

ALP Primaries Won by Hillman-Stalinist Bloc

AN EDITORIAL STATEMENT

"Another experiment in independent labor political action has failed." This is the way the defeated Dubinsky-Counts-Rose group described the Hillman-Communist victory in the American Labor Party primaries just held. This statement is not only a factual error, but it reveals the essential reason why a group which had control of the ALP machinery since the party was formed could lose it in the first really serious fight for leadership.

The ALP was not an experiment in independent labor political action. It was never a labor party based upon the organized strength of the trade unions in the state of New York, and it never actually functioned as an independent political party. The Dubinsky-Counts-Rose administration used the party as a bargaining center for establishing a "working" relationship with the Republican and Democratic Parties of the state. Its initial aim and one which it carried out in the years of its existence, was to rally the labor and independent vote for Roosevelt.

From time to time the ALP placed "independent" and "labor" candidates in the field for minor offices. But it never really stood up against the two major capitalist parties in the state except, apparently, in the case of the gubernatorial election of 1942.

The ALP had the possibility of becoming an independent labor party. It had the possibility of really engaging in independent labor political action. But at every turn the conservative leadership stood in the way and did everything in its power to prevent this development and change in the life and activities of the organization.

Hillman's Strategy Exposed

Let us see exactly what the situation was up to and through the primaries. Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, long ago withdrew from the ALP and severed all connections between his union and the party. At first he sought to deliver the party hog-tied to the Democratic Party, to the Farley state machine and the Roosevelt national machine. Failing in that, he entered the internal fight in the ALP in the summer of last year, aligning himself with the Communist Party for the purpose of wresting control of the organization from its leadership.

Hillman's strategy was clever. He took a perfectly good idea, long advocated by revolutionary socialists—that the ALP should be composed of and controlled by the mass unions in the state—and he proceeded to organize a struggle for the adoption of this idea by the party. He set up a faction with the Communist Party, which had already won important county organizations in a previous primary. Together they fought for the adoption of this "plan" by the ALP.

Standing by itself, the Hillman plan seemed unassailable. The Dubinsky-Rose wing was furious but fought back in its customary conservative way. Instead of exposing Hillman and the Stalinists by adopting the proposals with necessary safeguards, these gentlemen, who are desperately afraid of genuine independent political action, fought the plan itself.

What could have been done? LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party pointed a way out. They showed how a victory of Hillman and the Stalinists meant the end of the ALP (it has been revealed that Hill-

"Right Wing" Timidity to Blame

If the ALP had done this, Hillman and the Communist Party could never have had a chance in the primary fight. But the conservative political leadership of Dubinsky-Rose-Counts was just as fearful of genuine independent political action by labor as it was of Hillman and the Stalinists. Thus it remained petrified in the midst of a life and death struggle for existence.

As a matter of fact, when the fight broke out, it appeared that Dubinsky-Counts-Rose would withdraw without firing a shot. They were goaded into fighting long after Hillman and the Communist Party had organized their

What Labor Action Proposed

In face of this struggle put up by the "right wing," what should the workers have done in the primary election? We proposed the setting up of independent tickets, based on a program advocated by LABOR ACTION, in opposition to the candidates of the two main factions. Failing in that, we proposed voting for the Dubinsky group as a way to prevent the Hillman-Communist bloc from seizing the party. Why? For several important and strategic reasons:

1. This was an organizational fight for control of the party. The work-

The American Labor Party was, however, a peculiar party. It represented the protest vote in the state; it represented the "independent" voter, the thousands of socialist, liberal and labor votes which could not be counted in the ranks of the capitalist parties. Moreover, the ALP was regarded, in the minds of many thousands of workers, as an independent party and as a labor party. And while these thousands of workers were mistaken, nevertheless, this was a fact to be reckoned with in any consideration of the ALP.

The possibility of the ALP becoming an independent labor party based upon the trade union movement in New York was unquestionably present. The ALP had acquired a considerable standing in the labor movement.

The right road for the ALP was clear to see: It needed to be reorganized as a genuine labor party, carrying on independent labor political activities in a head-on fight against the two capitalist parties, by simply basing its organization and membership on the mass unions and challenging the old parties in the field.

If this remained necessary to guarantee the future existence, growth and transformation of the ALP, how does this square with the recent struggle between the now-deposed leadership and the Hillman-Communist bloc? Didn't LABOR ACTION speak out against the Hillman proposal, which apparently would have changed the party and turned its control over to the unions? And didn't LABOR ACTION counsel the workers to vote for the Dubinsky-Counts-Rose slate in the organizational fight over party control?

man promised his aides in the Amalgamated that he would dissolve the party if he won the primary election. The way to defeat this most dangerous element in the labor movement was through the adoption of the idea of genuine independent political action of labor, the establishment of a genuine independent labor party and the reorganization of the ALP on the basis of the trade unions in the state. But, in order for a union to be eligible for membership in this party, it would have to endorse independent political action, go on record in favor of an independent labor party and give evidence of these desires.

