

OILY DEAL IN IRAN

With the signing of an oil agreement by the Iran government, the powerful Stalinist bureaucracy of the Soviet Union gained the oil concessions it sought. Already, it is reported, the Red Army is withdrawing from Iran; the evacuation schedule is to be completed by May 6. Soon the engineer and locomotive will replace the soldier and tank as the Stalinist efforts to control the Middle East assume a new form.

Militarily, with the Red Army nesting on Iranian territory and with U.S. and British forces withdrawn, the Stalinists had the upper hand.

Diplomatically, because of the Stalinist breach of the open agreement to withdraw troops by March 2, the Stalinists were in an indefensible position of an aggressor seeking land, raw materials and cheap sources of native labor. At all times, politically, the Stalinists made use of their strategic (geographic and military) advantage in Iran to force an oil agreement as part of their attempts to spread the Stalinist system of buffer states into the southwestern regions bordering the Soviet Union and the drive to get an outlet through the Dardanelles to the Mediterranean and to the Persian Gulf.

British and American imperialism, therefore, see in the Stalinist bureaucracy a ruthless competitor for control and domination of the colonial and semi-colonial countries adjoining the Soviet Union. These imperialists are familiar with the terms that Stalin put to Hitler preceding the invasion of Russia, terms which included possession of Iran, Iraq and sections of Saudi Arabia.

With England involved in crushing revolutionary upsurges in India, Indonesia, Palestine and Egypt, and the American government in the throes of smashing the strike wave and bolstering its disintegrating armed forces, Stalin apparently saw his opportunity to use his strategic advantage in Iran to strike out for oil and territory. Meanwhile, the two imperialist powers have not given up the use of other than military pressure on Iran, through British oil concessions in the south and through diplomatic pressure in the United Nations Council.

Russia To Get Oil

It does not appear that there was much opposition to the immediate Russian demand for oil concessions in the north. Twice before American companies — in 1923 Standard Oil and in 1937 Seaboard Oil — obtained concessions in this area, attempted to work the field and abandoned the project because of excessive pumping costs. Now a Russo-Iranian company will be formed with the Russians holding 51% of the stock for the first 25 years and thereafter stock and profits being divided 50-50. Russia will furnish all the equipment and undertake all expenses of operating the northern oil fields. Iran will contribute the oil and labor power.

Still to be negotiated is the building up of the trans-Iranian railway systems and their linking to the Russian railroad network. It is even hinted that the Stalinist government will seek the right to open within Iran banks and other financial institutions, concessions which the Czar had. If these concessions are granted, further Stalinist penetration into this country of 15,000,000 will be facilitated.

Using all the tricks which characterize power politics, the Stalinists engineered the Kurdish revolt — the American imperialist role in creating the Republic of Panama at the turn of the century when Colombia opposed surrendering the canal zone to American imperialism. An independent government of Azerbaijan was established. The native Stalinists in the Tudeh Party proclaimed the benefits of giving in

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to Russian demands. And, most important of all, the Red Army remained on the scene until the Iran government was driven to meet Stalin's economic and political demands.

Meanwhile, Iranian Premier Qavam skillfully maneuvered UN — as the Australian delegate complained bitterly — into reinforcing Iran's bargaining power in an oil deal which Qavam was consummating at the same time Ambassador Ala was denouncing Stalinist attempts to get an oil deal!

Need for Expansion

Iran, following Manchuria and Eastern Europe, demonstrates that the Stalinist bureaucracy's "appropriation" within the Soviet Union is not sufficient to satisfy Stalinism's expanding demands made necessary in no small measure by the desire to compensate for areas and resources (Continued on Page 2)

How Figures Can Lie

The latest Truman estimate places the rate of national production at \$154,000,000,000 a year.

Can this be true?

Look at those figures closely. \$154 billion is large compared to something smaller, presumably civilian goods production of pre-war days. But Reconversion Director Snyder does not compare the \$154 billion to any other figure so that we can know what he is talking about.

This failure to compare the 1946 production rate to any other year is very important. For it would reveal, Truman and Snyder are not telling the whole story.

Real Value

First of all, the \$154 billion is in inflated dollars, which Chester Bowles, director of economic stabilization, admits is worth only "76 cents in terms of pre-war purchasing power." That means, in relation to 1939 price levels, the \$154 billion production rate is about \$129 billion. This is no mere play with words, for, when Truman is dealing with an inflated dollar, he should not be permitted to get away with figures which give the illusion of tremendous production increases. Using his device, the Chinese dollar which is worth fractions of an American cent, could be utilized to prove production rates in China are well over the Trillion dollars level. And Bowles' estimate of what the dollar is worth in relation to 1939 values is a top figure. Other estimates show that the value of the dollar is actually far lower. Some place its real value at 48c in comparison to the 1939 dollar. Using the 48c figure, the national rate of production would be just under \$74 billion yearly.

Secondly, the real evidence of Truman's and Snyder's error of omission, is that even with the so-called production rate at \$154 billion, there is a serious shortage of clothing, housing and food. But since prices of these items have risen greatly during the war, using the financial figure alone, anyone can make it appear civilian goods production has increased considerably. Actually the increase appears to be very small. The rise of prices has outstripped the increase in production. Most of the rising rate of production is revealed to be a rising price.

May Day - 1946

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED EVERYWHERE

May Day 1946 finds the working class of much of the world facing starvation. Hundreds of millions are being systematically starved into slow death in a manner that makes the brutalities of Hitler pale by comparison. The victorious allied imperialists who by their destruction and planned curtailment of productive facilities are responsible for these atrocities are hypocritically salving their consciences before the masses of humanity by throwing them the pathetic crumbs of UNRRA and Red Cross relief.

War's end has brought not relief but an intensification of the miseries of the masses everywhere. Inflation runs rampant all over the world. Black markets, those symbols of the capitalist unconcern for starving humanity, flourish everywhere as they never have flourished before. Tens of millions are already unemployed. American and British arms, aided by the treacheries of Stalinism, have cut world productive facilities as even Hitler, in his days of conquests, never dared. Writer after writer reports that the conditions of the masses of Europe, in Italy, in Greece, in France, in Germany, everywhere, are worse today than they were under the swastika.

