

# The Housewife Gets Gypped On Food Prices!

By Susan Green

Every store—in accordance with requirements—posts its "ceiling prices." But—

The last time I bought "Niblets," for example, they were 10 cents a can—while today, if I want them, I pay 15 cents.

The "ceiling" on "Niblets" has been raised by 50 per cent. Has the OPA perhaps heard about this escalating ceiling on "Niblets"?

Yes, every store—in a very touching cooperative spirit—posts its "ceiling prices." But—

The last time I bought Del Monte seedless raisins I paid nine cents for a 15 oz. box. Before that they were two boxes for 15 cents. Today, if I want them, I pay 25 cents for two boxes.

The "ceiling" on seedless raisins has been elevated 66-2/3 per cent. Does the OPA perhaps know about the sprightliness of the "ceiling" on seedless raisins?

The "ceiling" on honey—recommended by government dietitians as an excellent substitute for sugar—is waving the housewife a sweet farewell. A pound of Orange Blossom honey used to be 49 cents. Today you pay 57 cents. True, it was once in a tin can and now it is in a glass jar. But surely that does not account for a boost of 16 per cent.

In these and other instances, the profiteering prices are slapped on WITHOUT ANY CAMOUFLAGE. Prices are shamelessly skyrocketed on the identical product. The wonder is that housewives continue to take such profiteering on the chin.

But there are also ways of CAMOUFLAGING ITEMS AND FOOLING the unwary—and these ways are being employed more and more.

Take a well known brand of soups, Campbells. For the longest time the vegetarian vegetable soup, to take an example, has sold three cans for 25 cents. Now you pay 21 cents for two cans—but the new can sports a label reading "NEW AND IMPROVED RECIPE."

This label has the magic power of increasing the price from three cans for 25 cents to two cans for 21 cents—a difference upward of a mere 26 per cent.

Investigating this matter further, this writer verified beyond doubt that the housewife is being bamboozled. There is absolutely no difference between the list of ingredients printed on an old can of tomato soup and the list of ingredients printed on a can bearing the label "new and improved recipe." Both are made from tomatoes, butter, corn, oil, onions, parsley, wheat flour, salt, sugar, seasoning, spice water. The only change on the new can is the order in which the items are listed.

This writer was unable to get old cans of the other soups of this company to make comparisons. But if the tomato soup supposed to be made with a "new and improved recipe" is just the same as the old soup, what reason has anyone to suppose that any of the other soups are different?

Does the OPA know about this kind of fraud daily practiced on the consumer?

There has been a rumor around—or am I wrong?—that the job of the OPA is not only to know about such things—but to put a stop to them!

Instead, however, prices climb and war profiteering goes on—openly and under very thin camouflage.

There is reason to believe that at least local OPA offices not only know about the gypping that goes on, but are perhaps responsible for it.

A friendly butcher tells the writer this story:

At the wholesale house where he trades, he can no longer get boiled ham at the ceiling price. He was told they don't carry it any more. A "new brand" called "fruited ham"—at a considerably higher price—was recommended to him. The friendly butcher swears that it is no new brand, but the same ham onto which the wholesaler slaps a few slices of pineapple—in order to be able to call it a "new brand" and raise the ceiling. The butcher tells me the wholesaler takes off the pineapple slices and uses them over and over on the same boiled hams.

This friendly butcher, inquiring around, has discovered that when wholesalers go to their local OPA offices and ask for permission to "adjust" ceilings upward, they are informed: "If you use the same label and the same package, you can't charge more!"

Such a broad hint would undoubtedly account for the "new and improved recipe" label on the same soup—for plain boiled ham blooming into "fruited ham" and for the strange-looking cans with new trade-names that are sneaking onto grocery shelves.

There may be a virtue in patience, but surely there is a limit. OPA "ceilings" are like vapor—constantly rising. The housewife is being gypped! How long will she put up with it?

## THE REMEDY LIES IN HERSELF.

Nearly every apartment house today has some joint tenant activity in connection with scrap drives and such. Why can't housewives in each house get together with the others on the block, organize committees and do something about prices?

Working class housewives have allies in organized labor. They can call upon organized labor for help and for the benefit of its experience in winning demands. COMMITTEES OF HOUSEWIVES AND ORGANIZED LABOR CAN GO TO TOWN AND REALLY CONTROL PRICES!

# LABOR ACTION

NOVEMBER 16, 1942

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

# U. S. LANDINGS IN AFRICA MARK NEW PHASE IN WAR

## Military Offensive Presses Hitler, but Imperialist War Still a Long Way from End

By SAM ADAMS

On the twenty-fourth anniversary of Armistice Day, the Second World War has spread to new and greater fronts. American land, sea and air forces, aided by the British, landed this week at a number of points in French North Africa.

With great speed, occasioned by the surprise nature of the landings, key ports and capital cities were quickly invested and occupied. American troops are now moving eastward to attack Rommel and catch him in a pincer with the British coming westward. They are rushing rapidly into Tunisia and toward Tripoli to meet counter-attacks of the German and Italian forces now rushed to North Africa to prevent that part of the Continent and the lower

half of the Mediterranean from falling into the hands of the Allies.

Allied forces already occupy the principal cities—Oran, Algiers and Casablanca—and a number of intermediate points. Troops continue to land and a vast amount of weapons is being sent ashore in preparation for the counter-blows expected from the Axis.

### Hitler Moves Over France

Reports coming in from the front indicate that the Allies counted upon defections in the French army, both among ranking officers and among the troops. General Henri Giraud at once went over to the Allies and is already being groomed as the leader of the French forces in North Africa. Admiral Darlan, anti-British commander of all the French forces, has been "captured" by the Americans, along with General Juin, commander of the French in Algiers. It is possible that they too will soon join the British and Americans and may already have done so at the time of this writing.

These early developments are overshadowed by the developments on the Continent. Following a hurriedly called meeting of Hitler, Mussolini and Laval, the German army crossed the demarcation point which

### BULLETIN:

As we go to press, late news dispatches report the capitulation of North Africa and Pétain's declaration of resistance to Germany. In next week's issue we will continue with an analysis of these developments, Roosevelt's statements on the French Empire, etc.

divided Occupied and Unoccupied France and is in the process of taking over the whole country. They are racing to seize the key French ports on the Mediterranean and to prevent if possible the flight of the French fleet.

Hitler's occupation of the whole of France has only intensified the national political-military situation. Early reports announce Pétain's plea to the French people to revolt against Hitler—by what means and with what kind of arms and for what purpose, is not made clear by the senile leader of Vichy. The French fleet was ordered to join the Allies. If this should occur the naval situation will be significantly altered in favor of the Allies.

While it is yet too early to pass judgment on the ultimate significance of the recent military developments, certain possibilities immediately show themselves.

The occupation of France by the German army will require for Hitler an ever-greater expenditure of troops and matériel. And while his land army is still an enormous and powerful organization, it is bound to lengthen and therefore weaken his Continental line of defense. He must guard a sea coast many thousands of miles long, including now the whole Mediterranean Sea. His Italian ally is in a desperate position and without

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## Pie in the Sky!



## Anti-Semites Burn School House in N. Y.

By WILLIAM GARFIELD

BUFFALO—A growing wave of anti-Semitism and Jim Crowism in this area culminated on Monday, November 2, in the burning of a school building and the attempted murder of its principal in the little community of Sanborn, less than twenty miles from Buffalo. The murder was frustrated only because the principal, Milton Gurvitz, was able to pry himself loose from the bonds with which his assailants had tied him and escaped from the burning school building in which they were attempting to burn him alive.

According to Gurvitz's testimony, two armed men forced their way into the Lewiston District School No. 2 that night at 10 p.m., bound and gagged him with "drawcord" snatched from the curtains and paper towels, sprinkled school laboratory alcohol on the floor of his office, set the room ablaze and escaped. After a frantic effort, Gurvitz was able to free himself and escape. The building was leveled by the fire.

### Received Warnings

On two occasions previous to the fire, Gurvitz had received threatening notes both ordering him to "get out of town." The writers, both notes said, "didn't want a Jew around." One was signed "100 Per Cent American," the other was unsigned.

On the Thursday preceding the Monday of the fire, the local police had been called in by the school authorities when Gurvitz reported that his office had been visited by hoodlums who upset the books and desk and smeared the walls with yellow paint.

Both the local police and the FBI (who have undertaken an investigation) have plenty of clues to work on—if they are really interested in solving the case. Sanborn is a community of less than 500 people, and the fact that the three school trustees received threatening letters a few hours after the fire demonstrates that the criminals must have been local citizens as only these would know the trustees of the school or even the fact

(Continued on page 2)

## Our Hearts Bleed for the Rich

# How the New Corporation Taxes Work Out

This is the time of the year that stockholders like. It is when the companies declare their dividends for the three months just passed and when the dividend checks are sent out to those whose right to them consists only in owning some nice crisp certificates.

In the year 1942, however, you perhaps thought all this would be different. You thought, maybe, that because of the "equality of sacrifice" ordered by President Roosevelt and especially because of the much-squawked-about corporation taxes, the companies would have to send their regrets to stockholders instead of dividend checks.

But in 1942—as in years preceding—not only are dividends declared as usual, but many dividends are higher—and even extra dividends are being declared. Bear in mind all this profit remains AFTER DEDUCTIONS FOR TAXES.

Thus, to illustrate, Oliver Farm Equipment Co.—which of course now manufactures a good deal of war equipment—can double its dividend and pay \$1 this quarter instead of 50 cents a share. Midcontinental Petroleum can pay one and a half times as much, or \$1 instead of 40 cents. If you think of the millions of shares of stock issued by such companies, you will see what a pile of profits is paid out in these increased dividends—all this AFTER ALLOWING FOR THE NEW CORPORATION TAXES.