How would this have impeded the Hillman-Stalinist bloc? Hillman and the Stalinists were publicly on record against independent labor political action. They were publicly on record against an independent labor party. They had done everything in their power, individually, collectively and jointly through the CIO Political Action Committee, to prevent any movement and any organization toward the establishment of an independent labor political party.

They fought the ALP in other states when that party sought to extend its organization, or to get similar organizations established in these other states. They fought any other independent movements no matter where they arose. Thus, Hillman's union, others under his influence, and all the Communist-controlled unions were disqualified from membership in the ALP. But, in contrast, there were numerous other unions in the state CIO and AFL which were qualified for membership and which could and would have joined had the party adopted a correct political and organizational course.

forces and began their campaign. This hesitancy and general political vacillation played into the hands of their reactionary opponents. From the very beginning they had lost all faith in a victory and, instead of waging a fight, they wept throughout the campaign about what a scoundrel Hillman is, how dirty the Stalinists could be and the duplicity of Mayor LaGuardia, who knifed the party in its most crucial struggle. All of these things are undoubtedly true, but bewailing them didn't help matters much.

Thus, the first fundamental mistake of the defeated leadership insured a Hillman-Communist Party victory.

What Labor Action Proposed

On the top of the list is one that the OPA should not attempt to control profits. Next is one that "fair margins" should be allowed for different classes of foods and different kinds of distributors. Another is that price "differentials" should be allowed in community prices.

One might logically conclude that the food corporations have been orphans among big business corpora-

LABOR ACTION

APRIL 10, 1944

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

AFL BLASTS WAGE FREEZE AT HEARINGS BEFORE WLB

Italian Trotskyists Call For Workers' Councils

A ringing call to all the workers of Italy to join forces in a struggle against fascism, capitalism and imperialism war, and for the establishment in that country of councils of workers, peasants and soldiers, and for a socialist Italy as part of a socialist United States of Europe, is contained in the first public proclamation issued by the revolutionary socialist (Trotskyist) of Italy which has just been received by LABOR ACTION.

The proclamation, printed December 15, 1943, in Bari, seat of the notorious Badoglio government, is being circulated everywhere possible by the newly-organized Trotskyist group, which has set up a "National Provisional Center for the Construction of the Internationalist Communist Party."

The call denounces the disastrous policies followed by the parties of the Second and Third Internationals—the right-wing socialists and the communists—in supporting imperialism in the war, and appeals for a just peace for all the people.

The role of Russia in the war is also condemned as reactionary and belying the promises of a democratic peace, economic welfare and freedom.

Condemning the monarchy, be it under the decrepit King Victor Emmanuel or under a regency, the Trotskyists nevertheless oppose the "National Liberation Committee" of Count Sforza and his colleagues, and call for the formation of councils of workers, peasants and soldiers as against the so-called "Committees of Liberation" or a government representing the interests of the bankers, industrialists, the landlords, the priesthood and of capitalism in general.

In head-on opposition to the Anglo-American authorities, who have outrageously denied the people of Southern Italy their democratic rights, and have intervened to curb or suppress the exercise of these rights, the Trotskyist proclamation demands the calling of a popularly-elected national Constituent Assembly, on the basis of freedom of the press, of assembly, the right to strike as well as increases of wages, bread, work, freedom and land to the workers.

The main sections of the document, which are reproduced in this page, follow here:

"National Provisional Center for the Construction of the Internationalist Communist Party (Fourth International)

"Workers of the world, unite on the principle of the struggle of class against class!

"To all Workers!

"Comrades, we turn to you with this manifesto in order to inform you about our political positions and responsibilities, both with regard to the war and to the maturing turn of events. It is our task to point out to the proletariat the road of socialist revolution, betrayed by the Second and Third Internationals, which have passed over to the camp of the imperialist war with their 'sacred union,' just as was done in 1914-18.

"And it is because of this policy that the working classes of all countries are without a revolutionary party, while the war that has been unleashed continues to starve, tear apart and bleed the world.

"To present the cause and the aim of this odious conflict as a struggle between democracy and fascism, as the parties of the Second and Third Internationals assert, is a monstrous falsehood; a falsehood launched by

The Manifesto

CENTRO PROVVISORIO NAZIONALE PER LA COSTRUZIONE DEL PARTITO COMUNISTA INTERNAZIONALISTA (IV INTERNAZIONALE)

Convenuti di tutto il mondo, uniti sui principi della lotta di classe contro classe!

A tutti i lavoratori!
"Comrades, ci rivolgiamo a voi con questo manifesto, allo scopo di farvi conoscere le nostre posizioni politiche e responsabilità, sia sulla guerra che sugli orientamenti degli avvenimenti in corso di maturazione. Questo compito è quello di aprire al proletariato, la via della rivoluzione socialista, tradita dai partiti della II e III Internazionale, passati nel campo della guerra imperialista con l'Unione Sovietica... (spedizione del 1914-18).