This, then, is the fruit of the "most democratic war in history," of the "people's war," of the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms. What a shameful mockery! Imperialism is spreading its tentacles and strait-jacketing the oppressed of the world as never before. Never since the Roman Empire has one power controlled the economic and political destinies of humanity as brutal American Imperialism controls them now.

Temporarily the U.S. is outside the pale of the present depression. It is the centerpiece which temporarily lends strength and supports the rotten structure of capitalism. It has won an unprecedented victory. It has reduced all the powers, with the possible exception of the Soviet Union, to a far lesser importance than they previously held. It has pauperized humanity. Its depredations, both economic and military, are pouring through the arteries of the world at an unprecedented rate. American capitalism is the driving force for war and counter-revolution.

Wherever the masses anywhere attempt to take their destinies into their own hands, there they find arrayed against them the might of American capitalism. American guns, used by the British are shooting down the masses in Indonesia. American might is checking the revolution in China, in Japan, in Germany. American might bolsters the crumbling British Empire in its struggles against the masses of India, Greece, Italy and innumerable other spots.

To protect its gigantic empire, its domination of the western hemisphere, northern Africa, Asia, and large sections of Europe, American capitalism is preparing for new wars. Today it cloaks those preparations in all sorts of "defensive" garments. Under the hypocrisy of "peace" propaganda, or a world United Nation order, American Imperialism is maintaining the largest peace army in all history, is preparing all sorts of new atomic and other murder weapons, above all, is strangling all of the world with its tight economic controls, with its mastery of the banking system, its enormous and cheaper production.

The fascist powers have been defeated, but Fascism itself marches on. Fascist undergrounds are openly being tolerated and encouraged. American and British imperialism, are giving moral and material aid to Xists, Royalists, and fascist swine the world over. To take the sting out of the present uneasiness and revolt of the masses, the powers that be are temporarily sustaining reformist and centrist governments. Popular Frontism and Combined Governments have gained a temporary lease on life. World capitalism is again using them, as Kerensky and Scheideman were used after the first war, to demoralize, confuse, dissipate the energies of the masses. But behind the scenes all sorts of preparations are being made to impose new military dictatorships and fascist orders throughout the world — including especially the United States. The fangs of extreme reaction are being nurtured in the background, but they are being nurtured with the most extreme care and on the most lavish scale in all history.

Let us beware this May Day of complacency. Let us not be caught off guard. Fascism is not dead. If the proletariat does not succeed in destroying the capitalist order new and infinitely more virulent forms of fascism will yet be imposed on suffering humanity. The whole human order is threatened.

May Day 1946 poses, again, the question of either Communism or Fascism. All else is temporary, ephemeral. Those who like the Socialists, Stalinists and Trotskyists support "left" bourgeois governments are committing a treachery that the working class will soon deal with in unmistakable language. If history has proven anything it has proven the contention of the Marxists that "democracy paves the way for Fascism."

Above all else, that is the issue today. Support of bourgeois democracy, even with the left and shameful phrases of those new Kautskyists, Cannon and Schachtman, can lead only to defeat, to more war, to concentration camps.

On the order of the day are soviets, workers guards and militia, a struggle at the point of production. All attempts to channelize those struggles into parliamentary fields, into Labor Parties, "Socialist-Stalinist" governments, can only lead to failure. As Lenin fought Kerensky and the Scheideman-Haase government in Germany, so we today must fight Labor Party and Socialist-Stalinist governments the world over. We condemn categorically the left-handed efforts of the Independents in

(Continued on Page 4)

MINERS CAN WIN STRIKE

April 17, 1946 — As we go to press 500,000 soft coal miners are still out on strike, with the prospects of the anthracite miners joining them in a few weeks. Although the strike is not being given very much publicity it represents a far greater danger to the capitalist class than even the steel, oil, or auto strikes.

As was to be expected, all parties concerned are bathing themselves in the holy blood of the lamb. The coal operators have offered approximately 18½c an hour raise but they can not see eye to eye with John L. Lewis on the 10c per ton royalty to set up a 60 million dollar welfare and health fund, administered by the union.

Lewis, the most capable labor faker in the country, is suddenly parading himself as a great benefactor. Citing the 28,000 death and the one million individual accidents in the industry in the last 14 years, Lewis shouts "we demand abatement of this slaughter."

Lewis' Strategy

To listen to the fellow one would think that Lewis discovered this slaughter only yesterday and that Lewis himself had nothing to do with this slaughter. Actually, however, John L. Lewis is one of the criminal conspirators who has done next to nothing to eliminate this situation throughout the years. For over twenty years he has been signing contracts for the coal miners and yet he has completely failed to eliminate the hazards in the industry.

Actually, of course, Lewis is using the safety issue merely to gain support of "public opinion." He has been painted so black with the general public that he must do something to save face. His dramatic incantations are aimed at achieving that effect: "No miners will be killed this week."

The strike, as usual, is timed badly — it comes at a time of the year when consumption is lowest and when the industrialists have a large stockpile of coal. It is timed badly, too, from the point of view that the labor fakers — Murray, Green, Reuther, Emspak, Lewis — all failed to tie up the efforts of all the heavy industry workers and time the strikes simultaneously. As a result the government has instituted its wage-cutting 18½c formula, which cuts take home pay \$6 to \$12 a week in all industries.

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Draft U. S. World Police

President Truman's Chicago speech on Army Day, April 6, summed up the attitude of the American rulers towards continuation of enormous U.S. armed forces instead of relying on the United Nations International Police Force to police the world for imperialism.

The president demanded a continuation of the draft because the United Nations will be unable to provide adequate police forces. This is in direct contradiction to the claims of the former President Roosevelt that out of this war would come freedom from fear and freedom from large standing armies. The reason for large American armed forces is skillfully disguised by Mr. Truman as being necessary to police Germany and Japan and displaced persons, but obviously this is no reason for an army of millions. The real reason has to be sought elsewhere. The gigantic Iranian oil scare whipped up by the press against the Soviet Union is being used as the next big reason for having huge armed forces ever ready for action anywhere on the planet.

