, "our" government isn't interested in the things for perpetuating life. It is far more concerned with the profits that result from war and death.

### F. B. I. Continues Scare Campaign

This is the story of "How Democracy Works" in war time. We give the facts as they affected us of the Revolutionary Workers League not because of our own interest but because we know that similar things are happening with other organizations and comrades.

Even though the Revolutionary Workers League is still considered a legal organization — officially and formally — the Federal Bureau of Investigation has taken steps to force us out of existence.

Among many indignities suffered we record only a few. An issue of the FIGHTING WORKER was barred from the mail because of reasons still not clear. Police visited not only our headquarters, but officials are constantly visiting homes of individuals, our landlords, stores, etc. to turn them in one way or another against having any transactions with the RWL. Our mail has been refused us for weeks at a time on one technicality or another. Some of our comrades have been picked off the street and rushed to FBI offices for questioning. Our open meetings are visited by plainclothesmen who make little effort to conceal their identity. After delivering mail to the RWL offices on Division St. for five years

the postal authorities suddenly discover that we are "irresponsible" and demand notarized statements of ownership by Demos Press, which does some of our work and from whom we sublet, as well as our own organization. When we move postal authorities harras our new landlord and demand that they appear before them.

And all this goes on in one form or another despite the fact that comrade Oehler, our national secretary, voluntarily appeared before the FBI and submitted to questioning about all aspects of the League program, organization, etc. He was informed there were no charges against him or the League — but the campaign continues anyway.

The significance of this campaign of intimidation is apparent. It is closely linked with the new mediation board to end strikes, the proposed legislation against the strike wave, government sponsored campaign within the unions against "reds", the "registration of foreign agents", the domestic passport, and many other factors. In its period of crisis capitalism cannot even afford a semblance of democracy.

We do not at this stage know what the next steps to crush the League will be, whether squads have already been organized to smash our apparatus, as in the last war, or what. But we state with the firmest of conviction the Revolutionary Workers League, with the aid of its sister organizations of the INTERNATIONAL CONTACT COMMISSION in Germany, England and elsewhere, will NOT be driven out of business. The campaign of intimidation will defeat its own purpose.

### Trotskyites Support Social-Patriot

In their "Fight" against war the Cannonite centrists in New York have suddenly discovered a "real good" tactic. First they put up their candidate in a special election of one member of the House of Representatives. Then suddenly they withdrew their own candidate in favor of a Stalinist running on the "left wing" American Labor Party ticket.

In explaining this intricate manouever to their readers the Trotskyites explain that at least Mr. Connaley, the Stalinist, is not a member of the two "capitalist" parties. Quite true, of course. Mr. Connaley is against the specific war program of aiding Britain, promoting America's quest for conquest, etc. But he most certainly has been and is supporting — as a loyal Stalinist — the war program and aims of German Imperialism and the U. S. "appeasers". Comrade Cannon may look upon this as some sort of a virtue, to complete the befuddlement of the masses. They have been listening to speeches that were pro-Anglo-American capitalism. Maybe if they could hear pro-Axis talk of a more subtle nature they would be sufficiently confused not to be confused with Cannon's intricate manouvers. They might otherwise look at Cannon and his movement for what they are — IN WORDS, big talk against war in the abstract, IN DEED constant compromises with and support of social patriotism and social patriots.

### 'Negro Aid' Bill Aimed At Labor

While a dozen or more bills are being introduced in the Federal and State legislature to curtail and interfere with the hard won rights of labor, representative Charles J. Jenkins, has introduced a bill in the Illinois State legislature which appears to benefit the doubly oppressed Negro worker.

This bill, No. 289 is directed against the pernicious practice of discriminating against workers because of color, by many of the International and Local unions of the AFL. On the surface, this bill may seem to be liberal and progressive, but — in the light of the recent drives against the

Trade Union movement, under the smokescreen of routing out the racketeers and gangsters; the Unionists, both black and white, should be very sceptical about this new attempt on the part of the State to interfere with Trade Union activity, to directly supervise this activity.

The practice of discriminating against Negroes is harmful not only to the Negro worker but to workers in general. This practice must go. But the job of eradicating this evil must be left to the progressive and intelligent forces within the ranks of labor. If the State Legislature is genuinely interested in outlawing racial dis-

crimination, it has an excellent opportunity to do so in Springfield, where it convenes. Where Negroes are barred from public places and most of the jobs in the government.