Ed è per questa politica che le classi lavoratrici di tutti i paesi sono senza partito rivoluzionario, mentre la guerra che si è scatenata, continua ad allungarsi, sconvolgendo ed instaurando il mondo.
"Prendiamo le carte e gli scopi dell'offesa contro il fascismo e il comunismo, come affermato il partito della II e III Internazionale, è una moltiplicazione di strategie fasciste, nel mondo dal grande scoppio della guerra capitalistica mondiale per dividere i lavoratori ed i popoli, tagliando gli uni contro gli altri in una guerra che si combatte per scopi imperialisti e che non può risolvere alcuna problema della crisi mondiale, ma solo aggravarla.

Le cause ed i fini di questa guerra sono ben altre che i contrasti ideologici tra la democrazia ed il fascismo. Il presente conflitto, secondo gli scopi del 1914-18, costituisce l'avvenimento più drammatico della storia moderna e s'inscrive in tutta un'epoca, determinato da una crisi senza soluzione dell'economia mondiale del capitalismo in un'epoca imperiale.

Questo è il conflitto che caratterizza non solo la nostra epoca di crisi generale del capitalismo, di guerra imperialista e di guerra civile, ma costituisce la fase culminante della competizione sui mercati mondiali delle grandi potenze. Tale guerra è lo scoppio di due potenze con scopi ben distinti e contrapposti: da una parte come dall'altra, opposte e schierate, nelle svolgimenti degli avvenimenti, le posizioni e scopi opposti.
"Le potenze imperialiste, nonostante vedano, come i trovatisti democratici, chiaramente fino in fondo una guerra imperialista con tutti i loro terribili mezzi, in difesa delle conquiste e 'dominazioni' economiche, passano sui mercati mondiali, nelle colonie e sui continenti.

La guerra dell'Asia, che pure condanna la guerra imperialista-fascista fino all'ultimo sangue, tendendo disperato allo scopo di separare il vecchio equilibrio, impone una spartizione delle ricchezze del mondo ed avere successo sui mercati mondiali, sulle colonie e sui continenti.

L'Unione Sovietica, nel blocco delle Nazioni unite, continua a disprezzare per scopi rivoluzionari, ma agguerrito imperialista. Le promesse di una pace democratica, di benessere economico e di libertà, fatte dalle stesse democrazie anglosassoni ed accolte dal governo di Stalin, è un inganno covato nel 1914-18 e non possono costituire gli scopi del proletariato, dell'Unione Sovietica e degli altri paesi.

Qualunque sia la democrazia di domani — essa preparerà la reazione se non sarà abbattuto il capitalismo — sarà sempre il governo del capitalismo che regnerà sul mondo.
"Come pure le promesse delle potenze fasciste dell'uso per la combinazione economica di una gerarchia di stati in Europa non sono gli scopi dei lavoratori, il proletariato contro questa guerra ha degli scopi ben precisi di classe contro tutte le potenze imperialiste.

È senza un partito rivoluzionario, il proletariato stesso, escluso dalla guerra — la politica tradizionale della II e III Internazionale, del proletariato per la costruzione del Partito Comunista Internazionale ed il suo IV Internazionale, è il compito fondamentale dell'avanguardia socialista in Italia e negli altri paesi socialisti d'Europa.

Il partito rivoluzionario di oggi, sulla politica anti-imperialista, degli scopi, bisogna opporre gli scopi di classe, i consigli degli operai, del proletariato e dei soldati, alla politica anti-imperialista, degli scopi, bisogna opporre una reggenza di non — una che serve solo a salvare il regime, di fronte ai colpi, uomini di salvi, come il partito... bisogna opporre una rivoluzione, sulla base della lotta di classe, di lavoro, di fronte alla via alla rivoluzione socialista in Italia e nel mondo.

Abbasso il fascismo, abbasso il Capitalismo!
Viva la rivoluzione proletaria d'Europa, unita a tutti i lavoratori del mondo!
Viva la IV Internazionale!

Bari, 15 Dicembre 1943

Per il Segretario ROLANDO

"The cause and the objective of this war are quite different from the ideological counterposing of democracy and fascism. The present conflict, a sequel to that of 1914-18, constitutes the most dramatic event of modern history, part and parcel of a whole epoch which is defined by an unsolvable crisis of the world of events, to disclose their own positions and aims.

"The Anglo-Saxon powers, in spite of divergent views, and of their dem-

to impose a redivision of the wealth of the world, and to gain access to the world markets, the colonies, and maritime trade.

"The Soviet Union, inside the bloc of the United Nations, continues to bleed itself white, not for revolutionary but for Anglo-Saxon imperialism, economy of a capitalism which has reached the stage of imperialist putrefaction.

"This is the conflict that characterizes not only our epoch of the general crisis of capitalism, of imperialism and civil wars, but that also constitutes the culminating phase of competition on the world market among the great powers. This war is based upon the antagonism between two forces, each with well defined aims, and with allies on both sides who are ready, in the further course

oatric trappings, are conducting what is at bottom an imperialist war, with all the formidable means at their disposal, in defense of their conquests and their oppressive economic domination over the world market, in the colonies, and over maritime trade.