The President looks on the U.S. as the policeman of the entire world. He demands the right to intervene in all parts of the world, claiming that outbreaks of hostilities anywhere is a danger to U.S. interests.

(Continued on Page 4)

LAND OF THE FREE

WE'RE BEING TORPEDOED

Shooting wildly into the ceiling of a shooting gallery in Chicago, and then at himself, a former merchant seaman collapsed with the warning, "Watch out, we're being torpedoed." When he was revived, he groaned, "I'm sick, I have nothing to live for." The unconscious man was taken to the psychopathic hospital. The horrors of war have torpedoed the minds of thousands.

AN APPLE A DAY WON'T

A news picture of a veteran selling apples on the street was printed in a New York paper in early March. This is only the beginning. Veteran unemployment is well over a million and climbing rapidly.

THE RICH GROW RICHER

While the packinghouse workers are considering going out on strike again, Armour & Co. paid \$102,800 last year to George A. Eastwood, president, director and a member of its executive committee. Mr. Eastwood has more functions than you have fingers, except for one: he does not work in the stockyards. Charles J. Faulkner, director, general counsel and member of the executive committee, had to struggle along on a measly \$77,200. Henry W. Boyd, director and vice-president, also had a rough time of making ends meet with a paltry \$71,738. Swift & Co. paid its president, John Holmes, \$85,000. Servel, Inc. paid president Louis Ruthenburg \$88,700. Cudahy Packing Co. paid E. A. Cudahy, board chairman and director \$50,150.

INVITATION TO STRIKEBREAKING

A dozen pickets, marching around the home of Ralph C. Stuart, vice-president and Bloomfield plant manager of the Westinghouse Electric Company, indignantly rejected his invitation to come in for coffee. On strike since Jan. 15, the dozen pickets said they had plenty of coffee from their own canteens. Mr. Stuart is a wise guy. He knows that pickets marching for two and half months in the bitter cold of a New Jersey winter are not exactly warm. But it is going to take more than these ill-concealed anti-worker actions to smash strikes.

ARMS AND THE SENATOR

Senator Pepper (Dem.-Fla.) made a peppery proposal for "world disarmament." He thinks the big countries "can't go on arming and arming and arming, each one looking for a blow from another." But, Senator, they can go on arming. And arming. And arming. And far from looking for a blow from another country, they are preparing to be in a position to strike the first (and final — they hope) blow. Behind Pepper's proposal is the fact that the country with the best developed industrial base can rearm fastest, meanwhile getting rid of obsolescent war materials and being able to undersell competitors in the world market, thereby driving other countries to the wall. Far from being a proposal for disarmament, it is a proposal for other countries to surrender to U.S. imperialism.

HOW DEMOCRACY WORKS

Jackie Robinson and John Wright, the first Negroes ever signed to contracts in organized (white) baseball, have been in camp at Daytona Beach, Fla., with the Montreal Royals for over a month. In that time they have been under terrific pressure, both athletic and racial. Already two exhibition games, one with Jersey City at Jacksonville, another with Indianapolis at Deland, have been cancelled because there is a city law against "mixed competition," which is the Floridan name for interracial sports.

CAPITALISM DRIVES WORKERS MAD

"One out of every 13 Americans will require hospitalization for mental illness at some time during his life!" (Surgeon General Thomas Parran, Chief, U.S. Public Health Service). That is 6% of the population or a total of 8,000,000 mentally ill people. The 700,000 mental patients are equivalent to hospitalizing all of Pittsburgh. 125,000 new mental cases are admitted to mental hospitals yearly. One-half of all hospital patients in the country have a serious mental disorder. Total annual cost of mental illness is 1/2% of the national income, or \$777,000,000.

Rapid Roller Workers Set Example

One of the best wage agreements in the postwar period was made last month between the Rapid Roller Company in Chicago and Local 120 United Rubber Workers CIO. This company was the scene, a number of years ago, of a long and militant four year strike which ended in a \$235,000 back pay settlement for the strikers.

The present agreement provides for a continuation of the present 50 hour week and a wage increase of 12c per hour. Should hours have to be cut they will be cut down to 46 hours with 50 hours pay. Should hours have to be cut still further the whole wage question will be renegotiated. This is one of the few cases where a CIO Union has actually negotiated an increase in take home pay. In steel, oil, electric and other industries the 18 1/2c raise means a \$6 to \$8 a week cut in take home pay, because hours have been reduced to 40 hours.

What is equally significant about the Rapid Roller pact is that it was forced upon the company even though the existing contract still had a number of months to run. Under militant leadership, the Rapid Roller workers have made consistent gains in recent years and have achieved the best scale and contract in the roller industry.

BRITISH WORKER SPEAKS

London,
March 21, 1946.

The Editors,
Fighting Worker.
Dear Comrades,

I have this week received copies of the March issue of the "Fighting Worker" along with the "International News," for which many thanks.

The most interesting feature to me in this issue was the letter to the auto workers. This was because I read the letter during the period when the workers of Fords of Dagenham and Rumber of Coventry were out on strike. In the latter dispute a general strike throughout Coventry area was only just averted but the situation is still very warm, although the Rumber workers have gone back. The basic cause of the dispute was the manner in which the switch-over to peace production was lowering wages, although the immediate cause of the stoppage of work was the victimization of some few hundred workers. This basic cause of the dispute is general throughout British industry and despite the intervention of the trade union bureaucrats and the Labour Government, stooging for the capitalist class, working class militancy is becoming increasingly pronounced.

I would quarrel with one of the demands put forward in the letter to

the auto workers, namely: for a sliding scale of wages. The position may be different in the States but in British factories it makes no appeal at all. The Trotskyites have the slogan in their press from time to time but their militants in the factories invariably have to ignore it when an issue arises. Workers are very much concerned about increasing their earnings but a "sliding scale" which implies going back as well as forward, is nowhere near so concrete as a demand for an extra 1/ — an hour on the basic rate. No doubt the "sliding scale" is intended to meet the rising cost of living, but surely this is better met by demanding No Agreements Freezing Wage Levels, which will really counteract the treacherous actions of trade union bureaucrats.