Unaffected by the 1942 tax bill, a number of corporations not only continue to pay regular dividends but also EXTRA dividends—especially luscious slices of unearned profits. Some of these companies are: Warren Foundry & Pipe, which declared a regular dividend of 50 cents and an extra of \$1; Sears, Roebuck—WPB Chairman Nelson's own company—

which will pay a regular of 75 cents plus an extra of \$1. Standard Oil of New Jersey can afford a regular dividend of 50 cents a share plus an extra of 50 cents, and its side-kick, Standard Oil of Indiana, gives out 25 cents as a regular and 25 cents as an extra, while Texas Gulf Sulphur pays 50 cents as usual and 25 cents extra.

Don't forget that these companies have tens of millions of shares of outstanding stock, and these regular and extra dividends add up to a mountain of money—all AFTER DEDUCTIONS FOR THE NEW CORPORATION TAXES.

Our hearts bleed for the rich. Sure, we workers are big hearted. So a worker who earns \$30 a week will lose eight weeks' pay in income taxes—not figuring war bonds and other taxes! So what? So long as the "poor" rich can get their regular and extra dividends!

# Sharecroppers Attend Full-Time, Two-Week School On Socialist Principles Organized by Workers Party

By MAX SHACHTMAN (National Secretary, Workers Party)

Almost on the heels of the exceptionally successful National Training School organized a few months ago by the Workers Party, a full-time "extension course" organized on the same principles has just been concluded in the heart of one of the most important agricultural sections of the United States.

The school, held in the Southern part of the country, not far from Memphis, Tenn., was attended by a dozen students selected from among the ablest leaders of the sharecroppers and day laborers in the territory. Most of the students were Negroes, about evenly divided between men and women.

The school lasted two full weeks and under the circumstances the course had to be pretty intensive. The students were so anxious to attend and so enthusiastic about the prospectus that some of them even sacrificed two weeks of work in the fields—no small matter, given

their working and living conditions—in order to be able to attend the sessions.

Thanks to the kind cooperation of a friend of the movement, the problem of taking care of such a body of students, coming together for the purpose of acquiring the rudiments of a Marxian education, was very favorably solved. Our friend placed at the disposal of the school a large farm dotted with several commodious buildings. The environment was perfect for the school's purposes and it was possible to house and feed all the students comfortably and with a minimum of expense.

The direction of the school was in the hands of the National Labor Secretary of the Workers Party and Labor Editor of LABOR ACTION, David Coolidge. The voluminous, detailed study outlines used by the students at the earlier National Training School of the party, were also used in the Southern Training School, and according to Director Coolidge, with gratifying results. In addition, the school was

fortunate in having placed at its disposal an adequate collection of supplementary reading material covering a wide range of subjects.

Three classes were held each day, the first from 10 to 12 in the morning, the second from 2:30 to 4:30 in the afternoon, and the third from 8 to 10 in the evening. Time in between the class sessions was devoted to less formal discussions (which went on practically all the time, and at a lively pace) and what Director Coolidge called "laboratory" sessions, or discussions devoted to the practical application of the class subjects.

Six courses in all were covered, including a critical Marxian analysis of the capitalist world, the manner of conducting the organized struggle against it, the historical significance of the coming socialist society, the theory and practice of trade unionism, and the program and principles of the WP.

The results of the school were more satisfactory than had ever been imagined by its original organizers. Both

the director and the students expressed themselves with unreserved enthusiasm about what had been accomplished—and about what they would be able to accomplish in the class struggle, with greater knowledge.

An indication of the practical results in the growth of the Workers Party resulting from the school, is the fact that activities launched by the students upon their homeward return immediately produced three sturdy and flourishing nuclei of Workers branches, two of which have since become regular branches.

Given favorable conditions—or as people say, "With good luck and by the grace of God"—the activities of our newly-won comrades should spread throughout the territory in which they live and work and fight, awakening the consciousness and stimulating the militancy of the cynically-oppressed agricultural masses, and winning them in growing numbers to the banner of the party of the socialist revolution, the Workers Party.



# Europe in Revolt

News from the Socialist Camp

## ANOTHER DISTINGUISHED FIGHTER FOR "FREEDOM"

There is much talk these days about Italy. There will be more with the Allied North African campaign increasing its scope and the possibility of an Allied attack on Italy drawing nearer. It is therefore fitting to cast a glance on those valets of Allied imperialism who claim to be the representatives of the Italian people.

The recognized leaders of these "democratic" Italians is one Count Sforza. The man himself has no especially conspicuous record. He was once Foreign Minister in a pre-Mussolini cabinet and as such negotiated the famous Rapallo treaty. Later he served as a kind of oracle to certain French "liberals" on international questions and wrote a couple of books. That's about all. But then he is a count, and what a count! A

real Sforza of purest Italian nobility, coming of a family which was racking the poor Italian peasants when America was not yet discovered.

Obviously such a man should have a great career before him among American "statesmen." And indeed since he came to this country the Count has shown a somewhat suspicious activity. Every second week there is a long letter to the New York Times or to some other big paper, or an article in some "liberal" magazine. This aristocratic-liberal Fuehrer of the New Italy comes more and more to the foreground. He calls pompous "Pan-American Conferences of Free Italians." He claims that he is recruiting an Italian Legion. Every day there is something new on his front.

## SFORZA AND THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

But what are the real reasons behind all this? Why is the State Department so obviously backing the activity of Sforza. The reason seems to be extremely obvious: people in the State Department are worried about what the situation in Italy will be once Mussolini's dictatorship is cracked. Rightly or wrongly, they suppose that the internal situation in Italy is far worse for the regime than it is in Germany. They look for a Fuehrer who could then be given power with the support of American bayonets. Obviously he should not be too "radical"; he must be able to work with Catholic and "liberal" circles; he must be on good terms with the stamp-collecting King Victor Emmanuel; but he must also look very much the leftist.

Sforza is the right man in the right place. He broke with Mussolini at the inception of fascism, but, on the other hand, every guarantee is given that this old-time aristocrat will never associate with the "rabble." The whole line of American propaganda to Italy is keyed on the idea that "peace and order" have to be safeguarded, that not much has to be changed in the internal regime of Italy, that King and Pope have to keep their place and standing among their good people, that the only thing the Italians should realize is that it is necessary to throw out those wicked Germans, who eat up all their spaghetti—as if there had been more spaghetti before the Nazis took over.

A special representative of Roosevelt has recently made a number of mysterious voyages to Rome, ostensibly as courtesy visits to the Vatican. But we have a rather strong suspicion that many serious things were discussed. While the more stupid, if sincere, "liberals" still think in terms of a "people's war," the realists of the State Department quietly carry out their undercover negotiations. The American Gauleiters are groomed and Free Italian movements are formed.

At first glance, a statement like Sforza's that "the revolution of the Italians against fascism has been started by the Italians of America and will be victoriously concluded by the people of Italy," seems somewhat ridiculous. Does he really think that one starts revolutions by calling Free Italian conferences in Montevideo? But the whole thing is not funny at all. One has just to reverse names. What is being formed here and in South America are the shock troops against the real Italian revolution, a revolution which will be led by the "caffoni" (sharecroppers) and the socialist workers of the great industrial centers of Northern Italy, not by "liberal" aristocrats and disgruntled statesmen in the Vatican.

The summit of a situation in which a Sforza was baptized the archangel of the Italian revolution was reached the other day when some people in the State Department softly flinched that even Sforza was still too much to the left and that it might be better to rely on more outspoken reactionaries.

A "people's war," indeed! Europeans.

# Local 9 Wants New Officials

## Stalinist Gang Seeks Power as Membership Turns Against Incumbents

SAN PEDRO—Throughout the membership of Local 9 there is an overwhelming sentiment in favor of a thorough change of union officials in the elections next month. Though the sell-out of the union hall on top of all the other surrenders to the corporations was successfully crammed down the throat of the membership, there remains in the rank and file a bitter resentment against these endless retreats, and against the bureaucratic attempt of the present officials to stifle the democracy of the local. All this adds up to a sentiment of "Anybody but the present rotten officials."

The desire to rid the union of its present gang of incompetent tin-horn dictators is praiseworthy. But it is not true that just "anybody" will improve the situation. For the defense of democracy in Local 9, for the preservation of at least a little genuine unionism in the San Pedro shipyards, the gang that sold the shipyard workers down the river must be replaced by men who believe in democracy and unionism.

### Stalinist Clique Worse

Heading the list of those who would be even worse than the present pie-cards is the Stalinist clique of union wreckers par excellence, who are rapidly gathering their forces in hopes of making a bid for power.

Since Local 9 became a powerful and wealthy local, these "Soldiers of Stalin" have been concentrating forces here of men experienced in union misleadership and general fakery in the interest of the Communist Party.

Among those they brought in are Lopez, who formerly pie-carded in the Furniture Workers Union, the Electrical Workers and possibly many other places, and Herschel Alexander, who performed the same function in the Warehousemen and elsewhere. It is unfortunate that these men, the one a Mexican and the other colored, take for themselves the role of leading Mexicans and Negroes, for years discriminated against in the yards, into supporting union retreats instead of fighting for justice for themselves. The fact is that the picture of a Negro who—instead of standing up and fighting for equality for his people—gets up and tries to put over a sell-out policy is even tending to build up in some militant workers a prejudice against our Negro brothers. This is a terrible mistake which must be warned against; the great majority of colored members of Local 9 do not go for Alexander's sell-out policies, but simply lack another of their group who can speak clearly in opposition.