"The Axis powers are carrying on the fascist-imperialist war to the bloody end in a desperate attempt to break down the old balance of forces, rialist aims. The promises of a democratic peace, of economic well-being and freedom, made by the same Anglo-Saxon democracies and accepted by the Stalin government, are a deception like those of 1914-18, and cannot constitute the aims of the proletariat of the Soviet Union and of the other countries.

"Whatever the democracy of tomorrow may be—it will pave the way for reaction if capitalism is not overturned—it will always be the government of capitalist with an iron fist in a velvet glove against the proletariat.

"Similarly, the promises of the fascist powers of the Axis for the economic construction of a hierarchy of states in Europe, are not the aims of the workers. The proletariat, in opposing this second war, has well-defined class aims of its own against all the imperialist powers...
"The Second International has betrayed this aim ever since 1914. The Third International has followed it in this war and, after having organized and led the struggles of the workers in Europe, has drawn the proletariat of the world, including the Soviet Union, into a purposeless war.

"Workers, the struggle against the war must be conducted unceasingly in order to impose a just peace for all the people...

"To solve these tasks, we need a strong and militant revolutionary Bolshevik-Leninist party. Without revolutionary doctrine and without a class party the proletariat will come out of the war crushed by the treacherous policy of the Second and Third Internationals.

"The struggle for building up the International Communist Party and a Fourth International is the basic task of the vanguard of the proletariat; it is the indispensable condition for leading the workers to the seizure of power, to the destruction of the bourgeois state, and the construction of a socialist economy in Italy and in the Socialist United States of Europe.

"In opposition to the social-patriotic Committees of National Liberation, to the Sforzas, we must set up class organs, the councils of workers, of peasants and of soldiers. In opposition to the bourgeois anti-fascist policy against a king, be it with or without a regency—which would serve only to save the bankers, the industrialists, the high prelate, the landlords, and capitalism—we must have a Constituent Assembly, on the basis of freedom of the press, of assembly, the right to strike, an increase in wages, bread, work, freedom, land to the proletariat, to open the revolutionary socialist road in Italy and throughout the world.

"Down with fascism, down with capitalism!
"Long live the Socialist United States of Europe, united with all the workers of the world!
"Long live the proletarian revolution of Italy!
"Long live the Fourth International!

"For the Secretariat,"
"Rolando,"
"Bari, December 15, 1943."

(Continued on page 4)

Little Steel Formula a 'Thumbscrew' On Workers

The assault on the Little Steel formula is now widespread. A week or two ago the United Steel Workers of America, CIO, presented its findings to the special panel of the War Labor Board and demonstrated up to the hilt that the formula operated against the best interests of the American workers.

This week, the AFL, through its secretary - treasurer, George Meany, made similar representations before a panel of the WLB. Meany declared that the Little Steel formula "has become a thumbscrew to torment the working people of America and their families."

Spokesmen for the two big labor organizations presented a mass of material contrasting the record profits of big business with the declining standard of living for the majority of the workers in the country. In the case of the steel workers, it was pointed out how steel profits rose 175 per cent above peacetime profits. At the same time, living costs of steel workers exceeded their earnings.

Meany presented material showing that the living standards of the American workers have deteriorated from twenty-five to forty-five per cent since the beginning of the war. The material was added proof that the burdens of the war are primarily on the shoulders of the millions of workers and their families.

The WLB, however, has an out. It denies its responsibility for this situation, saying that the Stabilization Act binds its hands to make any change in the formula. And, in a formal sense, the WLB is right. It is acting in accordance with instructions.

But who is responsible for wage stabilization? Wage stabilization happens to be part of President Roosevelt's seven-point program—the only plank in the program that is actually carried out! Roosevelt, in turn, blames Congress for refusing to adopt all the points in his program.

It is necessary to remember, however, that the President still insists upon strict adherence to wage stabilization despite the fact that the other six points in the program have not been and will not be carried out. This means that the workers are at the mercy of big business, the WLB and the "torment" of the Little Steel formula.

There is an important lesson to be learned from this situation. It is that the workers can expect no relief from capitalist politicians, the capitalist parties and their government.

Meany and Murray know what's wrong. They denounce the wage stabilization act and the Little Steel formula. They are fully aware that

500% Profit Not Enough For Big Food Corporations

The big corporations of the food industry are — poor things — very much worried over their profits. A committee is going to Washington on April 4 to meet with Price Administrator Bowles and make certain demands.

What are the demands?
On the top of the list is one that the OPA should not attempt to control profits. Next is one that "fair margins" should be allowed for different classes of foods and different kinds of distributors. Another is that price "differentials" should be allowed in community prices.

One might logically conclude that the food corporations have been orphans among big business corpora-

tions and have not scooped in war profits with a large shovel, as the others have done. But this is not so. Theirs is a case of the more they get, the more they want.

THEY GET PLENTY — as was brought out by the United Steel Workers, CIO, in presenting its case for a seventeen-cent an hour wage increase and other demands. Basing its figures on official United States government reports, the United Steel Workers submitted the following facts on food profiteering:

"Wholesaler food grocers realized twice as much on every dollar of sales in 1942 as in 1939. Sales were up 43 per cent, but profits before income taxes rose over 200 PER CENT.