However, congratulations on what you have been able to achieve, it is a spur for us in Britain.

Fraternal greetings,

—D. L.

RENEW YOUR SUB!

PLENUM LAYS BASIS FOR UNITY

The 19th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Workers League laid the basis for re-integration of a group of comrades in four cities, who have been functioning either as isolated individuals or as a local group, such as the Workers Educational Society in Detroit.

A month prior to the plenum the League held a conference with representatives of these comrades. The plenum, after examining the record of this conference and listening to a talk by one of the comrades, stated that the political basis for re-integration exists. All parties concerned signified fundamental agreement with the 14 Point Programmatic Declaration of the International Contact Commission.

These comrades stated that while agreeing with the general principles of the League they felt that agreement must be

reached on the necessity for gearing our activity around revolutionary agitation in a weekly popular paper. After considerable discussion on a document entitled "Four Elements" and a letter of reply by the RWL it was agreed that a general meeting of the minds existed on this subject.

Proposals for effecting the re-integration were made by both the R.W.L. and the other comrades and are now in the process of being discussed. Although serious hurdles still are present, it is to be hoped that a genuine and much needed step toward strengthening the Marxian cadre will be consummated in the near future.

A more detailed analysis and report will be given in a subsequent issue of the FIGHTING WORKER following the conclusion of the discussions.

OILY DEAL IN IRAN

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and labor destroyed in the war.

It is becoming evident that the Stalinist bureaucracy's industrial plans take into consideration the exploitation and utilization of the resources, capital and labor power of the countries which are, have been, and will be occupied by the Red Army. To the open counter-revolutionary actions of the Stalinist bureaucracy has been added: the economic exploitation and political oppression of the workers and peasants in countries bordering the Soviet Union.

Oil is an illustration. The fourth Five Year Plan to end in 1950 calls for 35.4 million metric tons of petroleum. Production in 1940 was 34.2 million metric tons and the 1942 plan interrupted by the war had been 54 million. Though some oil fields were destroyed, the Germans never occupied the main fields, and some fields were opened east of the Urals. Still 1950 production is to exceed that of 1940 by only 1.2 million metric tons. As industry takes a larger step forward it is unquestioned that more oil will be needed, and that present Stalinist plans do not call for its production within the Soviet Union. Where is the oil to come from? Iran supplies part of the answer. Ploestic oil fields in Ru-

mania another. Lespe in Hungary and Zistersdorf in Austria still another.

Towards the Iranian masses the Stalinists function as exploiting interventionists interested only in land, raw materials and labor power. For the Russian working class the opportunity to reestablish a revolutionary workers power will be lessened as the Stalinist bureaucracy strengthens its political and economic power at the expense of the masses in countries bordering the Soviet Union.

End the Imperialist War

"Continue the war a little longer," Senator Lucas of Illinois asks the Senate judiciary committee on April 12 so that business firms with contracts made between Dec. 7, 1941 and Aug. 14, 1945 can settle claims against the government. Lucas says that many businesses "will go into bankruptcy — if they are not already bankrupt."

End the imperialist war. Let the capitalists go bankrupt.

Continue the war, says Truman, so that the President can retain under the Smith-Connolly bill the powers to call out troops against strikers.

End the imperialist war. Destroy the war powers of the government and of Harry Strikebreaker Truman.

Continue the war, says the military, so that the troops who are to serve "for the duration and six months" can be kept in uniform indefinitely.

End the imperialist war. Liquidate the entire army of American imperialism, an army of conquest, an army which is used to crush workers revolution, an army which is used to prop up fascists and reactionary governments.

End the imperialist war — a war for seizure of territory, plundering of conquered areas, grasping of spheres of influence and penetration of markets by American imperialism, and of crushing workers revolution.

End the imperialist war — by ending capitalism through workers revolution.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD

CHINA . . . Nicol Smith (formerly Office of Strategic Services officer — the "cloak and dagger" counter-espionage group in the U.S. Army) suggested that Gen. Tai Li, head of the Kuomintang secret police, is not dead in an airplane crash, but has gone underground to combat Communists. Says Smith: "If we do not support the Chinese Central Government, the country will go Communist." Smith, being a secret service agent, has a deadly fear of what he calls "communism." But the Chinese Stalinists are not looking for the creation of a revolution in China. As their leaders have declared, their immediate aim is to have an "American-type democracy," though they pay lip-service to "socialism."

★ ★ ★

FRANCE . . . Paris . . . The city of uniforms and combat boots is gone. Military insignia and ribbons are only occasional splashes in a civilian sea. Today the more prosperous persons still must trade in the black market to approximate American living standards. The poorer people must try to bolster their rations with parcels from America. The average workman's pay barely meets his family food bill. Little remains for clothes and shoes; as a result the poorer classes are noticeably down at the heels. As an example, a sure way to see the eyes of a poor Frenchman light up is to give him an old pair of pants. A reporter writes of a tipsy Apache telling off a lone American M.P.: "Go home and leave France to the French. This is my country. We don't want you interfering with us."

★ ★ ★

JERUSALEM, PALESTINE . . . Violence broke out in Tel-Aviv again on March 31 (according to the UP) when a number of shots were fired and pamphlet bombs exploded in several sections of the city. The bombs scattered leaflets accusing Dr. Chaim Weizmann, head of the World Zionist Organization, of being a "British agent." Apparently the Jewish "terrorist organization," Irgun Zvai Leumi, spread the leaflets. The technique of spreading leaflets by bomb was well developed during the war. Under the noses of the British police, no other way of distribution was available. It is a newspaper and British-inspired propaganda lie that the Jewish organizations behind the leaflet scatterings are "terrorists." When a refugee ship appeared off Tel-Aviv harbor, the so-called "terrorists" tied up the police in the city, drew them off to the outskirts away from the harbor, with the result that hundreds were able to land on Palestine shores. This speaks highly of considerable mass organization and widespread sympathetic action of the Tel-Aviv proletariat against British imperialism.

