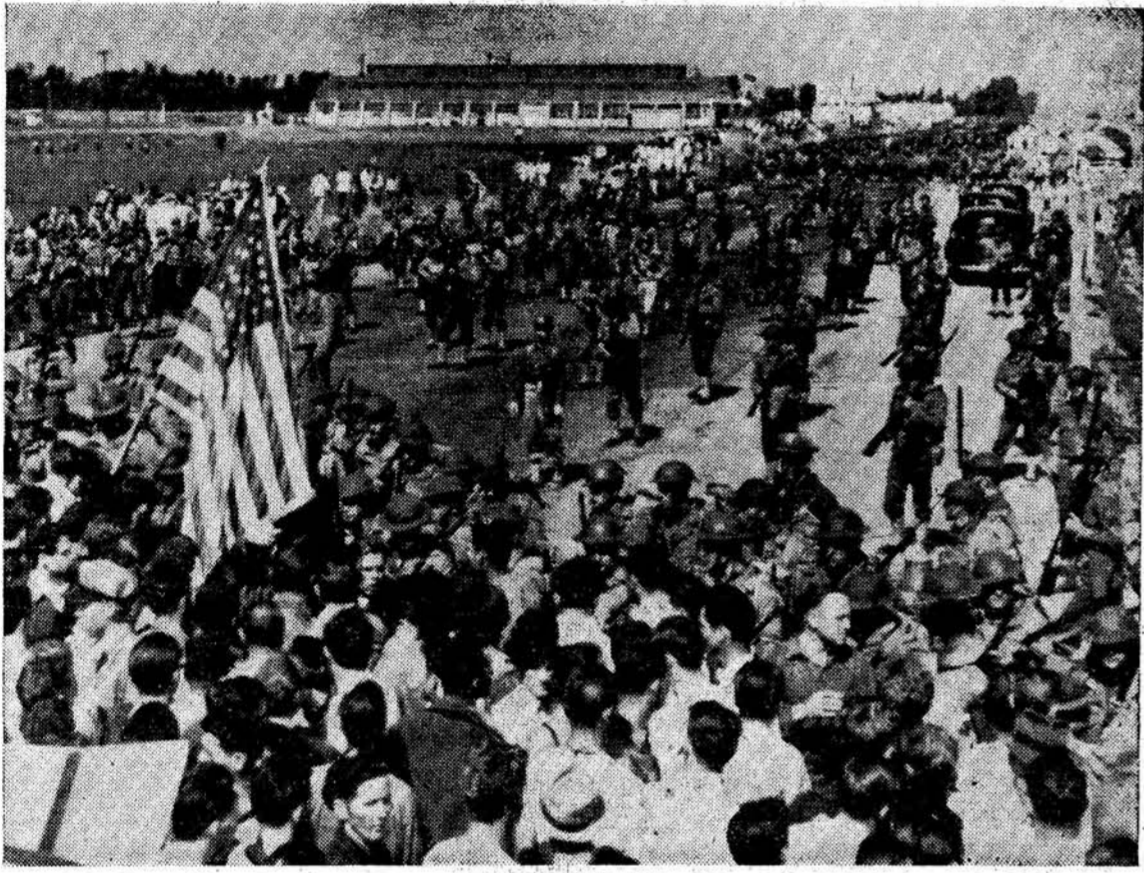


THE ROOSEVELT GOVERNMENT: STRIKEBREAKER!

The Army in Action--Against Strikers!



The first action of the Roosevelt imperialist army in the present war was a bayonet attack on American working men.

This army, organized allegedly to fight for democracy, waged its first battle against unarmed striking workers at the North American Aircraft Corporation in California.

These workers were on strike against the company for wages that would make it possible for them to provide better shelter and more food and clothing for their families. They were on strike against a corporation which, despite its tremendous profits last year, and even greater profits to come this year, stubbornly refused to raise wages even to the level of other aircraft companies.

The union placed its demands before the company on April 16. The company proposed that a 50-cent minimum wage stand. The dispute went to the "Mediation" Board on May 26. The Board stalled and recommended that the company and the union try to settle their differences.

It Took 3,000 Bayonets To Push the Picket Line Back

LOS ANGELES, June 10—The strike at the North American Aviation Co. ended today as strikers voted to return to work in the plant, which is now under command of the U. S. Army. The union leaders were trying, as this story is written, to make an agreement for the return of the men in a body. Army officials in charge of the plant refused, however, to make any commitments. Though the men voted to return, they did so in the spirit that victory was yet to come—they were not a disorganized and demoralized group. They had

waged a magnificent fight despite treachery and bayonet charge. The issue of 75-10 remains. The men will yet win their demands.

By JACK WILSON

LOS ANGELES—Courageous North American Aviation Co. strikers on Monday took their place of honor with Flint autoworkers, Bethlehem steel workers and other militants who built the CIO into a powerful industrial union movement.