Besides these two standard-bearers for Stalinism, many more have been brought into the local. New heroes of the "give it up for Joe" gang are being built up right now. Added together these individuals make up a formidable machine which if not checked by an alert membership may lead the union to more disastrous defeats. This gang is playing a role of fundamental importance. Sad to say, their existence as an organized reactionary force is realized by only a few of the membership.

This Stalinist machine has already made it possible for the company, government agents and reactionary officials to put over the union sell-outs to date. Their "heroes" make the best speeches for the sell-outs, and their gang is right on hand at all important meetings to vote the way they are

over the surrender of one union gain after another, and finally the hiring hall.

The members are sick of the bureaucratic manner in which the meetings are run. By their policies of disruption, dictatorship and sell-out, the Stalinist clique and the reactionary officials are driving the membership altogether away from the union. The members must answer this situation by coming to the meetings and taking control out of the hands of this wrecking crew in order to save the union and to fight back against the continuing attacks of the corporations!

### Hot Cargo Bill Carries

Then glance at California this week. For one thing, the Warren right wing of the Republicans swept into office. But remember that the Democrats also gave the labor movement plenty of dirty deals—the cotton strike in Madera, etc.

Labor received a severe setback in the passage of the anti-labor "Hot Cargo" bill, Proposition No. 1. It carried by only a small margin, and a large share of the blame for its having carried can be laid squarely at the door of the Stalinist leadership of the CIO in this state.

Just what did these gentlemen do to fight against No. 1? They spilled gallons of ink and spent money to support Olson, but what did they do to defeat Proposition 1? Even the muscle-bound AFL put up a pretty good fight on this proposition. The Boilermakers Local 92 put out a printed leaflet against No. 1. But what did the CIO do? And what did Local 9 do? The answer is that they did next to nothing. Just about the only leaflet around the shipyards against Proposition No. 1 was put out by LABOR ACTION.

The bosses won out on this bill because the Stalinist clique of super-patriots who control the CIO in California were too busy with "unity" with the bosses and too busy putting over sell-outs to carry on any fight to defend labor's rights against the attack of the bosses.

For democracy in Local 9 and for defense against the constant boss attacks, not only must the present officials be replaced, but the bid for power by the Stalinist clique must be smashed back!

"Marshall Timoshenko, the Russian warrior, received six votes for sheriff of Hudson County. The votes ... did not jeopardize the prospects of Hague's candidate."—AP dispatch.

Independent labor action, Stalinist version.

# The News in Brief

By Everett Weston

"F is for puncture, by bullet or ball; A is for abrasion, where the dirt grinds in; I is for incise, where the gash is sharp and full; L is for laceration, rough and jagged through the skin. And the whole spells FAIL. Where you catch the dripping gore If you haven't any bandage Any more."

—From "First Aid Memory Gems" from Boston Teachers News Letter, quoted in New Yorker.

Or the puke from a guy that's gassed; To catch the pus from a running sore, The flow from dysenteric bowels— War, my dear, is such a bore.

army no larger than 20 million at the outside. This army is fighting in Africa and it is keeping down hostile populations in Italy, the Balkans, France, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Scandinavia, the Lowlands and Germany. But the hardest fight is on the Russian front, where perhaps half, or 10 million, of the soldiers are stationed. (Pravda is the Russian word for truth.)

"Nazi Field Marshal Rommel was in this country some years ago—in fact, attended our army mechanized school and learned about tanks from us, graduating at the head of his class."—Lowell Thomas over the Blue Network.

Also, lest we forget, Japan got her oil and scrap iron from "us"; Nazi Germany was largely financed by "us"; fascist Italy even got some of her refined methods of torture from "our" Philippine campaign.

"The Trans-Saharan Railway ... has been nicknamed 'The Peanut Line' by the construction engineers because the Diesel engines are to burn peanut oil. The laborers also use the same name derisively because they are forced to work for 'peanuts'—fifteen cents a week."—Culler's.

When they speak of billions for armaments, it is difficult to grasp what the figures really mean. It is no easier to measure 15 cents a week in terms of human misery. Try it.

"The Marines have always picked the elite of the civilian world for their ranks. John Adams, second president of the U.S., once fought with the Marines. Gene Tunney was once a Marine. Tyron Power is a Marine. And so is Leland Klein, runner-up in 1941 for the national corn-husking championship."—Yank.

But what happened to the WINNER?

"... Naval battle fought in Solomon Islands on August 9.... When on August 10 the Japanese claimed in an official communique that they had sunk 16 vessels of various types, the American press expatiated on the unreliability and exaggeration usual in such Japanese claims. Admiral King the next day, in a statement widely praised for its candor, declared that American losses had actually been one cruiser and damage to five miscellaneous vessels. Then, bit by bit—in announcements on September 6, 24 and 30—the Navy Department admitted further losses. But it was not until October 12, two months and three days after the battle that, by admitting the loss of three heavy cruisers, it was conceded that the original Japanese report was not far from the truth."—Christian Century.

Captain Leland P. Lovette, public relations director of the Navy, has announced that the full story of the losses at Pearl Harbor will be told on December 7, 1942.

"Great effort is being expended to win a deferred status for certain stars.... A theatrical booking agency office in Hollywood on August 31 received from C. J. LaRoche, its New York agent, a long teletype message telling how it had 'already handled' a list of stars, including Kay Kayser. In addition to smugly claiming responsibility for the classification of Kayser and others as being more essential at home, that agency recited others of their clients for whom a like classification was being sought."—Senator Gerald P. Nye as quoted in the New York Post.

Neither Nye nor the Post identified the "C. J. LaRoche" further. Chester J. LaRoche is board chairman of Young & Rubicam, a large and important advertising agency, among whose clients are Borden, Bristol-Myers, Celanese, General Foods, Westinghouse, Metropolitan Life. His partner, Raymond Rubicam, is publicity counsel to Paul V. McNutt, War Manpower Commission head, and is deep in the McNutt-for-President planning. Most important, LaRoche is president of the Advertising Council, a federation of advertising agencies that has been handling scrap and conservation campaigns for the government.

"Raymond Rubicam... is at present special assistant to the chairman of the Manpower Commission. His personality must have permeated the commission, for a distracted employee recently answered Paul V. McNutt's night telephone with a brisk 'Young & Rubicam.'"—Newsweek.

"HAGUE'S MAN TRAILS BY 100,000"—front-page headline in P.M. "In New Jersey, Albert W. Hawkes... led William H. Smathers, another New Deal Democrat."—P.M., same issue, page 2.

It's perfectly possible to be both a Hague man and a New Deal Democrat, but PM is the last place we would look for such unbecoming frankness.

## Burn School--

(Continued from page 1) that Gurvitz was the school principal.

Although both men wore hoods which completely covered their heads and faces, one of them was described as being six feet one inch tall and weighing about 200 pounds. An average of less than ten per cent of the general male population conforms to this description and in a town of only 500 this leaves a small enough number to be thoroughly investigated.

Furthermore, one of the "100 Per Cent Americans" carried a German Luger, the other a .45 caliber Colt automatic. The first weapon was issued to German officers in World War I while the second was the standard firearm issued to American officers in the same war. Neither gun would be readily available to the average citizen "except" through the medium of previous army service.

Townpeople Back Gurvitz According to Gurvitz, in a statement made to this correspondent, there was no reason to believe that the attack was a reflection of anti-Semitism among the general population of Sanborn. This statement is borne out by the actions of the townspeople themselves who, a few hours after the attack, called a meeting of over 200 citizens and unanimously voted to support and uphold the actions of the school trustees.

One local farmer volunteered to lend the school board three trucks to transport the children to some other school building. The Buffalo Industrial Council of the CIO passed a resolution commending the "citizens of Sanborn for their sensible conduct in this outrage."

will push the signing of a contract twice as many years into the future as it has already taken.

Whether Orfnik is rehired by some government board order or not, the Sperry workers and their union need a campaign of their own to counteract that of the company. "A good defense is a good offense." A well prepared attack to organize Sperry, no wheedling with the arrogant and profit-hungry company. A fighting union is the crying need for Sperry.

# Sperry Co. on Offensive Against Union Drive

By E. TORLONE

Convinced by the spineless tactics of the union that it could get away with anything, the Sperry Gyroscope Co. has set out to stop the organization drive.

For two years the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers Union of America, CIO, has been trying to organize the Sperry Gyroscope Co. The difficulties it has faced have been many.

With the outbreak of the war, Sperry expanded by leaps and bounds. The people who were hired to operate the expanded plant were mostly young and inexperienced without previous knowledge of the union movement. The problem of organizing the new workers was further complicated by the draft. These young workers feared that joining the union would result in their being drafted. The union never dealt squarely with the problem of the draft as an obstacle to organization. The men in the plant were never given a satisfactory answer.

The extent to which the union

has made headway is due to the unflagging energy and persistence of the union militants in the plant, who operated without good and clear direction from the union organizers.

### Organizing the Women

With the government directives for the hiring and training of women and against the employment of draft-age men for training, the union encountered a new barrier. The company has begun flooding its plant with women learners to replace the men learners who are rapidly being drafted. Now the union has to organize the women in place of men, many of whom had previously joined.

Again, while the union organizers failed to meet this problem adequately, the union militants brought to life the union program for women of "equal pay for equal work."

Though the company union is no longer a factor (the organizers take sole credit for ousting the company

union in purely a lawyers' battle), the organizing of the new women workers is proving slow work. At this point, when the union should by bold and dramatic action draw these workers to the union in a fight to improve conditions at Sperry, it is the company that begins the attack.