★ ★ ★

GERMANY . . . The number and type of injuries sustained in an atomic bomb attack "do not differ significantly" from those inflicted upon the Germans in the great fire raids, says Major Cortez F. Enloe Jr. in an article in "Modern Medicine." "It may safely be concluded," writes Major Enloe, "that one-half million enemy civilians were killed by Allied bombs in Europe . . . A careful check of figures indicates that approximately 422,000 deaths resulted from air raids . . . 77,500 bodies were completely destroyed or still lie buried in the rubble and are yet to be recorded." Major Enloe suggests the safest place to place essential civilian workers is at the edges of cities. And the rest of the population?

Blood on Hands of American Imperialists

The U.S. at various times has denounced Argentina as Fascist, has defended Argentina as democratic. It has denounced Franco as a tool and aide of Hitler, has defended his regime against forces desiring its overthrow.

Calling itself the arsenal of democracy, the U.S. supplies these two governments with airplanes and parts and equipment, makes trade agreements with them where possible.

Meanwhile before the entire world the American imperialists attempt to appear as angels who believe in justice, equality, fair-dealing and respect for obligations.

Few things could be farther from the facts.

Ickes, former Secretary of the Interior, pointed out that the U.S. which has at times condemned brutal colonial policies of Franco, Britain, Holland and Belgium, is the only country in which the armed forces directly run several Pacific islands (Guam and American Samoa). The native populations have no democratic rights, which the American imperialists claim they stand for.

In Puerto Rico whose overpopulated territory is a shambles of disease and starvation, the U.S. imperialists have produced a species of colonial dictatorship as anything the British imperialists have accomplished. Run as a large sugar plantation by the giant American sugar monopolies, Puerto Rico lives in filth and degradation, a monument to imperialism, American style.

Secretary of State Byrnes who shrieks at the Russians about the lack of "free elections" in the Balkans was politely reminded by them that he represented South Carolina in Congress for over 25 years, sat on the Supreme Court bench and is now second highest official in the land, and in all this time Byrnes has never raised his voice against the poll tax and similar devices which prevent "free elections" in the great "democracy" of America.

Though much indignation arose over Soviet penetration of Iran, Truman agreed with the British to have troops sent to crush the Indonesian revolution, the "arsenal of democracy" provided the arms for crushing the revolution, it moved the British in on American ships, and it trained a Dutch imperialist military force to complete the crushing of the revolution.

Claiming it fought the war to defeat Fascism and establish the four freedoms — from fear, from want, of speech and of religion — the American imperialists placed the Fascists right back into power in their occupation zone in Germany. They retained Emperor Hirohito and most of the top group of the Japanese imperialists in the new Japanese government, expressly refusing to deal with the German or Japanese workers.

American imperialism wherever it set up a Military Government, as in Italy, has shown it is an open military dictatorship, like any other imperialist power in similar situations. American imperialism has placed most of the world on starvation rations. It has denied to American soldiers and large sections of the working class the rights of free speech. It has made one deal after the other with known Fascists or near-Fascists or military dictators, from Darian, to Petaip, Badoglio, Giraud, the German Fascist stooges, extreme reactionary regime in Greece and the right-wing militarist regime of Chiang Kai-Shek in China, down to Peron and Franco.

Wherever American imperialism penetrates an area, it immediately makes a deal with a reactionary, right-wing group, usually an avowed military dictatorship, to run the masses of the population. Failing this, it establishes an open American military dictatorship, denying civil rights to Germans and Japanese and Guamanians and Samoans, and others, just as it denies civil rights to 15,000,000 Negroes.

There is blood on the hands of American imperialism — the blood of conquest of the Pacific, the blood of the Indonesian and Chinese and Japanese and German revolutionists, the blood of negroes slaughtered in race riots, of tormented minorities such as the Jews in Europe. Where capitalism comes into being dripping blood from every pore, imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism is ready to drown the whole world in blood to crush the working class, to keep it at a starvation level. The millions of war dead, the hundreds of thousand wiped out swiftly, efficiently, scientifically at Hiroshima and Nagasaki and in other battlefields of the imperialist struggle to dominate the whole world — these bloody deaths cry out for an end to the monster of imperialism. The titan among the imperialists is the bloodsoaked American regime which is attempting to rule the whole world.

This is the real American way of life.

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WHY JOBS GO BEGGING

Do you want a job?

"There are plenty of jobs to be had," says the capitalist prostitute press.

Already almost five million workers are unemployed, counting all the veterans who have been released from the armed forces. But there are jobs available which no workers will take, answers the press. In an attempt to answer the question of why jobs went begging and why the unemployed chose to accept unemployed compensation instead, the U.S. Employment Service sent teams of investigators to three typical American cities — Atlanta, Ga., Columbus, O., and Trenton, N. J.

Here's what the investigators discovered:

Men	Last Jobs	Jobs Open
Atlanta	\$1.10	\$.57
Columbus	1.11	.72
Trenton	1.18	.75
Women		
Atlanta95	.46
Columbus99	.54
Trenton	1.05	.60

The drop in hourly wage rates for men was 37-48% and for women 43-52% below previous earnings. In addition to this, with the reduction in war-time hours of work, the drop in take-home pay was 23%.

These figures are not only for unskilled labor. 21% of these jobs called for skilled workers, 21% for semi-skilled, 56% for unskilled and 2% for professional and managerial skills.

In Atlanta where men had earned \$50 and more per week on their previous jobs, only 12% of the jobs open paid \$50 or more. Where 70% of the women had earned \$45 or more weekly, no jobs open paid this much.

In Trenton where 60% of the men earned \$60, or more per week, of the jobs open 95% paid less than \$60. Two out of three jobs pay less than \$40 per week. Where a majority of Trenton women surveyed had earned \$55 per

week, less than 1% of jobs open offered \$55 per week.

In Columbus where the majority of men had earned \$55 per week or more, now only 7% of the jobs pay this. Where 75% of the women had earned \$40 or more per week, no jobs open for women paid that any more.