### Profits Wages Taxes

Who will pay the Piper's bill of 7 Billion dollars that Congress has voted for open aid to Britain Capitalism? Corporate profits in the U.S.A. for 1940 totaled 5 Billions of dollars according to government figures. That would be a big step toward paying this bill, and surely it should be to the interest of one group of capitalists to pay for the maintenance of their brother - across - the - sea - capitalists' little war to maintain

### War Drive on Workers

(Continued from Page 1)

#### WORKERS RIGHTS VS. EXPLOITERS RIGHTS.

4—At the same time on all fronts there is an organized drive against the workers' standard of living. For every skilled worker who is receiving better conditions (in money wages) there are ten workers who are being pushed harder "for the sake of national unity and defense". Through a price rise in food, clothing, shelter and other commodities, wages are being left behind. There is an attempt to increase hours and reduce wages. Relatively only a few strikes have developed against this danger. The attempt to levy a 5% wage tax on weekly earnings over twenty five dollars is another form of robbery of the workers. Legal and extra-legal methods are being used to intimidate class struggle and revolutionary working class element while British and German paid propagandists are left alone.

#### ROOSEVELT AND HITLER

The real significance of the war production and subsidy for the capitalists is the New Deal attempt to keep the wheels of industry turning by using up, through destruction, the overproduction that the gigantic United States machine will produce. Essentially it is the same economic method used by Hitler.

Germany as a "have not" industrial nation 2nd to United States in production, was forced to carry out this economic operation of "organized starvation" if capitalism was to be saved against the workers revolution. United States as the leading "have" nation must now carry out the same process of destruction of the overproduction (to keep capitalism breathing regardless of how many humans must stop breathing) by war production for destruction, even though its economic strength allows it to carry this out through a semblance of democracy, a declining bourgeois democracy.

2-15-41.

its Empire. This 5 Billion represents profits of only one year and invested in the war will bring handsome returns, IF CAPITALISM CONTINUES.

Barnum said a sucker was born every minute, and the "representatives" of the people in congress and the senate intend to prove this concretely. The first suggestion to receive consideration was that of placing a 5% tax on the wages of every worker, earning \$25.00 a week and up. Such a tax could finance the War of American and British Imperialism against German Imperialism to the tune of 2½ billion a year, and if the workers pay the tax long enough, eventually the entire cost would be paid off out of their wages, and their children's wages.

## NATIONAL UNITY AND THE STRIKES IN WAR INDUSTRIES

(Continued from page 1)

ized men in the mass industries were unable to control the natural militancy of men. The FIGHTING WORKER even at that time pointed out that the CIO was set up by Lewis-Hillman and company PRECISELY in order to prepare for such an emergency as we have now, PRECISELY in order to corral the mass militancy of the working class in times like these. That is just about what happened. The well consolidated bureaucratic apparatus of the CIO leadership has now been able to keep the present strike wave well within bounds. With Steel, Coal and Auto in their hands the CIO leaders could easily force the capitalists to a general wage increase and almost anything in the way of immediate demands they wanted. But they have intentionally kept the wave of strikes down (even though they couldn't stop it altogether).

In fact, now that Phillip Murray is part of the Mediation Board there can be little doubt that he will use his influence to stop all strikes, as did Gompers way back in the first World War. It is significant that Murray first refused to support the idea of a mediation board; then had a talk with Roosevelt and became part of such a board. There can be little question that Murray made a deal with FDR to that effect.

Parenthetically we may point out, by the way, that the Mediation board is packed against labor. Let us assume that the three members of the 11 who supposedly represent the public are "impartial" and always vote with labor. The fact is that in almost every strike the employers use the AFL to scab and strike-break on the CIO. Obviously the 2 AFL and 2 CIO members will thus be in constant opposition on the Mediation Board, thus giving the employers — who certainly can be expected to vote together, a 6 to 5 victory every time.

### 4—SHIFT TO SOCIAL REFORMISTS

Fourthly, despite the Murray-Hillman-Lewis leadership of the

## NEW YORK BUS WORKERS STRIKE

March 24, 1941 — The strike of the Fifth Avenue Omnibus and N. Y. Omnibus Corp. workers ended last week with submission of some of the points to arbitration.

From the outset the Bus companies pleaded extreme poverty. But the N. Y. Omnibus corp. made a net profit of 2 million dollars a year and the Fifth Ave. company earned an average of \$500,000 a year. In view of an extremely high interest paid to stockholders it was a joke to read in the paid advertisement of the 2 companies, that the strikers demands meant confiscation of property.

John A. Ritchie, former president in 1939, and now chairman of the Board of Directors of both

CIO the pressure of the masses is rapidly shifting the center of gravity in the strike wave from the bourgeois reformists, like the aforementioned, to the social reformist, primarily the Stalinists. This is another proof of the general left wing shift of class relations. From one end of the country to another the Stalinists are taking advantage of the mass hatred for present wage scales and their innate opposition to war by peddling pacifist and legislative nostrums of all sorts. The Stalinite strategy is not to determine but to harrass America's war program. The Soviet Union and the Browder reformists in the U.S. fully expect a Soviet-American alliance. When that time comes they, of course, will again shift to their OPEN social patriotic position. Meanwhile their work consists primarily of snipe-shooting and mouthing 'left' phrases in order to build up their following. But their increasing support — despite all this — indicates that the masses are exerting great pressure.