The military minds at the head of Sperry have started a campaign against the union as though it were a field operation planned to achieve definite objectives.

First, they attempted to split the forces of the workers in the plant. New Regulations issued on the learnership program indicated that the older employees would have a tough time getting their raises at each re-rate period. The new employees, mostly women, were given special increases, higher minimums and retroactive pay raises adjusted to length of service.

The company hopes not only to split the workers, but, by tossing the new learners a bone, to stave off organization which would mean still higher minimums, boosting the

whole pay structure up. (Ford Instrument—a UE shop—minimum is 75 cents.) The more experienced, the first and second class men, the real forgotten men of Sperry's, got nothing or a measly nickel an hour.

### Union President Fired

The company held up payment of the increases three weeks past the date it went into effect. Two days before these retroactive increases bulged the pay envelopes, the union president, M. Orfnik, was fired for organizing workers on his lunch time.

Unaffected by artificially padded pay checks, and an extra nickel given the learners, the union members were infuriated at this open attack on the organization into which they had put so much time and energy. Talk of strike, walk-out and sit-down were heard all over the plant. More than one department, enraged by some special measure taken against it, was already at the point of action. Petitions for raises, demands for re-

leases to other jobs, deputations of stewards to declare themselves for the union president, deluged the company offices.

And the union, where was the union? Where were the international organizers with the accumulated experience of the UE and the CIO to guide them? They were calm and cool, sitting in the union offices surveying the struggle from afar.

What was the sage advice of these tried and tested union leaders? Do nothing, take no action, above all, no strikes, sit-downs, walk-outs or any kind of planned activity.

The union leaders and the stewards who look to them for aid and guidance did all in their power to restrain the men in the plant. "Place your confidence in letters and telegrams." This was the distilled wisdom of their years in the labor movement.

But the Sperry workers can have confidence only in themselves. To build their union they must have different tactics or the company

# The Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor...

## Does Rep. Rankin Differ from Hitler?

Dear Editor:

Anybody who has an idea that Congress is our great bulwark of democracy ought to listen to the speeches these "fighters for democracy" deliver. Typical is an extract from a speech that Congressman Rankin of Mississippi made on the floor of the House on November 5:

"We are going to fight this war to a victorious finish. That is the sentiment of the white people of the South. But if the Administration wants to get along with us it will have to change its attitude because the white Democrats of the South are going to demand treatment different from what they have received these last few months."

We hate to embarrass the congressman but we would like to know if the Democrats of the South have any intention of changing their attitude toward the Negroes of the South and the non-Anglo-Saxons. We have pretty much of an idea that their attitude won't change.

If there is any difference between the reactionary Jim Crow, anti-Semitic attitude of Rankin (who is only

typical of the whole vicious administration of the South) and the attitude of Hitler toward the "non-Aryans," we'd like to know what that difference is.

M. W. November 6.

## A Brooklyn Reader Disagrees

Dear Editor: I have been reading the space-filler about Basis of Jewish Question in your October 19 issue. What it's all about is too much ink.

From what I know and have seen I believe the Jewish people have always been taking good care of themselves. What is there here in the United States to stop them?

Personally I know many kickers about Jews are jealous of the luck the bunch have.

I believe a lot and a couple miles more of the reason of class scraps come from the mental punk condition that everybody ought to be equal, no one should have more than the others. If I'm happy, why should not the others? What hell right has one to pile and the others not? Awful what this country is coming to

and in the cities where lots have not and have not much else to holler about except what luck the other bunch have.

The whole cause of the class fights is too many punks and who do not know some are better, happier, smarter, richer, dumber, sadder, fatter, nicer. Bologna. Say, who started the fight. Call a cop.

Brooklyn Reader.

## Susan Green Answers...

This reader is wrong in his belief that the Jewish people as a group are any better off than any other group. He is judging by the exceptions, not by the rule. If he will take a walk through any Jewish working class section he will soon see that the Jewish workers are no better off than Irish, Italian or any other group of workers in the American melting pot.

The scrap against the Jews is not a class scrap but a phony race scrap which the bosses keep going in order to ward off from themselves the class-scraps punches that the workers should be handing out to them. The

bosses spread the flim-flam about the Jews being better off.

The punks in our population are not the workers who think they are entitled to happiness, but those who stand in the way of the people's happiness are the punks. Yes, the punks are the class that takes and keeps as private property what all the workers produce and have a right to enjoy.

Say, would you call the guys who went out on strike to win the eight-hour day and were plugged with bullets by the bosses' deputies and by the National Guard, punks? Would you call the auto workers who fought like all hell to get their union established and recognized, punks? These were class scraps.

It's true that, by nature, some of us are fatter, some nicer, some smarter, some sadder. But, you know, in one fundamental respect we are all alike—our bodies and our minds must have the things that give life and happiness. But when Mr. Grace of Bethlehem Steel pockets over \$537,000 a year in salary, plus large amounts in interest and dividends and other income—and the rest of his class does likewise—we have the kind of inequality that nature has nothing to do with. That's the kind of inequality the

class struggle aims to do away with. For that fight all workers must unite—Jewish, Irish, Italian, Yankee. We hope you'll be with us. No need for a cop.

Susan Green.

## "Best Labor Paper I Ever Got..."

Dear Editor:

The past two or three weeks we have been receiving a copy of LABOR ACTION. It's the best paper I ever got my hands on and a thousand times better than the yellow sheets of the Cleveland dailies. This paper at least tells the truth and is all-out for the working man instead of all-out for the war.

Out here at the tractor plant things are not so good. Our shop steward and his "yes sir" committee are only too willing to compromise and give up before our battles are won. A couple of weeks ago we had a good example of what militant labor action can do. The company changed our payday from Friday to Saturday. They like to forget that our wages last just seven days. When they didn't pay us on Friday we staged a little sit-down. It had its re-

sults—and how! Payday was then and there changed back to Friday and even more important, that same afternoon the company agreed to a 40 cent a day increase!

That sit-down strike sure paid off in good dividends. The shop steward, to his everlasting shame and disgrace, led the back to work movement before he had exacted definite promises from the management. He doesn't appreciate what our strike accomplished for the union. He is either just plain ungrateful or just plain dumb.

It is sure good to know that some group still stands up for labor's rights.

Cletrac Worker. Cleveland, Ohio.

"British sources admit that the carefully censored accounts of the almost-forgotten Madagascar campaign aren't telling the full story. It's true that British troops are gradually gaining their objectives, but they've frequently met with bitter resistance.... Stories of the population 'hailing' the British as they entered towns shouldn't be taken too seriously."—Newsweek.

It's Okay. We weren't taking them seriously.



What India Means to the American Workers

# India and the International Situation

By J. R. JOHNSON

An American working man who periodically tries to get events into some sort of perspective must at some time or other reflect on the puzzle of India. Two years ago this sub-continent, with its 400,000,000 people, occupied little part in the American consciousness and in the American press. Then came Pearl Harbor.

As soon as Churchill learned of the disaster that had befallen the American fleet, he saw at once that the whole situation in the Far East had changed. Britain's Eastern empire was in serious danger. Shortly after, Churchill let Nehru and others out of jail. Something was cooking, though exactly what, it was impossible to say.

After Pearl Harbor followed the catastrophes of Hong Kong, Singapore, the Dutch East Indies and Burma. One thing stood out in all these defeats. The native peoples took not the slightest interest in either British defeat or Japanese victory. In Burma many fought on the Japanese side. Next on the Japanese road was India. At all costs something had to be done in India to prevent a repetition of what had taken place in other colonies and particularly in Burma. This was one of the immediate causes of the Cripps mission. We therefore come to the first point.

It was defeat and fear of further defeat that made the British make some pretense of solving the Indian question. The first shock to the centuries-old British domination came from the armies of a rival imperialist power. War for democracy had nothing to do with it.

## INDIA AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

By this time the American people were aware of the Indian problem. They began to distrust the British colonial policy, because, first, it was a policy leading to defeat; and, second, it raised the whole question of what the war was about. In the East, at any rate, this was no war for democracy.

It was then that a deafening barrage of propaganda fell upon American ears. During the Cripps negotiations in India, nearly every American newspaper, in news and editorial columns, every radio commentator, all labored to impress the American public that Cripps, on behalf of Britain, was generously offering all that could be offered; only Gandhi's mysticism and Indian religious and racial disunity could refuse such a generous settlement.

This too was pumped into India as American opinion. Perhaps it went down with the American public as a whole. No one can say. IT DIDN'T GO DOWN IN INDIA. Cripps failed and then, after a steadily growing agitation, there entered on the scene the second real force in all serious politics—THE MASSES OF THE PEOPLE. All over India, the students, the workers and even some peasants rebelled against the British domination. Nearly a thousand people have been killed, thousands wounded and the wave of hate for Britain has become nation-wide.

No propaganda could camouflage the fact of the Indian revolt. Which brings us to the second point.

## INDIAN QUESTION IS INTERNATIONAL

First, the Japanese army threatened the British in India and shook up the whole Indian situation. The second force, the masses of the people, have entered and they have shown up not only the Indian but the whole international situation. There is now a crack in British-American relations. It is only a crack, but it widens every day.

So far the Japanese have only threatened. The Indian masses have not yet staged a real revolution. If the Japanese army were seriously to strike and win, or the Indian masses were to burst out in revolution as

they did twenty years ago and as they certainly will some time or other, then the reverberations will be heard round the globe. It will shake the American war effort to its foundations. The British government will experience the gravest political crisis of the war.