The survey also indicates:

1. Most of jobs open are for men, but majority of job seekers are women who refuse to return to the idiocy of kitchen life.

2. Few peacetime jobs call for the skills needed in war production.

3. Reduction of hours to 40 weekly has cut take-home pay drastically. Thus, if all the unemployed could be re-employed, in comparison to wartime wage scales, their wages would be cut 34.49% for men and 49.53% for women.

The survey in no way takes into account that returning veterans are being utilized by employers in an attempt to drive wages down further. Since many of the veterans are getting the \$65 or \$90 per month apprentice subsidy from the government, they are forced to work for less money from the employer. The survey does not show how women and youth who accept lower wages are being utilized against the higher scales of men, and how the union movement has not been successful in preventing this schism in the ranks of the working class.

These facts present a challenge to the revolutionary movement — that of penetrating the youth, the unemployed and the vets. In the absence of such a program the capitalist class will capitalize on postwar discontents by using it as a club against the working class.

Stimson Would Like to Forget Pearl Harbor

"The first casualty of war," said a military writer some time ago, "is Truth." The writer was only half correct, because under capitalism the powers that be never dare to tell the masses the truth. If they did, the oppressed would soon make short shrift of the rotten system which murders 50 million people every generation and starves hundreds of millions more.

But at least one part of the statement is true: that war accentuates the lying of the capitalists. After the war is over some of the truth slowly comes to light.

Former Secretary of War Stimson in testifying before the Pearl Harbor Committee of Congress has exposed one of the filthiest lies in all history. Back in 1941 we were all told that the "Japanese attacked us at Pearl Harbor." We were told that we were only "defending" the United States from a "stab in the back"; and other such balderdash.

Now comes the former secretary — who certainly should know — and he tells the truth, or part of it anyway. Reading parts of his diary one comes across the statement: "The question was how we should maneuver them (the Japanese imperialists) into the position of firing the first shot without allowing too much danger to ourselves." This was written two weeks before Pearl Harbor!

The job, said Mr. Stimson, was to force Japan into the role of firing the first shot. Stimson himself relates that he advised President Roosevelt not to wait for the Japanese but to "fight at once," to attack Japan without any further warning.

On December 7th, Stimson's diary records that after he heard from Roosevelt that Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor, "My first feeling was of relief that the indecision was over and that a crisis had come in a way that would unite all our people." Mr. Stimson was happy. He himself had been in favor of attacking Japan first, but now it was unnecessary. The "indecision was over." The American people could be fooled into believing that the whole thing was a "surprise," that we were being "attacked" and other such lies.

One million of our best working class youth were wounded or killed in this war. Hundreds of thousands of them would have refused to serve if it were not for the lie of Pearl Harbor — "we were attacked." Millions of others would have refused to take the hardships of war back home if the truth had been told, if the Stimson-Roosevelt lie had been exposed.

But capitalism will always lie to the working class. The very existence of this system of exploitation is based on a Great Lie, that property rights are sacrosanct, that property rights come before human rights. And with this big lie come the millions of other lies that we are taught in school about "democracy," about "religion," "god," and thousands of other things.

Truth cannot exist under Capitalism. The Pearl Harbor lie merely emphasizes that. Truth will come into its own only under a Working Class Society, only under Socialism. To liberate mankind from the brutalities of capitalism, the working class will have to use its own weapons of both force and propaganda (truthful propaganda) to smash this system of mass murder.

Programmatic Highlights

1. WORKERS REVOLUTION IN U.S. AND ALL OTHER CAPITALIST STATES to destroy private ownership of the means of production.

2. FOR A WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT IN U.S. and FOR A WORLD WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT, based on armed workers power.

3. DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION by re-establishing a Marxian Party, Soviets, Trade Unions and Armed Workers Militias to accomplish the Political Revolution against the Stalinist bureaucracy and extend the October Revolution throughout the world.

4. FOR A REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY IN U.S. For a World Revolutionary Workers Party, including the Soviet Union. For a New Fourth (Communist) International.

5. RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL COLONIES AND SMALL NATIONS. For full and complete independence for the Philippines, Porto Rico, Hawaii and all islands and areas dominated by American imperialism.

6. MINORITIES — Full political and economic equality — right to vote, voice and organization, and equal pay for equal work — for Negroes, Mexicans, Chinese, Japanese, Jews and other minorities. Against Jim-Crowism, anti-semitism, exclusion laws directed against oriental peoples.

7. LABOR PARTY — Against a Labor Party or P.A.C. or other varieties of Popular Frontism, which can be only a political machine for the labor misleaders, Murray, Hillman, Lewis, Green, to mobilize American workers to support the capitalist government, as in England.

8. FASCISM — Oppose all efforts of capitalist political groups to impose on the workers open, military dictatorship of finance capital by use of demoralized small capitalists, the unemployed, and misled veterans.

9. SOLDIERS—End conscription now. Recall all U.S. occupation and other armed forces from abroad. Liquidate the armed forces of American imperialism. Fraternize with workers in the U.S. and abroad.

10. FOR THE RIGHT TO STRIKE, including slowdown, sitdown, full stoppage and workers seizure of all production units. Against government strikebreaking, against the no-strike or Company Security policy. Spread the strikes. Organize Workers Councils. For Workers Flying or Defense Squads to defend against police, company and government terror. Arm the workers!

11. DEMOCRACY IN THE UNIONS. Unions to be under rank and file control.

12. 30 HOUR WEEK — 5 HOUR DAY with a sliding scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.

13. UNEMPLOYED — Trade Union wages for the unemployed. Organize the unemployed in Trade Unions.

World Police

(Continued from Page 1)

These American interests now are of immense size and of globe-girdling proportions. But what has happened to the International Police Force of the United Nations?

UN Limitations

The big difference between the defunct League of Nations and the United Nations is supposed to be that the UN can back up its proposals with armed force. Closer examination of the problem reveals that the UN is very far from being able to construct such a force, and that basically Truman recognizes that the American imperialists are going to have to continue to do their own policing of conquered areas, their own policing of revolutions and crushing of any mass risings of workers without trusting United Nations forces.