It took nearly 3,000 federal troops to force the picket lines of over 6,000 strikers and thousands of sympathizers away from the plant gates, after three police charges against the workers were stopped cold.

The baptism of fire the thousands of young workers received in the tussle with the strike-breaking cops turned them into militant, union-conscious fighters ready for the big struggle ahead.

And the tear gas fumes, the bayonets and the army uniforms only

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stalled and recommended that the company and the union try to settle their differences. Lou Michener, West Coast regional director of the UAW, says that it was Frankenstein, national director of aircraft for the UAW, who set the 75 cent minimum wage demand, advised the union to take a strike vote and set a deadline.

Michener also claims that Kindelberger, president of the North American Co., refused to move from the 50 cent minimum and remarked that 50 cents was enough for young punks who would only buy gas and run around in jalopies with their girl friends over the week-end. The company kept stalling and the "Mediation" Board showed no tendency to do anything about it.

The basic facts are clear. The workers at North American were among the lowest paid in the industry. The company, which is controlled by General Motors (du Pont), made a profit of \$7,090,333 in 1940 and paid \$4,293,791 in cash dividends. Business was good. North American holds over \$200,000,000 in "defense" orders. And yet they refused to raise the minimum wages of the workers above 50 cents an hour.

The "Mediation" Board acted precisely as it was expected to act: wait, stall, maneuver. LABOR ACTION told the workers what to expect from this "Mediation" Board. We said that "this board and its procedure is the greatest danger that faces the workers and the unions today... they don't like meeting the workers on the picket line... the 'Mediation' Board will perform a great service. That's what it's there for: to break strikes and perform a great service to the boss."

The LABOR ACTION editorial from which we quote closed with: "But the workers must keep the picket lines going. To hell with the Mediation Board and its boss class trickery. Demand that labor leaders get off this board and take their places on the picket line. Keep the strikes going. Organize all the workers. Demand signed contracts. Demand higher wages and shorter hours. Don't take less from the bosses. Don't take less from the government."

We see no reason to change the opinions expressed in this editorial. The North American strikers know now, if they did

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"WORK OR GET THROWN INTO THE ARMY," ROOSEVELT THREAT TO STRIKING WORKERS

Go to work, or you'll be thrown into the army!
You don't like your wages?—you're being underpaid?
—you don't earn enough to live on?—the cost of living is rising? No matter! Back to your bench... or else!

THAT'S FORCED LABOR IN ANY MAN'S LANGUAGE!

And that's what Roosevelt has ordered.
He hasn't threatened the bosses: concede to the demands of the workers or we'll turn the plants over to the workers.

He hasn't threatened the bosses: pay a living wage or we'll dress you in khaki.

No, he has threatened LABOR: sweat your life out for a miserable wage in industry or you will have to sacrifice it on a battlefield—do as you're told in industry or you'll have to do what you're told in the army.

And, irony of ironies, this is the man who asks labor to give its life for American "democracy." This is the man who, in his emergency speech, described, with pretended concern, the destruction of labor's freedom in Germany.

Where is the freedom for labor HERE if it cannot act in its own defense!

Where is the freedom to assemble in trade union organization, if that trade union dares not act in the inter-

ests of its membership with the ONLY real weapon it has: the STRIKE!

Where does that differ from forced labor?

In Massachusetts a local draft board recently reclassified a striker so that he became subject to immediate drafting. The national draft office, after a union protest, order the local board to reserve its decision.

Roosevelt has now withdrawn that gesture to labor.

From now on, if this order sticks and the unions do not force its revocation, any young worker previously deferred because of the nature of his work will be thrown right smack into the army if he talks strike. Of all the scurvy tricks ever perpetrated in the name of "democracy," this takes the prize.

CONSCRIPT AND WORKER MUST BAND TOGETHER

Skillfully, but not so much so that the scheme isn't transparently clear, Roosevelt is trying to pit the conscripted worker against the industrial worker. The text of the deferment order sent out by Brig. Gen. Hershey reads: "These citizen soldiers (a fancy name for conscripts—Ed.) have been promised that arms, supplies and equipment will be furnished by their fellow-citizens who are engaged in the production of ships, airplanes, tanks,

guns and other necessary munitions and supplies.

"They know that other registrants have been deferred from service in the armed forces to accomplish that purpose. They demand that no citizen hesitate to do his full share in the strengthening of the defense of America."

We don't know, who gave that brass hat the right to speak for the conscripts. We do know, however, that these conscripts were dragged into the army against their will. We do know that their interests also lie in the way of higher wages and the right to organize freely. And we do know that every victory for labor is a victory for the conscript because each victory benefits the WHOLE of the working class. It therefore takes more than a little gall for some uniformed dolt who probably never did a day's productive work in all his life, to speak in the name of these "citizen-soldiers-by-compulsion" (who are not allowed to speak for themselves) against workers striking for a living wage.