The war may be shortened; the war may be lengthened. It is impossible to predict. In war it is military victory or mass revolt that is decisive and you cannot prophesy about these things. But this much is certain: the war will

## 'Socialism,' Stalin Style

"Recent visitors to Soviet Russia found, to their interested surprise, that the incentive of profit was highly regarded by the communist state. Some workmen, they discovered, made on the same job ten times more than others, and some superintendents a hundred times more, only moderately adjusted by taxation."—Arthur Krock, New York Times, November 3.

have entered upon a new political phase of incalculable significance. And, as we shall show, nobody knows this more than the rulers of America. The American worker must learn this too. The Indian question is no longer a question over there, in the Far East. It is everywhere, in Washington, in Birmingham, Ala., in New Orleans, in London, in Cape Town, in Berlin and Tokyo.

The United Nations plan of action is to strike Hitler with its mass armies in front and to blow him up from the rear by means of the revolt of the occupied countries. They maintain an incessant propaganda, and they have their "Free" French, "Free" Polish, "Free" Czech and the other governments. The Axis powers are doing precisely the same. They aim to strike the United Nations armies and to blow them up from their rear. For them the Indian revolution is their trump card. They drown India with propaganda. They have their "Free" India government.

There are, we must remember, 400,000,000 people in India, a greater number than the number in all Western Europe. Furthermore, an Arab leader has put it up to Churchill: Guarantee the freedom of a Pan-Arabian Federation and we will fight with you. And if not? Churchill's reply is not reported.

Egypt has 50,000 good soldiers who are not used in the desert fighting. Egypt, too, is bombarded with Axis propaganda and Axis agents. A successful revolt in India will wipe out the United Nations from the Far and Middle East. It will have repercussions all over Africa. A revolt, even though unsuccessful, will cripple the United Nations military effort.

It is with this in mind that we must re-read recent speeches by Willkie, Churchill and others. The press is once more almost unanimous: something must be done by the British in India.

## AMERICA'S "NEW LINE" IN INDIA

Willkie went all over the Far East carrying messages for the President. He carried no message to India—a British colony. But when he returned he delivered a message to India. The most pointed parts of his speech dealt with precisely the country he had not visited. Said Willkie: "The wisest man in China (note: the wisest man) said to me: 'When the aspiration of India for freedom was put aside to some future date, it was not Great Britain that suffered in public esteem in the Far East. It was the United States.'" The point is obvious. Britain cannot sink lower

in the East. Nobody expects anything from Britain.

Over and over again Willkie drove the point home in pointed reference to Britain. Note the danger spots he mentions. "In Africa, in the Middle East, throughout the Arab world, as well as in China and the whole Far East, freedom means the orderly but scheduled abolition of the colonial system." This can mean only the abolition of the British Empire.

Willkie tried to soften the blow a little. "British colonial possessions are but remnants of Empire." But that is nonsense. India, with its 400,000,000 inhabitants is no remnant. IT IS THE BRITISH EMPIRE. Of his report he said: "Such facts should not be censored. They should be given to us all. For unless we recognize and correct them we may lose the friendship of half of our allies before the war is over and then lose the peace." More than that: they may lose the war. He concludes:

"(The hundreds of millions of people in Eastern Europe and Asia) are resolved, as we must be, that there is no more place for imperialism within their own society than in the society of nations."

In the U.S.A. Willkie's voice is second only to the President's. Willkie knew the whole world was listening to what he had to say. He could speak like that to an ally, during a war, only if his government agreed with what he said. And at his press conference the next day, the President, so that there could be no mistake, made it quite clear that he had no serious disagreement with Willkie.

## A CHALLENGE TO BRITAIN

The challenge to Britain is open and direct. It has been coming for a long time and Willkie's speech is merely a climax. Once it was clear not only that the Cripps mission had failed, but that the Indian masses

were on the move, the American press and propaganda changed their tune with unanimous suddenness. Hans V. Kaltefleiter, Raymond Gram Swing, Johannes Steel, the editorials and columns all began to sing the same song: Britain must do something.

The most vicious attack of all came from LIFE, which on October 12 addressed an open letter to the British people: "If your strategists are planning a war to hold the British Empire together they will sooner or later find themselves strategizing alone." That was too raw and the threat, besides, was stupid. Luce, the owner of LIFE, had to apologize. But just one day before, the New York Times, which had slandered the Indian people for months, came out with this: "The lesson of India is mordantly clear. Too late is futile and may be tragic."

The new line can be quoted to fill

whole pages. Only two more need be mentioned. William Philip Simms wrote from Washington on October 1: "Talks with representative Englishmen and Indians indicate that unless some outside, but delicately wielded influence is soon brought into play, Gandhi's open revolt in India may yet play havoc with the United Nations chances of victory."

A dispatch from New Delhi published in the New York World-Telegram reports that "with China's survival at stake, Chiang Kai-shek is demanding that Churchill accept a compromise settlement to get the Indians to fight Japan instead of Britain." This is a matter of life and death for Chiang. Now comes Willkie's carefully prepared blast at Britain, and Roosevelt's indorsement. Meanwhile the British ruling class is furious and Goebbels and the Japanese on the radio agitate the Indians and the people in the Far East.

Willkie's speech is undoubtedly spreading like wildfire throughout

India, as it was designed to do. What is happening here? Are Willkie and Roosevelt champions of Indian nationalism and freedom for the colonial peoples? NOTHING OF THE KIND! As Hitler has been swallowing Italy and its hopes inch by inch, so America has been swallowing Britain and all her precious economic possessions yard by yard. First, Latin America, then the West Indies, then Africa.

Britain has been giving way. But Britain will not give way in India. Roosevelt was prepared to wait. The prize would fall to him sooner or later. But the Japanese armies and, infinitely more, the Indian masses, have forced his hand. Roosevelt cannot run risks with the war. Even as it is, not only the political offensive, but the military strategy of the war is being seriously upset by India and the Indian question, and all that is involved in it. How this is so, we shall see in next week's article.

## 2. Putting the Handcuffs on Labor

# Growth of Administration's Anti-Labor Policy

By Harry Allen

By HARRY ALLEN

In last week's article we described several stages in the evolution of government policy toward labor—labor's "voluntary" agreement not to strike; the government's strike-breaking intervention in several important strikes; the establishment of the class collaboration machinery of labor-management committees; the role of the War Labor Board; and, finally, Roosevelt's decree of October 3, nullifying, in actuality, labor's right both to strike and to collective bargaining.

All these developments show clearly an evolution toward government by decree and other dictatorial practices in relation to labor. What follows below strongly confirms the basic direction of government labor policy.

### Veto Power Hits Labor

1. In the execution of Roosevelt's order, special roles and authority are assigned to several government agencies and persons, including the veto power by one agency over another in employer-labor agreements and decisions. In other words, the government today not only assumes the power to approve or nullify any direct agreement arrived at by collective bargaining between the employers and the workers; but, further, one government department or agent (WLB, OPA, Byrnes) is able to invalidate the decision of another, thus again leaving negotiations on labor standards hanging in mid-air or altogether washed up.

From sad experience in the past, the workers know that when many hands (conciliators, mediators, arbitrators, etc.) meddle in the pie, they lose even the crust. Checks and balances by government agencies operate in the interests of the employers.

2. But the run-around for labor doesn't stop here. Even if both these powerful agencies—WLB and OPA—approve a given company-worker accord, then James F. Byrnes, director of Economic Stabilization—has the authority to say "NO!"—in the name of preventing inflation. Thus, even apart from Byrnes' anti-labor record and attitude, it is clear that labor's immediate interests and needs have fallen into the hands of one man with dictatorial powers whose only concern is the advancement of imperialist war objectives.

### Throttle Labor

3. What, further, is the meaning of the dictatorial trend in government-worker relations for the immediate period and after the war?

Hitlerism (Nazism) is rule by complete totalitarian and dictatorial means, both in peace and wartime. Its policy is clear, and labor

is able to recognize it as its enemy without any doubt.

On the other hand, the Roosevelt Administration—the erstwhile "New Deal," "friend of labor" and proponent of "democracy"—evolves its course gradually but surely. Yet already it has plainly declared: this is total war, and total war justifies any measures.

Will labor's rights be restored after the war? No responsible imperialist spokesmen are categorical, even in words, about this, because they know better. On the contrary, all authoritative and qualified authorities admit that the economic controls established during the present war will be continued after the war as an economic necessity for imperialist survival and functioning. Old-style (laissez-faire) democratic capitalism economy is over. So is old-style politics or government.

Political conceptions and methods in time always fall into line with economic trends. Developments point and lead toward a greater administrative and military bureaucracy in the post-war period, if imperialism still rules.

4. Part and parcel of these developments are the signs and demands for an even greater curbing of labor and labor unionism NOW AND AFTER THE WAR, both by outspoken reactionary elements and by Administration supporters.

Especially flagrant are the attempts of certain elements to depict every legitimate effort of labor struggle as criminal. For example, Roane Waring, national commander of the American Legion—an organization of great influence in powerful, conservative quarters—declares that, if he had the power, "he would shoot" a worker who goes on strike now. Such a person, in the Legion's eyes, "is a criminal, a saboteur, a traitor—and as such should face the consequences."

"Treason" is the word for strikes," is the bald statement of the New York Daily Mirror (editorial, October 19). Its label for AFL workers who struck the Western Cartridge Plant, Alton, Ill., is "Outlaws"; for the workers who went on strike at the General Cable Corp., Bayonne, N. J., its cry is "Hoodlums!"

These criminal terms used against these and other workers who have and will stand up in the future for their needs and rights are the psychological foundation which the American Legion, the Daily Mirror et al. are laying up for today's and tomorrow's legal and extra-legal (vigilantism, etc.) activities against workers and their organizations.