"Between 1939 and 1942, seven out of ten wholesalers more than doubled their profits before taxes and four of these seven reported at least a 200 per cent rise. For about three out of ten, the increase over 1939 was at least 300 PER CENT and for half of these, profits rose 500 PER CENT OR MORE.

No pikers, these food corporations! Increases in profits equal to 500 per cent are not enough. They now make a sacred pilgrimage to Washington to ask the OPA to loosen up a little so that the course of "progress" may not be interfered with. For why indeed should profits on food stop at a mere 500 per cent? It is profits to this tune that ac-

count in largest measure for the fact that the food budget of the worker's family has gone up 74.2 per cent since 1941. It is profits to this tune that accounts for the fact that the low-income groups of workers—whose food must necessarily take up the largest part of their meager income—are compelled to do without so many necessary things to eat.

LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party have a direct answer for this situation. THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HIGH PRICES AND HIGH PROFITS MUST BE BROKEN. That is the way to bring prices down.

To break the connection between high prices and high profits, the food industry will have to be taken out

of the control of the big food corporations and their Washington hirings.

There must be democratic control of food production and distribution, of rationing and price-fixing, by joint committees of working class organizations, working farmers' organizations, people's cooperatives, consumers and housewives' committees.

In a word, the people themselves should control their food supply. Is there a better argument for this than the 500 per cent war profits of the food monopolists and their present pilgrimage to Washington to get more? The food profiteers must be ousted.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Dalrymple Expelled By His Own Local

AKRON, Apr. 4.—Dictator Sherman H. Dalrymple, international president of the United Rubber Workers of America, CIO, has been expelled from his own local union by overwhelming action of its membership. This news spread swiftly through Akron labor circles yesterday, following the membership meeting of Goodrich Local No. 5 Sunday. Dalrymple, who had been the first president of that local when it was set up eleven years ago, was charged with having violated the URWA constitution by illegally bringing about the expulsion of sixty-nine workers of URWA Local No. 9 last January because of their having engaged in a work stoppage.

Democracy vs. Bureaucracy

The plight of these workers has thoroughly aroused the Akron labor movement and spread throughout the international union. The act of legally expelling Dalrymple from his own local union can only serve to heighten the struggle within the international over the issue of Union Democracy vs. Dalrymple's Bureaucratic Dictatorship. Directly related to this issue is the one: Shall the 180,000 organized rubber unionists continue to accept the Dalrymple-Burns-Joe Stalin policies of surrendering labor's bitterly-won gains—or will the rubber workers decide to use all their power and strength to beat back the onslaughts of the rubber barons and their governmental agents?

Whatever the outcome of this struggle, there can be no question but that this fight will be hard and bitter, and touch the daily lives of thousands. The reactionary Dalrymple clique has shown in practice that it is willing to sacrifice the interests of the whole membership to stay in the good graces of Washington. On the other hand, the ranks of the union see more clearly that their only hope for the future lies in maintain-

ing internal union democracy, through which they may again restore the union to its former militant outlook.

Thrown Out of His Local

Other indirect implications of the expulsion of Dalrymple from his lo-



DICTATOR DALRYMPLE

cal lie in his "higher" connections within the labor movement. He is a member of the national executive board of the CIO. Will Philip Murray find it somewhat embarrassing to sit down beside such a "democrat" as Dalrymple, now that he has been repudiated for his undemocratic actions by those he formerly worked with?

In this connection Murray will no doubt recall, as do many others, the

fate of Bill Green when the CIO miners several years ago expelled him from his own local union.

And then, too, will Sidney Hillman feel slightly uncomfortable in his chairmanship of the CIO Political Action Committee, of which Dalrymple is also a "top ranking" figure? Hillman likewise may experience some difficulties in convincing workers of the "truly democratic intentions" of his horse-trading pro-Roosevelt committee when accompanied by such a proven dictator as Dalrymple.

Finally, Dictator Dalrymple would present an inspiring sight at the June International Labor Conference in London (if held), wouldn't he, as one of the chosen representatives of the American labor movement, bearing a large sign, "THROWN OUT OF MY OWN LOCAL UNION FOR GRAVE VIOLATION OF UNION DEMOCRACY"?

Dalrymple and his cronies face some tough sledding in the days ahead, as it appears more evident that a NATIONAL SCANDAL in labor circles is in the making over the "little" affair he started—expelling and getting fired sixty-nine of his union brothers. The fact that the URWA international executive board reinstated sixty-two of these after they had spent two months on the streets will not mitigate the wrath of the rank and file rubber worker against the international executive board. It upheld Dalrymple's bureaucratic power to the hit and even went further in expelling and firing the two rank and file leaders of Local No. 9, Haas and Sullivan, for having defended the sixty-nine expelled.