The reason for this is to be found in the retention of national sovereignty by each participating nation. Armies, by their structure and purpose, are instruments of a ruling class within a given country. No country on the globe will relinquish control of this most vital part of its state structure without having lost whatever degree of independence it had.

UN's Military Staff Committee has worked over the problem of the International Police Force and has bumped into a maze of contradictions and difficulties based on this inability of any capitalist state or the Soviet Union to subordinate that basic essential of the state apparatus — armed force — to any international authority. The concrete plans of the committee recognize the political division of the world:

World Police Impossible

...Any ideas of a world police force that will replace national armies is not even being considered. Conceptions that American soldiers will do battle anywhere on the globe, under international command, are excluded. Illusions that British or Soviet bombers, operating under international command, might bomb a Detroit strike, are likewise proved false. Instead, UN is to have each participating nation allocate a small part of its national forces for possible call by UN. Total forces of less than 500,000 men — ground, sea and air — are contemplated. Most of these are to be furnished by the Big Three of America, Britain and Russia, with smaller contingents coming from France and China. Most of the ground force are to be furnished by Russia; majority of air and naval forces by the U.S., with Britain contributing some. The entire world force would be smaller than the armed forces of any of the

Big Five powers. The force will not be a combined body, working under one commander, using one uniform, one banner, and one set of regulations. Instead, each national force allocated to UN, can be used only under its own commanders and only with unanimous agreement of the Big Five.

The compelling fact about such a multi-national body, each component of which retains full control of its own forces, is that any of the Big Five powers can veto use of the world police force in territories where it has an interest.

Britain can veto use of world police forces in Greece, in Indonesia, in India, in Western Europe — wherever it considers UN police forces are not to be used against its interests.

The Soviet Union can veto employment of UN forces in Eastern Europe, in North China, in Manchuria, in Iran, in Turkey or the Dardanelles. The U.S. can veto use of UN police forces anywhere in the western hemisphere, anywhere in the Atlantic or Pacific, anywhere in Japan or China or western Germany, and other places as well.

With this veto limitation on UN's world police force, it can be seen that the United Nations world police force is neither united nor a world force and that it may be incapable of doing any world policing or of having any real force. UN could only send forces into an area where none of the Big Five powers has any interests. No such area exists on the face of the globe, not even at the North or South Poles.

Truman Strengthens His Hand

Knowing this basic weakness of the UN world police force, President Truman who has ordered the use of American armed forces in helping crush the Indonesian revolution, in disarming and restraining the masses of Germany, in breaking up revolutionary demonstrations in Japan, and in intervention in Italy and China — has declared openly for an overwhelmingly powerful American imperialist armed force that can impose the will of the American rulers on any parts of the globe. Expanding militarism using atomic diplomacy subordinates to itself the older policies of dollar diplomacy and the good neighbor. Against possible workers uprisings anywhere on the globe, American imperialism is sharpening its own military weapons in the plan to police the world and control and suppress revolution. To attain this end, the American imperialists need class peace at home. It is up to the workers to oppose conscription, to demand recall of all U.S. armed forces, to fight against the militarist domination of the country and the growing threat of open military dictatorship by widescale mass political action against the most murderous enemy of the world working class — American imperialism.

MAY DAY

(Continued from Page 1)

Britain and the Trotskyists everywhere to prop up the bourgeois state by such devices.

May Day is a day of struggle, a day on which the masses of oppressed everywhere must dedicate themselves to a finish fight against capitalist degradation and exploitation. Extend the October Revolution — that must be our watchword. Destroy and defeat the parasitical bureaucracy — Stalinism — which has, in the name of the Revolution, obliterated the major portion of that victory and aided in the resuscitation of the capitalist order.

The imperialist war has solved none of the problems of humanity. In fact it has made them much worse. It has brought no freedom, no liberation. It poses anew the problem of more untiring bloody struggles against the capitalist order. Many lives will yet be sacrificed to bring peace to the toilers of humanity, to eliminate the threat of hunger and tyranny.

But that is the only struggle worth fighting for — the proletarian revolution.

On May Day 1946, although our numbers are small, we of the Revolutionary Workers League and our comrades of the International Contact Commission, call for a struggle of class against class. We extend a fraternal hand to the workers everywhere who are fighting the tyranny of their own exploiters. Unite against the common foe, world capitalism. For a New Revolutionary Party of Marxism. Unite for a struggle against starvation and war, for the victory of Socialism and a Workers Council Republic.

For the unconditional freedom of all colonies, especially those under the heel of American Imperialism.

For the New Communist (4th) International.

UAW Struggles Continue

Election of Walter Reuther to the presidency of the UAW, the country's largest union, shows the considerable leftward swing of the auto workers in the postwar period. Reuther is able to ride the wave of rank and file objection to the conservative leaders by getting publicity for his reformist ideas. His election, in its own way, marks the greater isolation of the routine, conservative labor leaders like Green and Murray. Other left shifts in CIO and AF of L will follow.

Ex-president Thomas was voted in as first vice president. Loss of the other two top posts meant Reuther was outnumbered by Thomas supporters. Among the 18 regional directors who with the four top officials make up the 22 man International Executive Board, Reuther is outnumbered badly for the present. But this condition may not last for too long a time.

Already there are signs that the cool relations between Thomas and Leonard, the second vice president, may have deeper significance. The post of president places considerable authority in Reuther's hands. Reuther will apparently be able to run the UAW. Thomas and Leonard may move over to his side as the Stalinists come under increasing pressure from Reuther who has fought them at times. Reuther may not be able to succeed Thomas as vice president of the national CIO or as a member of the CIO top board, but he will probably find the means of splitting the Thomas and Addes (Stalinist fellow-traveler) group apart.

Union Democracy

A majority resolution favoring increasing the wages of the top four international officers by \$1,000 and of regional directors by \$1,500, was voted down. This was a very good sign of intelligence on the part of the delegates.

The fact that Thomas could be ousted from office shows a degree of democratic expression in the union which is another healthy sign.