Liberals, optimists, Stalinists and labor bureaucrats pretend that these extreme and strong declarations are not really representative of the views and aims of the ruling class. This is shown by their persistent pleas for rebuke and castigation of such elements by the Administration. They even protest that no less a person than Rear Admiral Emory Scott Land, chairman of the United States Maritime Commission, is merely a deviation, one anti-labor man lost in a crowd of labor friends.

But not all the explanations in the world by Land, or "hush" campaigns by the government, can disguise the fact that Land's "shoot organizers at sunrise" statement was a spontaneous expression of the real attitude of the big-wig representatives of the American ruling class toward unionism.

The Navy has always been fiercely antagonistic toward labor unionism. It is no accident that the Navy shipyards have always been known as the "graveyards" of unionism. Today, when the Navy is the largest employer of labor in the country, the bitter anti-union declarations of Navy spokesmen in the recent period have been of direct and ominous significance to labor's need to organize and maintain organization of these workers.

More felicitous spokesmen of the bosses, such as "public representatives" (Wayne Morse) on the War Labor Board and other government representatives, do not call for "outright shooting." But, for example, the WLB punishes militant strikes in its own way—that is, by denying union maintenance clauses to striking workers. And these elements call persistently, if quietly as yet, for "union regulation" (of strikes, funds, etc.) by law, "as necessary," now and after the war.

Significantly, last August in a WLB decision, two EMPLOYER representatives on the WLB, entering a separate opinion, demanded extensive union regulation through the WLB; specifically, proof of "worthiness" for union maintenance clause; no financial support for any political organization or candidate, etc.

On that occasion, the chairman of the WLB, William H. Davis, expressing the majority opinion, objected to the "union regulation" proposals of the employer representatives as an "extension of control" of WLB powers "beyond the frame of reference under which the tribunal acts." He also asserted that the extension of "a continuing control by the board over a labor union would be to indulge in the worst vice of administrative tribunals."

But "public representatives" are catching up swiftly with the employer outlook on "union regulation"; and government regulation (by the WLB, OPA, Byrnes, Roosevelt) has now gone far beyond the original conception of only establishing contractual obligations between the employers and workers.

"Union regulation" is indeed coming into its own; unfortunately, with the sponsorship or stand-aside attitude of a weak, stupid and often treacherous union leadership. These men do not see that the govern-

## Embattled Cocktail Lounges

We missed this one from Pearson and Allen's "Washington Merry-Go-Round" of April 21. We apologize to our readers and hasten to make amends by quoting:

The brass hats "are quietly dishing out commissions and soft berths to scores of draft eligibles who have the good fortune to be the sons of rich and influential fathers."

"The other day the Navy Department issued a press release giving the names of 461 men commissioned as 'aviation administrative' officers. Between the ages of 27 and 42, they will hold down desk jobs at induction centers, service schools, etc."

"A large percentage of this list of newly-made officers are rich young men of the Social Register. These are a few of them:

"Colby M. Chester, III, son of the chairman of General Foods Corp.; August Belmont, scion of the famous socialist family; Clifford V. Brokaw, son of a prominent New York broker; Sherman Chickering, son of a leading San Francisco banker; Channing Frothingham, of a prominent Boston family; Arthur A. Dunn, son of a wealthy St. Louis, Mo. realtor; Robert Patterson, Jr., and William P. Patterson, of the National Cash Register family; John S. Pillsbury, Jr., son of the Minneapolis flour family; Ogden Phipps of the Long Island Phippses."

"Washington is overrun with these young wealthy socialites who have wangled Navy commissions and are fighting the war on the exciting fronts of the capital's embattled cocktail lounges, salons and exclusive clubs."

It could be that the subject for light conversation at these revelries is: "Labor is not doing enough to win the war!"—S. G.

ment's union regulation policy is destructive of all genuine unionism; and will leave labor helpless when it comes face to face with the onslaughts of the ruling class in a chaotic post-war period.

### Workers' Prepare!

The workers have jobs today, even though with living standards in the process of being sharply lowered. But the main streams of organized labor have given up, both freely and reluctantly, their major union rights—the right to strike and organize NOW, when workers are employed. When the war is finally over, labor will run up against vast joblessness, accompanied by social, economic and political ferment and chaos.

If labor is unable to maintain its rights now, it will find the obstacles and struggles many times more difficult later. In these battles, which will go beyond economic struggles, labor will face a ruthless, relentless, dictatorial regime and an employing class which will not hesitate to try to defeat and crush

the working class beyond recovery for an indeterminate time.

Today the world is in flames. Tomorrow, after the war, it will be in rags. That is the dismal outlook of imperialism for the masses, in war and peace.

Government labor policy, the record proves, has undergone a steady change from an attitude of support and benevolence to restrictions and outright hostility toward labor, except in cases where the unions bowed to, and functioned as instruments of, an imperialist government and its interests. The Roosevelt Administration is today only carrying out and leading the main course of American imperialist destiny.

For every immediate and ultimate reason, therefore, it is better for the workers now to learn the lesson of the ever-present conflicts with the ruling class: namely, to fight today to maintain and extend union rights and organization—even if the fight is not always a winning one—in order to be able on the morrow to better withstand all onslaughts and to forge the new better, world of socialism.

## 250 Hear Shachtman Speak on the 'Trail-Blazers of World Freedom'

In the "circles of disillusionment and fatalism" the Russian Revolution is decry by the "doleful dead souls" who, "sitting at their own wake," think they are qualified to judge the class struggle.

But the 250 New York supporters and sympathizers of LABOR ACTION who gathered on November 8 and filled to capacity the Victoria Hall of Irving Plaza, came to commemorate the greatest event in human history. Much more than did the Paris Commune and the Russian Revolution of 1905, the revolution of 1917 added stature to the working people of the world. In the words of Max Shachtman, national secretary of the Workers Party and speaker of the evening, it has made us "a head taller."

With deep sincerity, comprehensiveness and eloquence the speaker traced the course of the USSR from its height of revolutionary accomplishment under Lenin, Trotsky and the Bolshevik Party to the miserable ditch of counter-revolutionary bureaucracy and imperialist war under Stalin and his bloody gang.

The Russian Revolution brought peace not only to Russia but to the world. It gave the land to those who till it; it gave bread to the workers. It decreed that none shall eat unless he work. It gave to the workers control of the factories, the mines, the banks, all property required to keep social life together. It gave freedom to the oppressed nationalities "not in the distant future" and "with this and that reservation"—all the minority peoples under Czarism were immediately and actually set free.

The speaker related how, "with the stroke of a pen," Lenin gave the Finns their independence, and contrasted this with the policy of Churchill in India, of Roosevelt re the Negroes, of the "usurpator" successor of Russia today" regarding suppressed peoples.

Describing how Russian workers and peasants fought the armies of world imperialism sent to drown the Russian Revolution in its own blood, Shachtman said that Stalin's present resistance to Germany looks like "an uninterrupted disaster."

The Russian people, exhausted after three years of Czarist war, with industry crippled, with no army, without rifles and cartridges, without food and clothing, still won against them all. They then had a "secret weapon"—"paper bullets" and "paper shells" in the form of revolutionary manifestos.

Lenin and Trotsky, who thought of Soviet Russia as a "beleaguered fortress" holding out until the international revolution in Europe would come to its help, miscalculated on the power of resistance to revolution of the renegade Second International. "It has one great victory to its credit," declared Shachtman. "It saved European capitalism and threw us back twenty-five years."

The speaker, in a scientific reaffirmation and explanation of the principles of the revolution, heaped ridicule upon those who still consider the Stalinist counter-revolutionary bureaucratic state a "workers state"—degenerate or otherwise. He subjected the Stalinist bureaucracy, its use of power, its betrayal of the revolution, its destruction of the revolutionary vanguard, to withering analysis.

The speaker concluded that when the banner of international socialism is planted "on the highest pinnacle of capitalism," the freed working people will honor the proletariat of Russia as "the heroic trail-blazers of world freedom." They established as a historic fact that the workers can rule—through their shop councils, through their democratic unions, through their democratic revolutionary party, through their soviets.

In a rapidly taken collection, without any special bill collection, the audience responded to the appeal of Chairman David Coolidge and contributed \$89 to further the work of LABOR ACTION. The meeting ended with questions from the floor, answered by the speaker.

Hold December 6 open. David Coolidge will speak on the "Mine Workers and Trade Union Unity."

## Out this Week!

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# Editorials

## Taxes on \$12 Or on \$500?

The Wall Street Journal points out to the worried—though of course self-sacrificing—recipients of salaries above \$25,000, that salaries are after all only SALARIES. For the RICH, salaries are by no means the only source of income.

What about interest on bonds? What about regular and extra dividends on preferred and common stock? What about a fancy profit on the sale of a block of stock? About these sources of income for the rich, no word has issued from the White House or from the lawmakers.

Suppose Mr. Grace of Bethlehem, Steel has left from his salary in six figures a mere \$25,000—free, clear and unhampered by taxes or anything else, as the "equalizers" in Washington propose. There still remains his income from his enormous investments and from his stock market trading. This may amount to hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars. But the income of the rich from these sources is not intended to be "equalized."

The workers have only one source of income—their wages. Wages as low as \$12 a week are being taxed to the limit.

It occurs to the thinking worker that \$25,000 a year—or \$500 a week—ought to be enough income FROM ALL SOURCES for any individual. It also occurs to him that a "wage" of \$500 a week would stand up better under taxation than a wage of \$12 a week.