Dalrymple Stooze Resigns

Meanwhile, events at Local 9 have shown that the top officialdom of the URWA have felt it necessary to release the stranglehold they had on that local through their dictatorially appointed administrator. The pro-

test strike of the members against the firing of Haas and Sullivan had not been more than several weeks past when announcement was made that E. B. Harper, president of that local and chief stooge of Dalrymple, felt compelled to resign because of the virtually unanimous opposition to him in the General Tire & Rubber Co. plants.

This crack in Dalrymple's forces indicates clearly that, when the membership really puts the heat on in an organized fashion, they can accomplish a great deal. When elections are finally held for this and other vacated union posts, the progressive elements who defended the expelled members will without doubt make a clean sweep. They will then be able to fight more effectively against Dalrympleism as a whole in the international. Their personal experience with the effects of the no-strike pledge and the union-wrecking it brings in its trail will be of tremendous value to all labor.

As noted in LABOR ACTION several weeks ago, Haas and Sullivan had brought suit for an injunction in court against Dalrymple and his wrecking crew, naming also the General Tire & Rubber Co., to get themselves reinstated into the URWA and returned to their jobs. At the preliminary hearing, the judge (a great "friend of labor") refused to grant them an injunction to this effect, listening instead to the plea of Attorney Patterson of the URWA officialdom that if Haas and Sullivan were reinstated the union would have "no way of effectuating its no-strike pledge."

A final decision is still to be made in several weeks, by which time the judge may correctly figure that the two men will be safely away in the Army. Workers who are aware of the nature of capitalist justice are by no means optimistic about the judge agreeing with them that Haas and Sullivan should be upheld.

No-Strike Pledge Repudiated

By Special Correspondent
PORTLAND, Ore.—A prediction by a California correspondent that the International Woodworkers of America would veer away from the no-strike pledge is daily becoming more well founded. As Roosevelt's dictatorial War Labor Board and the iron heel of the employers grind more and more from the workers for less and less real wages, the men and women of this industry are resorting to the weapon that they so well know how to use. The pressure from the ranks is showing all the way to the top officials, except in Communist-dominated locals and districts, and there all is not serene as their true role in the labor movement is daily becoming more manifest.

No-Strike Pledge Out

The first open seam became apparent early in January at the Oregon State Industrial Union Council, CIO, convention held at Roseburg. A resolution was introduced there by an IWA local to the effect that "The no-strike pledge be repudiated unless the Administration and Congress get together on wage adjustments, price rollbacks and subsidies." The resolution committee voted non-concurrence, but the recommendation was over-ruled following heated debate on the convention floor.

Although this was a conditional repudiation, the membership of many locals, having thoroughly analyzed the situation and realizing that nothing could be expected from Washington, they correctly interpreted the resolution as an outright repudiation and have acted accordingly. The reaction is well exemplified by Local 6-12, IWA, Klamath Falls, Ore. The following is from a handbill put out by that local:

"The Oregon Industrial Union Council, CIO, in convention at Roseburg, January 7, 8 and 9, 1944, went on record repudiating the 'No-Strike Pledge'....

"On Sunday, January 16, 1944, at 1:00 o'clock, IWA Local 6-12 is going into special session for the purpose of airing our problems, weighing the possibility of getting some of our grievances we have buried in the War Labor Board ironed out and combating the arbitrary attitude of the operators in this area.

"The membership has frequently told us that they knew how we could get results, and that the Smith-Connelly bill merely legalized their method and that their method had been proved to work—citing as an example the miners, the railroads and the steel workers."

Unrest Widespread

This growing unrest is not limited to Oregon, but is prevalent in the whole industry. Prior to the above-mentioned events, several hundred members of Local 3-363 of Hoquiam, Wash., employees of Rayonier, Inc., had been on strike since December 4 to force reinstatement of three discharged union leaders and to settle other grievances of long standing.

March New International

The insistence by the military branch of the government on a national service act is an indication of both the expected duration of the war and its totalitarian influence on the social order.

In the editor's "Notes of the Month" in the March issue of The New Internationalist, which made its appearance last week, there is an analysis, "The Meaning of the National Service Act."

One of the best issues to appear in recent months, the magazine also features an article on the technocratic movement, by Paul Temple, entitled "Technocracy: A Totalitarian Fantasy."

Recent articles in the press of the Socialist Workers Party (Cannonites) on the advance of Russian troops into Poland are subjected to critical scrutiny by Max Shachtman in an illuminating essay called "The European Revolution and Stalinist Russia: It is Time to Understand."

Other articles in the issue are "Chiang Kai-shek's China," by Ria Stone; "What is Leninism?" by Leon Trotsky. Books reviewed this month are "Men and Coal" and "The Tragedy of European Labor."

Single copies are twenty cents and a year's subscription is \$1.50, except in New York City and the Bronx, where the rate is \$1.75.

Attempt to Railroad De Lorenzo

NEW YORK CITY—Anti-labor forces are attempting to railroad Tom De Lorenzo, militant president of Brewster Local 365, UAW, off to jail in a desperate effort to smash the union.