"GUNS, NOT BUTTER"—NEW ROOSEVELT SLOGAN

The freedoms of speech, press and assembly guaranteed in the Bill of Rights are no longer operative in Roosevelt's war dictatorship—at least not the right to

assemble on a picket line free from bayonet intervention.

If Roosevelt has dared go this far BEFORE "shooting" war has begun, how far will he go when the firing has started?

"Guns, not butter," said Hitler. That proclamation horrified the world. It has now also become Roosevelt's slogan: "Guns, not butter."

There is in this a dire warning for labor, a horrible picture of what the future holds in store. Shall we allow them to trample upon our bitterly-won liberties? Shall we work gagged and with a bayonet sticking in our ribs, breaking our backs so that the bosses may wallow in the swill of war profits? Shall we allow ourselves to be strapped in a totalitarian straight-jacket?

A halt must be called! The strike-busting draft ruling must be reversed. It is a challenge! We dare not let it stand!

Threats to draft North American strikers failed to scare the men on the line and served primarily to expose the union-busting, dictatorial Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States.

Teamsters Local 544 Quits AFL--Asks Admission to CIO

As LABOR ACTION goes to press we learn that Local 544 of the Teamsters International in Minneapolis has broken with the American Federation of Labor and applied for admission in the CIO. This action on the part of the 5,000 Minneapolis AFL teamsters follows charges of radicalism made against them by Dan Tobin, international president of the union. The officers of the union were summoned to Washington for trial but no decision had been rendered at the time the local made its decision to go over to the CIO.

A telegram from some alleged "high CIO officials in Minneapolis" urged President Murray not to admit the Minneapolis local to the CIO. The telegram claimed that some leaders of Local 544 were followers of the ideas of Leon Trotsky. Trotsky was murdered last year by the Stalinist GPU.

Walter Brock, secretary of the Minneapolis Industrial Union Council, evidently disagreed with the "high CIO officials in Minneapolis." He wired A. D. Lewis, chairman of the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee, that 8,000 additional teamsters in Minnesota were ready to join the CIO. Lewis said that he would grant the charter as soon as the request for affiliation was received.

We Demand: Higher
Wages and Workers'
Rights for Conscripts!

A Few Facts About Syria-- The Latest Battleground

WHO IS FIGHTING FOR SYRIA:

ONE SIDE: British Empire forces and their "Free French" imperialist stooges.
OTHER SIDE: German and Italian Empire forces and their "Vichy French" imperialist stooges.

OF WHAT IMPORTANCE IS SYRIA:

(1) It is on the route to the vital Suez Canal.
(2) It is a stepping stone to the oil fields of Iran and Iraq.
(3) It is the gateway to the Middle East.
(4) It has good harbors, air bases and is a trading center, although there is little industry or valuable raw materials in the country itself.

WHO LOSES NO MATTER WHO WINS:

The 3,000,000 Syrians (mostly farmers) who want only their independence from France or any other imperialist gangster or set of imperialist gangsters.

WHO SHOULD WORKERS SUPPORT:

The Syrian nationalists who oppose the crucifixion of their country by imperialist war and want to get rid of both sides.

Negro Shot in Texas Court-- Murderer Freed on \$500 Bail

Americanism stalked through the District Court in Conroe, Texas, this week. Bob White, a Negro on trial for rape, was shot to death in the court room by W. S. Cochran, husband of the woman who was alleged to have been raped. The murder took place while bailiffs were escorting the ninth juror to the jury dormitory.

Cochran walked into the court room with a pistol in his hand. He walked to the railing, leaned close to White and shot him through the head in full view of spectators in the crowded court room.

In the original trial White was sentenced to death for the raping of Cochran's wife. The Texas Court of Appeals reversed the death sentence.

Later White was again sentenced to death and the sentence was reversed by the United States Supreme Court. Cochran then evidently decided to reverse the highest court in the land.

After the murder, Cochran, who is a wealthy Texas land owner, walked over to his friend, Zimmie Forman, special prosecutor in the case, and handed him the gun. He was taken before a justice of the peace and charged with murder. A friend of Cochran's hurried to the justice's office, shook hands with Cochran and posted bail of \$500.

This was all that is required in Texas to walk out into the street a free man after murdering a Negro. Cochran got in his car, where his wife was waiting, and drove home to resume normal family life.

ROOSEVELT'S ARMY ATTACKED STRIKING WORKERS WITH BAYONETS! CONDEMN IN UNION RESOLUTION THE STRIKE-BREAKING ACTIONS OF THE ROOSEVELT GOVERNMENT! VOTE YOUR SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS WHO ARE ON STRIKE!