## Look Who--

No less a "revolutionary leader" than Mayor LaGuardia broadcasts to Italy and belatedly tells the rebelling Italian people, "It is time for the revolution."

Let us pretend to have short memories and forget that—in the unforgettable past—Fiorello H. LaGuardia was caught hobnobbing with the fascists. Putting this aside, what other "qualifications" has the Mayor as a "people's leader"? Let us ask the workers on the city-owned suburbs.

The newspapers of October 26 which carried transcripts of LaGuardia's latest "revolutionary" broadcast to Italy, also printed an open letter to the Mayor from the president of the Transport Workers Union of Greater New York. The Italian workers—and all other workers—would understand that letter.

For the transport workers complain that their real wages have declined to "a point at which they no longer constitute a living wage." For three months the transport workers have been "negotiating" with the rock-ribbed Board of Transportation while "the cost of living has risen by almost 20 per cent. Each week 7 per cent is taken out of the average employee's pay envelope for pension contribution. And out of the inadequate balance, the overwhelming majority of transit workers not only apply 10 per cent of their wages to the purchase of war stamps and bonds, but also face increased taxation."

On the final count Mayor LaGuardia is responsible for the present plight of the transit workers. When in 1941 they demanded adequate wages and improved working conditions and were prepared to strike for their rights, the Mayor threatened to let loose a civil war against them.

In the same way as Hitler softened the enemy generals by showing them pictures of his blitzkrieg, Mr. LaGuardia's Police Commissioner bulldozed the 32,000 "enemy" transit workers with a description of his military preparations against them. "Every station," he said, "every mile of track, every car, every powerhouse, everything is catalogued and planned. Our strategy is like that of the army—we prepare for everything in advance."

Translated into Italian, this language would have a familiar ring to the workers and peasants ground under the fascist heel. And translated into German, it would sound like the domestic product to the people enslaved by the Nazis.

Politicians who have the mailed fist ready for their native workers obviously do not want—in Italy or anywhere else—a revolution that will make the people masters. What the LaGuardias want is for the European people to replace their fascist and Nazi tyrants by another set of exploiters.

## Profits in England

With all the Dorothy Thompson type of hokum now spread about the "socialist equalization" being introduced into England-at-war, we think it enlightening to list a few figures on PROFITS. They come from the British New Leader, organ of the Independent Labor Party, and are based on an official report by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

There are in England 80 people who receive an income of \$575 a WEEK, after deducting income tax and surtax.

One thousand one hundred and seventy people receive \$380 a WEEK, 30,750 people receive \$190 a WEEK; 105,000 people receive \$95 a week. All of this after deducting for income tax and surtax.

And, in conclusion: a wage of \$15 a week, BEFORE taxes, is considered a HIGH wage for a worker in England!

# Leon Lesoil

Again heart-breaking news reaches us from the hell that Europe has become. Again we learn of the death of a soldier of the revolution.

This time it is our comrade, Leon Lesoil, leader of the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Belgium, section of the Fourth International, reported dead at the hands of the Nazi brutes in a Belgian prison.

### WITH THE MILITANTS IN CHARLEROI

Lesoil was raised in a proletarian family and he lived and worked almost all of his life in the famous Belgian mining district of Charleroi. He served as a non-commissioned officer of the Belgian army during the First World War and, in some technical capacity or other, paid a visit to the United States while the war was on.

Either immediately before the outbreak of the war or right after it ended (I no longer recall exactly), Lesoil became a member of the militant young socialist organization in the country, Jeunes Gardes, which had one of the finest anti-militarist traditions in the European socialist movement.

As an ardent supporter of its left wing, he helped to lay the foundations for the small but vigorous Communist Party of Belgium in the days following the Russian Revolution and the re-opening of the struggle by the militants of the Belgian Labor (Social Democratic) Party against the reformist and patriotic leadership of Vandervelde.

The weight of this leadership was tremendous and the Belgian communists were never quite successful in breaking its reactionary hold upon the Belgian workers and the trade union movement. But one of the sections of the country where it was most frequently forced on the defensive was in the Charleroi mining country. Lesoil, known to and esteemed by ever-widening circles of workers for his unimpeachable integrity, his combativity and in general for his "bon sens," was one of those chiefly responsible for the headaches and sleepless nights of the reformist bureaucracy in the mine fields.

### A LEADER OF THE TROTSKYIST MOVEMENT

He was one of those few militants who had the courage to come out flatfootedly in solidarity with the struggle that the Trotskyist opposition launched in Russia and in the Communist International against the corruptive and degenerating effects of Stalinism. And when the showdown came in the International, he did not flinch and he did not capitulate. The Stalinist machine made special efforts to save the day for themselves in Belgium, because the outstanding founders and leaders of communism in that country were with the Left Opposition. It used flattery and coercion, bribery and threats, but so far as the best militants were concerned, the machine failed. The political bureau of the party, including the outstanding leaders, men of the standing of Van Overstraeten and Hennaut among them, and Leon Lesoil of course, voted resolutions of solidarity with the Opposition. The leadership of the party was thereupon arbitrarily deposed and expelled by Stalin and a gang of lickspittles put in its place.

Lesoil took an even more prominent place in the Belgian Communist Opposition than he had had in the party. And whoever met him and saw him in action could easily understand why he had everybody's respect.

I met him for the first time at the founding conference of the International Left Opposition in Paris, in 1930. His modesty of manner and speech was not paired with ignorance, but with firmness, with good practical experience in the movement, and with good common sense. If he did not always show quite the flair of some of the French comrades, for example, then, if I may say so, he was more solid, more rocky. I met him again and

again at international conferences, and one unforgettable time in Charleroi itself, where I could see what the miners and other workers of that region thought of him and of his views and of the way he put them forward. Yet I never heard from him what is so far from rare on an active political person's lips: a demagogic word, a spiteful or malicious personal attack, the pompous phrase of the arrogant bureaucrat or the blustering ignoramus. He spoke with the simplicity and sincerity of the working men who knew and followed him and from whom he differed only in that he was better educated politically, more experienced, more logical in his thought and action.

### HE HAD THE COURAGE TO STICK IT OUT

Because of his activity in the labor and revolutionary movements, Leon was on the coal operators' blacklist and he could not get a job anywhere near the mines. He had to eke out a very humble living as a small coal distributor, and I, who saw how he lived in Charleroi, can tell you it was humble indeed.

What made it worse was that he unhesitatingly neglected his own little "business" for any party activity that fell to his lot—speaking at meetings from one end of the country to another on short notice, always on tap for aid of any kind in a strike struggle or the like, off to challenge the Stalinists or the trade union skates at every step, or off to take part in the assemblies of the French or Dutch sections of the International, or of the International itself. An acknowledged leader of our International, he was a member of its executive committee from its inception to the day he died.

The social revolution was his great dream; it was his living life, too.

The struggle buffeted him about and sometimes, as is the case with everyone, he had to summon up the last reserves of courage and conviction to stick it out. The difference between Leon and so many others is that he had those reserves. I recall that on one occasion, when things looked exceptionally black—it was right after the depressing victory of Hitler in Germany—Leon wrote the "Old Man" that he was finished, that he couldn't do very much more, that it might be better if he dropped away from activity altogether. It was a momentary mood and it passed quickly. Trotsky wrote back a tender and understanding letter to an old friend and an old soldier. He told Leon that he could easily comprehend his reaction, that it had happened to others, but he was confident that if Leon took a brief vacation, it would end with his return to his old activity unreservedly. I don't think Leon even took the vacation. It was but a passing mood, and, as we can see now, he continued the fight for the great and noble ideals of socialism down to the very end and under the most exasperating difficulties.

### AT HIS POST TO THE VERY END

The exact circumstances of his death we do not know, but they are not hard to imagine. The invasion of the Nazis found Leon at his revolutionary post—that we do not doubt for a moment. And while others faltered in their loyalties, and one or two others even capitulated wretchedly to the enemy, Leon remained the wise and simple and honest incorruptible of Belgian Marxism. He would not give in; he never had.

That is why this clear-souled man symbolizes in his martyrdom the best that the socialist movement means: He would not give in; he never had. And so it shall be, until his assassins and his tormentors, the enemies of the people, the beneficiaries of capitalism, shall have been effaced from the earth, and a new order, as calm and serene and equitable as Leon was, put in its place. —M. S.

## THE ELECTIONS

### Workers Show Little Campaign Interest

By Henry Judd

The elections and their results have already been forgotten, particularly in the excitement caused by the American attack and occupation of Vichy's North African colonial possessions. But it is still worth our while to see if we can discover any meaning behind the tremendous Republican Party gains and its sweeping national gains in the Senate, the House of Representatives and various state governorships.

### HUGE DECLINE IN TOTAL VOTE

Although no figures have yet been issued as to the total number of people who voted throughout the entire country, it is clear that there was a great decline in the vote.

In the 1936 presidential campaign, 45,000,000 people voted. In the 1940 presidential campaign (FDR vs. Willkie) a grand total of 50,000,000, the largest ever, cast their ballots. Preliminary reports indicate that a mere thirty to thirty-five million voted this year. That is, there was not only a decline of about 33 per cent in the number of voters, compared with 1940, but there was even a decline of about 20 per cent, compared with those who voted in 1938, the last non-presidential national election year.

Considering that there are at least 60,000,000 people in the United States who are over 21 years of age and eligible to vote, we see that about half voted. What clearer indication is there of the general lack of interest and apathy in the elections just concluded? This apathy is of extreme interest.

Of course, many of the New Dealers and their apologists advance various reasons for the small vote. All of them, no doubt, had something to do with it.