De Lorenzo was indicted early last week by a federal grand jury on trumped-up charges of perjury. Within a few days he was arraigned and held on \$2,000 bail for trial on May 22. If convicted he faces up to ten years in prison.

Ridiculous Charges

If the case were not so serious, only laughter could be the answer to charges so ridiculous.

De Lorenzo is charged with failure to mention all instances in which he had been previously arrested and with claiming experience in an aircraft company years ago when applying for a position with the WLB. At that time his application asked for his criminal record.

De Lorenzo's "criminal" record consisted of several arrests for traffic violations which he admitted. He did not write down that he had been arrested on the picket line of the Air Associates strike several years ago when he stopped scabs from entering the plant. He likewise did not mention a fatal automobile accident

where he was arrested on technical charges. But in both these cases he was completely exonerated.

The union president did write down, as most workers do, a little extra experience in aircraft, by stating that he worked for the de Sever-Sky Aircraft Company. This latter statement had nothing to do with his appointment.

This case against De Lorenzo flows directly from the concerted attempts of big business and its stooges in Congress to smash Local 365, which has stood out as the most progressive and the most militant local in the UAW.

How It Started

Last November the attacks started before the Vinson Committee of union-busters, who tried to smear De Lorenzo's name because he stood as a symbol of leadership of that local. It is evident that what irked these union-busters most was the successful contract of the local, combined with De Lorenzo's courageous stand in the trade union movement for the abolition of the "no-strike pledge" for independent labor political action and for the smashing of the Little Steel formula.

The kept press of big business has been working day and night to slander the local and De Lorenzo. All these reactionary forces of business, Congress and the press, have combined to invoke penalties against the local in order to weaken its tremendous strength. Only a short time ago they placed the union's maintenance of membership on probation. Now

they are trying to take away its leader.

When the Vinson Committee tried to blacken the name of the union and its president with slander, the membership arose as one man and voted confidence in Tom De Lorenzo and their union. Today the membership of Local 365 feels just as strongly and just as solidly against any attempts to smash their local by framing up and railroad to prison their president. Their solidarity will remain strong and firm because they are proud of the union that they built with sweat and blood. They are proud of their progressive program, they are proud of their strong contract. Every union man and every local throughout the country should rush to the defense of Tom De Lorenzo.

No Gold Pavements

Discharged veterans, upon returning to civilian life, are discovering that the stories they read and were told, while in the armed forces, about the high wages in the war industries, are far from the truth.

According to a survey made by the War Manpower Commission in twelve United States Employment Service offices, most of the veterans refuse the jobs that are offered to them when they are told the wages that they are to receive. The veterans then "shop around," expecting to find the jobs that pay the fancy wages they read about in the newspapers when they were still in the Army.

But after personally shopping around for a few weeks, they realize that the capitalist-inspired rumors circulating in the Army camps are pure fiction.

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

Yes, We Did Forget to Mention

Dear Editor:
In your recent article, "New Crop of Millionaires," you forgot that Roosevelt in a newsreel speech in October, 1940, said that there's not going to be any millionaires made on this war.

Also, recent figures on industrial accidents are, according to the New York Post of February 14, 92,000 killed and 9,400,000 injured in war plants.

V. M.

CIO Committee of Political (Re) Action

Dear Editor:
A pamphlet has recently been issued by the CIO, the title of which is Labor Political Action. There is an article on the inside of this masterpiece by Brother Sidney Hillman carrying the title: The Need for Action.

Now, every day down here in the South, we have been hearing things about political action, but the advocates of same are always assuring us that they are not tampering with our

vote, that the CIO is interested only in getting "friends" into office, regardless of their politics or any other consideration. Almost everybody has believed this (it is assumed) up to now. Now, however, we read the following in the above pamphlet: "It will be the purpose of the CIO Political Committee to organize the broadest and most effective labor and progressive support behind those 1943 and 1944 candidates—regardless of party affiliation—who have demonstrated their consistent and unequivocal support of President Roosevelt on all major issues, domestic and foreign." (Emphasis mine.)

First the CIO wants Roosevelt. Second, the CIO wants all those other nit-wit politicians who supported Roosevelt's deliberately half-hearted veto of the Connally-Smith bill, plus his advocacy of the labor draft, plus God knows how many other reactionary moves. If these "friends" want to make SURE of the labor vote, all they have to do is to shout all out for Badoglio and Victor Emmanuel and suppress a revolt of the working class in Italy. These PROGRESSIVE moves will earn for them the applause of Hillman and a few other labor bureaucrats.

Of course, Hillman is against the third party. Hillman says that any kind of third party would only split the labor vote and allow labor's "political enemies" to get into office. What Brother Hillman overlooks is that under the present (capitalist) government, labor doesn't have anything but "political enemies." It is a known fact that a Labor Party wouldn't be the answer to everything, but it most certainly would be a big step forward for American labor and a blow to this political boot-licking championed by Hillman.