So great was the rank and file delegate sentiment against delaying conventions for two years that a compromise was forced whereby conventions occur every 18 months. Next convention is for September 1947.

Dues were raised from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per month. Thus the International had its revenues increase from 40c to 75c per member. It is the Local Unions which need more money to conduct strikes, to defend their members.

Third Force

A third force existed at the convention. It opposed both Reuther and Thomas groups. It was not strong enough to put up a candidate, but it conducted a struggle against particular issues before the convention. Unfortunately these elements did not reach the stage of a national caucus against Reuther and Thomas. In the balloting, many of them swung to the support of Reuther as the "lesser" evil, a profound confession of lack of clear-cut political leadership. Support of Reuther by the Trotskyites was a shameful treachery to the auto workers. Reuther might not have won without this support. We are for throwing out both Reuther and Thomas. But Reuther is pictured by the Trotskyites as a really militant leader of workers. He is helped by them in his hole of confusing the workers with seemingly left phrases.

As time goes by, the third forces in the union will be able to take advantage of the minor differences separating the Reuther and Thomas factions in order to drive a wedge between them. They can show the fundamental similarity of the two top factions on major issues. They can prove their "struggle" is over job control. But it is necessary that

militant unionists drive for a national left-wing caucus in the auto union in order to be effective, in order to expose Reuther and Thomas properly in the coming struggles in the auto industry.

"Just a Gag"

In the arguments about the General Motors strike, Thomas exposed the fact that Reuther had called the strike at the wrong time and had continued it in order to get publicity for himself. Thomas claimed that "ability to pay" was injected into the GM wage struggle by Reuther for political reasons.

But even worse than Thomas' refusal to utilize the "ability to pay" yardstick is Reuther's cynical statement that he had used the "ability to pay" argument as "a maneuver to win public support and to get the company over a barrel."

Militant workers knew all along that Reuther was not seriously pressing the ability to pay issue, that he was lying. Why? Because at all times, Reuther bowed down before government fact-finding boards which can only delay strike action. Reuther never once called for workers committees to check corporation books. Why should workers trust the government or Reuther with such accounting? Let's open the books to inspection by workers' committees!

In relation to politics, Reuther's election brings a Labor Party a step nearer. He will use the strength of the UAW to back up the CIO-P.A.C. and to harness the workers to some form of Labor Party.

In his demands, Reuther shows how clever his demagoguery is.

1. Organizing farm equipment workers. This presages a struggle with the Stalinist-dominated Farm Equipment Workers Union. Reuther has thrown down the challenge to the Stalinists. In such a struggle the UAW's immense size is of considerable advantage.

2. Industry-wide collective bargaining in auto with equal pay for equal work whether the contract is with General Motors, Ford, Chrysler or other plants. This is a sound demand, but a glance at Reuther's strategy of calling out only one section of the industry on strike at a time shows why it cannot be achieved under his leadership. Were the entire industry called out, a single wage scale could be secured. As it stands today, Reuther like Thomas is responsible for the confusing wage differentials in auto, with dozens of varying rates of pay for the same job.

3. A bigger union, developing "responsibility in all plants, so that workers would not strike unless authorized by the international union." Reuther continues the old Thomas practice of withholding International support from Local Union strike action. It should be noted again and again that throughout the war, Reuther agreed with Thomas on the "no-strike" pledge, that he supported labor participation in the War Labor Board, that despite his frenzied words, he substantially accepts the company security clause against strikes.

4. "Spread out their marketing and production so that employees will be kept on the job the year around and so that wages can be fixed on an annual guarantee basis." He says he has a plan for this. The workers will see for themselves what

this means. No industry as speeded up as auto, as highly organized, as constantly revolutionized in production technique, has ever been able to guarantee an annual wage to workers.

5. Organizing the white-collar workers, engineers and technicians in auto. This is a very sore point in the UAW, and no leader would dare to leave it unmentioned. Again, the future will show if Reuther is using this as a propaganda device.

It is this policy, these actions and these clever statements that make Reuther a more dangerous opponent of militant rank and file workers in the UAW than Thomas ever was. Thomas' days of glory are past. The workers don't want such conservative leaders in the saddle. Reuther's day will not last too long. The workers haven't stopped moving to the left, not by a long shot. Reuther's entire role will be to keep this leftward movement within bounds, to check it, to keep strike action to a bare minimum, using what he calls "responsibility" to restrain Local Unions. And of course, he will use the power of the International to drive workers back to work, as he helped do during the war.

The International News & Fighting Worker

can be purchased:

People's Book Shop
18 Noel St. London, W1, England

MINERS

(Continued from Page 1)

Despite all his bombast Lewis too will fail to really bring home the bacon for the miners. His main concern is merely attempting to show that his AFL union can do better than the CIO. In that he is almost certainly assured of success. But will the miners get greater take home pay? Will they really get some safety on the job?

From Lewis' past record that seems to be only a very remote possibility. Only sustained and powerful pressure of the rank and file can force Lewis' hand — the rest is only window-dressing. At a strategic moment his efforts will fold up like an accordion, as in the past. He will sell out the miners in the future as in the past.

Workers' Strategy

During the war the miners of Pennsylvania showed the way to a possible victory in this field. They set up a rank and file committee and refused to end their strike at Lewis' request. Unfortunately their efforts petered out, and Lewis regained the upper hand.

The road to victory in the present strike lies along the same direction — erection of rank and file councils to take the leadership of the strike out of sell-out Lewis' slimy hands. The miners need more revolts like those of George Voyzey and Alev Howatt in the thirties, like the National Miners Union and the original Progressive Miners.

Possibly such instruments of rank and file control may not come about this year. But an understanding of Lewis' role is essential to prepare the way for an effective future struggle against the operators and their boy, John L. Lewis (who puts on these biennial shows merely to confuse the workers, and show a semblance of "independence").

Meanwhile the question of unemployment, of further rationalization, of inroads by other industries will plague the miners again. The union should be strengthened now to prepare for those coming struggles.

If You Agree

Workers! If you agree with what we say, contact us, write us, send in financial contributions. Join the Revolutionary Workers League.