1. The general decline that traditionally takes place in an off year, non-presidential election. (But, to remind the reader, there was a 20 per cent drop below 1938!)

2. The fact that millions of eligible voters were in the Army camps and Navy training centers, with almost 1,000,000 abroad.

3. The fact that many workers were working too long, or could not get off from their war production jobs, or were not eligible to vote since they had recently moved to some war center and therefore could not legally qualify.

### WORKERS LEAST INTERESTED

But all this could not fully account for the lack of interest in the elections. Although no figures are yet available which will reveal the drop in voting of various groups of the population (workers, middle class, etc.) it is a safe bet that by far the GREATEST decline took place in the working class vote.

Workers were least of all interested because no candidates raised any social or economic issues; all harped alike on their support of the war; none fought against labor regimentation, freezing of wages, unequal war burden, profiteering or ANY of the issues that concern American workers and arouse their interest. In this respect, it was the dullest, most backward and reactionary election held in America for many long years. It was a purely machine politics fight between Tweedledee Democrat and Tweedledum Republican. There was not the slightest serious difference between the contending parties and their various colorless and uninspiring candidates. And the workers consequently expressed their indifference by ignoring the polls.

### REPUBLICAN SWEEP PRO-WAR TENDENCY?

A ludicrous and stupid effort is being made to explain the Republican gains in Congress, etc., as evidence of a critical attitude toward FDR's conduct of the war and as a mandate for a more aggressive and vigorous offensive military policy. The entire press, Republican and Democratic alike, join hands in this absurd interpretation. To consider the large vote for the conservative, Tory-led, die-hard and antiquated Republican Party a pro-war and aggressive vote is to read into the results something that just isn't there. The vote was neither pro-war nor anti-war, except insofar as abstentions indicated lack of interest.

PM—the New York daily newspaper for men of liberal opinions and disposition—has, as usual, the most snobbish and stupid interpretation of the whole matter. Quoting Roy Howard's New York World-Telegram, which explained that the people were voting against the New Deal Administration because they want more war effort (conversion of industry, rigid control of gasoline and rubber, manpower stabilization, unified command, etc.) PM complains that it wasn't the New Deal and FDR who were responsible for the slow and soft war effort, but the "reactionary or isolationist Republicans." The people didn't understand this and they voted for the "outs" and against the "ins." "That's all oversimplified, of course," adds PM. It certainly is, especially if you try to sneak in a pro-war interpretation, no matter how.

### A CONSERVATIVE, MIDDLE CLASS VOTE

Democratic Senator Prentiss Brown—the FDR man who pushed through the Senate the price-fixing legislation—and who was badly defeated in Michigan by Republican Ferguson of Detroit, understood the vote better than most. He blamed his defeat, in a statement, on "resentment aroused by the imposition of wartime restrictions on the daily life of the people." That is, the vote was a middle class reaction to the annoyances, inconveniences and blows against traditional American living standards brought about by the imperialist war.

It was a vote against rationing of gas and sugar, against increased income taxes, against the disappearance of traditional American products (radios, cars, vacuum cleaners, refrigerators, etc.) from the consumer market. It was a vote of farmers displeased by their loss of farm labor into the army; of salesmen thrown out of work by the conversion of industry; of all the small merchants, middlemen, real estate operators, petty business executives, etc., affected by the various decrees and rules handed down by the Washington war bureaucracy.

Only in New York State, where 400,000 workers, despite the treacherous conduct of their leaders (as described in last week's LABOR ACTION) voted for the American Labor Party ticket, is it possible to find any sign of a working class vote—unfortunately cast for a party that is a labor party in name only, and not at all in action. It nevertheless indicates that New York labor is ready for a genuine labor party.

# U. S. Landings in Africa - -

(Continued from page 1)

German aid and control would undoubtedly be knocked out of the war.

Germany's position in Russia remains largely unchanged. The fight there goes on unabated with no likelihood, despite German victories, of a decision being reached. The peoples of the Continent are in a state of rebellion and daily resist German occupation.

### Allied Position Stronger

The outstanding fact of Hitler's position is that he remains locked in the European Continent; he has been unable to cross successfully into other areas.

If the Allies succeed in driving the Axis out of North Africa, Germany and Italy will be completely ringed by opponents. From the military point of view this marks an enormous setback to German aims.

The United States is engaged more actively in the war. The waiting period is definitely over and from now on it can be expected that American forces will be fully involved in the military aspects of the war. Defections in the French Vichy ranks increase daily. Additional military strength from that quarter will undoubtedly strengthen the Allied position in North Africa.

If the French fleet joins the British and American, it will not only insure Allied control of the Mediterranean, but it will permit the strengthening of the Allied fleets in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

British and American sea routes will be shortened, thereby increasing the flow of war materials to their many fronts.

It is clear that the strength of the

Allies is growing, while that of the Axis, if not declining, remains stationary. This has an enormous bearing on the war, its intensification and its length.

Already a great hope is felt among the people of this country and throughout the world that this latest action by the Allies will shorten the war and bring it to a speedy conclusion. Nothing in the military situation warrants such a conclusion and already President Roosevelt has found it necessary to warn against undue optimism.

The actions in the African theater of the war may have something to do with the ultimate end of the war, just as every battle has something to do with it, but it is clear that the war is merely increasing in tempo. The battles promise to become larger, the struggles more intense.

### Europe Is Main Front

The Allies understand that the war cannot be brought to an end unless the fight is brought to Hitler in Europe. The purpose of the occupation of Africa is to prepare an assault on the southern coasts of the Continent. Thus, if all of Northern Africa is occupied, a considerable period of time will be consumed in preparing such an invasion. Such an invasion from the South may be a feat to draw off German forces from other part of Europe to permit an attack across the Channel, or by way of Norway, or it may be part of a simultaneous assault on various parts of the European coast.

But the occupation of North Africa cannot lead immediately to an invasion of Europe. It is part of the preparation for a spring offensive.

For the moment, at least, the ini-

tiative lies in the hands of the British and Americans. They are now fighting offensive warfare. How long this will last, how soon Hitler will attempt a counter-attack on a large scale, is difficult to determine. But it is clear that Europe is the main front of the war in Allied strategy. The African war is not the second front. It is the preparation for such a front.

On the anniversary of Armistice Day, 1942, the world is an armed camp; the capitalist nations are at each other's throats; humanity is being slaughtered. The war moves on! It promises to be long and deadly!

## Negro Beaten By N. Y. Cops

The New York police, taking courage from Mayor LaGuardia, who promised them all the protection they needed if they beat up anybody, savagely attacked Edwin Searle, a Negro elevator operator who is also pastor at a local church. Searle was so badly beaten he had to go to a hospital for three days.

Searle was on his job when two plain clothesmen entered the elevator and asked to be taken to the second floor. Searle told them they would have to walk because there is no opening from the elevator to the second floor. One of the plain clothesmen struck Searle on the head and he fought back. Thinking that his attackers were holdup men, Searle blew his whistle for help. One of the tenants in the building, seeing the fight, dashed out and came back with a uniformed policeman. But this did not help Searle. The cop helped the two plainclothesmen. Searle was dragged out of the building and taken to jail, where the beating was continued.

The police now claim that there was only one plain clothesman involved (although many tenants testify that there were two) and claim that he went there on the suspicion that Searle was selling "policy gambling numbers." The police admit they have no evidence and that they didn't even know Searle's name. Also, they give no explanation as to why the plain clothesmen beat Searle up instead of showing their credentials if they wished to question him.

A number of character witnesses, including Olin Downes, music critic of the New York Times, testified that the police had absolutely no excuse for their actions.

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## WORKERS PARTY PLATFORM

Against Both Imperialist War Camps! For the Victory of World Labor and the Colonial Peoples! For the Victory of the Third Camp of Socialism!

### LABOR MUST DEFEND ITSELF!

- Hands off the right to strike! For the defense of civil rights and all workers' rights! Against any wartime dictatorship measures!
- \$1.00-an-hour minimum pay! Time and a half for overtime; double time for Sunday and holiday work.
- Wage increases to meet rising costs. No wage or job freezing! Equal pay for equal work!
- For a greater share of the increasing national income. For a higher standard of living!
- No sales tax on consumer goods! No tax on wages! Against forced savings!
- For control of price fixing and rationing by committees of working class organizations, housewives and farmers' organizations. Freeze rents and consumer goods prices at the 1940 level to stop the rise in the cost of living.
- No government contract without a union contract! The closed shop in all war industries!
- Maintain and increase all government social services!

### SOAK THE RICH—LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!

- A government levy on capital to cover the cost of the imperialist war. Confiscate all war profits!
- Consent all war industries under workers' control!
- Expropriate the "Sixty Families"—the three percent of the people who own 96 per cent of the national wealth!

### DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO THE DRAFTEES!

- The right of free speech, free press and free assembly for the men in the armed forces.
- The right of soldiers to vote in all elections.
- The right of all youth, male or female, to vote at the age of eighteen. Old enough to fight; old enough to work; old enough to vote!
- For adequate dependency allowances paid by the government with NO deductions from the soldier's pay.

### SMASH JIM CROW!

- Down with Jim Crow and anti-Semitism! All discrimination against Negroes in the Army and Navy or by employers in industry must be made a criminal offense!
- For full political, social and economic equality for Negroes!

### BE PREPARED!

- For Workers' Defense Guards, trained and controlled by the unions, against vigilante and fascist attacks!
- For an Independent Labor Party and a Workers' Government! No political support to the Roosevelt government!
- For Peace Through Socialism! For the independence of all colonies!
- For a World Socialist Federation! Only a socialist world will destroy capitalist imperialism and fascist barbarism!



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