The struggle of the workers for wage increases is now more than previously directly tied up with a struggle against the bourgeois state, which through its conciliation service, mediation board, NLRB, unemployment compensation boards, etc. along with the pending anti-strike and other anti-labor legislation, is an immediate obstacle to militant action. Furthermore the New Deal may soon take action to nationalize industry that is affected by strikes or that it considers vital for its war efforts. The question of Workers Control of Production will then become — as it is daily more becoming — an immediate issue. The struggle for better working conditions is thus becoming more and more political in character.

The Stalinites have taken advantage of this in order to win people over to a pacifist, nationalist program. The revolutionists must agitate around internationalism, and workers control of production for use under a workers council government.

companies has had experience in "handling strikes". He broke the strike of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electrical Railway Employees of America in Chicago during 1934.

During the strike the bus workers had the complete sympathy of all New York workers. The other transport workers wanted to help. Many men from the elevated lines picketed during their time off.

But unfortunately, despite the importance of a strike in transport, Quill and other leaders made no effort to spread the strike. Other bus companies were not affected. Some buses continued to run. Although the taxi drivers belong

## C.I.O. Split Over War Question Broadens

A nation wide struggle is taking place within the labor movement over the question of war. The fight centers primarily in the Congress for Industrial Organization.

On the one hand is the Hillman New Deal group, which in the recent period has slowly been weaning away Phillip Murray and other important leaders. This grouping is for 100% support of the war administration and the war program.

On the other hand there is the Stalinist - Isolationist - John L. Lewis bloc, which has organized around a pacific opposition to the present administration.

In the city of Chicago, this struggle has resulted in the bureaucratic set up of a city wide CIO council which excludes in its constitution all "communists" from participation. The Hillmanite bureaucrat Levin, of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers together with Van Bittner and Pugh, two of the leading CIO bureaucrats, set the council up at a meeting of 84 delegates representing 21% of the CIO city membership, all of whom were notified by telephone only twelve hours in advance about this meeting. Once the set up was organized, the constitution ratified, the officers elected on a permanent basis of one year. Mr. Levin was gracious enough to invite the trade union locals, except those with "communists" at the head, to send delegates.

### STALINITES HAVE OWN COUNCIL

The rival organization in Chicago, The Provisional Industrial Council under Stalinist control, organized some six months before the Levin council, is planning on disregarding the CIO charter granted to Levin and on setting up a dual council. Needless to say although the Stalinist tactics are far more subtle, their set up is just as bureaucratic. Decisions are arrived at their meetings by a voice vote, no registration of delegates is taken at the door, no credentials or even a union booklet is required as admittance into the provisional council meetings. The usual backing of Stalinist lawyers

to the same union they were permitted to carry passengers at ten cents a head. Thousands of bus users crowded the subways, which continued to run extra trains to carry extra passengers, even though the subway workers also belong to the Transport Workers Union.

The lessons of the Parmalee taxi strike are still fresh in the minds of N. Y. workers. The main difficulty in both instances was the failure to spread the strike, failure to organize a rank and file committee of all transport workers to help the strike — representatives from the elevated, subway, taxi and surface car workers.

and hangers on pack the meeting to make it seem like a genuine mass movement.

Within the organizational structure however, of both committees, the fight revolves around the war question. The important political issues brought up at the Provisional council meetings revolve around the lend-lease bill and the election of delegates to the American Peace Mobilization in New York, Stalinist dummy organization.

### WAR QUESTION DECISIVE

Similar splits in the CIO over the war question and to a lesser extent in the AFL are taking place in Cleveland, Pittsburgh and elsewhere. In Pittsburgh the Murray-Hillman council not only voted that no "Communist" shall become part of the city industrial union but instructed the delegates to go back to their own union to have the locals also bar "Communists" from office.

It is evident that the war question will play a decisive part in the activity of the trade union movement in the next few years. Revolutionists who are blind enough to center their agitation around the elementary questions such as wages, raises, etc., in the trade union movement, without taking a position on the war question, will find themselves seriously tailing the working class. A sincere Revolutionist must therefore take the lead in the union in coming out against pacifism and social patriotism; must counterpose to the various steps toward the nationalization of industry, the workers program of workers control of production for use.

The mediation board, the many changes to come in the NLRB, the anti-strike laws, etc., these are political questions that have become so vital to the trade union movement that they must be put in the forefront of trade union agitation. The Revolutionist must take advantage of the present opportunities for such agitation around the political program of workers production for use under a Workers' Council Government. The concrete tactics for making this line plausible in each union must be worked out in each instance.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In the future we request all our friends and sympathizers, as well as fraternal organizations, to write to the Fighting Worker and International News at the address of our publishers:

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855 N. Ashland Ave.

Chicago, Ill.