R. H.

We Correct A Subscriber

Dear Editor:
I'll take the paper for three months. Here is twenty-five cents to start with. It seems awful hard to get anywhere in the way of progressive legislation for the working class. I think old Dr. Townsend started something. If it can be tried, would be a whole lot better than nothing at all for everybody. The trouble is the politicians are running the country. They say what wonderful things they'll do and don't do

anything after they get in but draw their salary. Well, here's hoping we get somewhere this election.

J. K.

Editor's Note: About Dr. Townsend's scheme, we think you are misinformed. Dr. Townsend is another one of those would-be leaders who promise everything to get support for their own purposes. Furthermore, Dr. Townsend has definitely been hobnobbing with the America Firsters and other fascist elements in this country.

We are of the opinion that a new kind of "politician" must run the country. This kind won't be politicians at all but representatives of the working people chosen from the places where working people labor, and they will have to be candidates on an Independent Labor Party ticket.

A Few Words from Old Man Farmer

Dear Editor:
Just a few words from Old Man Farmer. Well, the old hen's starting to shell out some more eggs. The

more they lay, the less for eggs. So it doesn't matter to the farmer whether he gets six dozen or twelve dozen. Six dozen at thirty cents per, equal \$1.80. Twelve dozen at fifteen cents, equal \$1.80. But the old hen-seeds has been robbed so long they don't feel normal unless his shoes is full of nails and his feet bleeds.

Big Land Boom! No, the land don't produce any more than it did under the dormant Hoover reign. Increasing the price of land makes it good for the big business sharks. More taxes and more profits, which make less return for old John Farmer. Now Mr. Farmer says we have to change administration so we can get a new deal; there is seven aces in the old deck. Please tell me when the economic slaves are going to call for a new deck.

O. T.

With Your Help

Dear Editor:
You have a great paper and a great work ahead. Labor must bring reason into the world. You have the writers who can do it.

R. A.

The strike dragged on until February 7 in spite of all the pressure the workers were subjected to by the employers, the War Labor Board, the draft board and the savings and frothings of the capitalist press and the Communists. At the conclusion of the strike two out of three of the fired men were reinstated.

During the course of this strike a well-driven wedge was entered between the IWA and the Washington Administration, and the rift widened during the strike. There is no apparent sign of its closing. In fact, this strike may be to the IWA and Roosevelt what the Little Steel strikes of 1937 were to the honeymoon between John L. Lewis and Roosevelt.

Ed Benedict, secretary-treasurer of the IWA and a CIO representative on the Twelfth Regional War Labor Board, dissented from decisions of this board relative to the Hoquiam case. That was the least that could be expected of a man in whom reposed the confidence of his fellow workers. Benedict takes his obligation seriously and reacted in the manner to which he was accustomed when he was a militant rank and file. It is alleged that he encouraged the workers not to return to their jobs as ordered by the board. Charges have been filed by the Twelfth Regional War Labor Board against Benedict on the basis of these allegations. This same board also recommended to the national WLB that as long as the IWA refuses to comply with the orders of the board in the matter of the Hoquiam plant, the West Coast Lumber Commission be instructed not to process cases in which the IWA is involved.

WLB Stalling

The West Coast Lumber Commission is a panel of the WLB, created exclusively to handle matters pertaining to the production of lumber. Cases long processed before this body, growing out of demands now a year old—such as a 12½ cents per hour general wage increase and other extremely pertinent demands—were stalled in the WLB, awaiting final decision; so the men returned to work without a clear-cut victory. But the rift had widened.

Coming shortly thereafter was the long awaited decision of the WLB on the now year-old case. A wage increase was denied, in spite of the well known fact that a majority of the West Coast Lumber Commission had voted for an increase. However, the WLB retained jurisdiction and set March 22 as a date for further hearings before the WCLC in Portland, relative to wages; this further hearing supposedly to be based upon statements filed with the commission by officials of the War Production Board and the Twelfth Regional Manpower Commission concerning production needs and manpower shortages in the lumber industry.

A few of the other demands were granted in whole or in part: in regard to night shift differential pay; vacations with pay; eight-hour day for transportation, canteen and shop employees; safety program. The following demands were denied: guaranteed weekly pay; elimination of warning slips; list of accessions and separations; extension of contracting; that no foreman shall do work performed by hourly rate employees; accumulated sick leave with pay; free transportation to loggers; minimum standard crew. The following demands of the employers were denied: increased charge for board and room; staggered hours for cookhouse employees; beginners' rates for plywood operations.

But prior to many of the above events, a delegated conference of the West and Northwest districts of the IWA had been called in Portland early in February to formulate a program to be the basis for new industry-wide negotiations.

Conference Adopts Program

The conference came out with the following points: 1. \$1.15 per hour minimum wage with corresponding

adjustments. 2. Wage stabilization in the various brackets in both fir and pine. 3. Union hiring. 4. Check-off of dues. 5. Two weeks' vacation with pay. 6. Travel time. 7. Contracts with operators to cover all sub-contractors. 8. Eight-hour day, forty-hour week, work week to start Monday and end Friday. Time and a half for sixth day; double time for seventh. 9. Power saw crews to be composed of not less than three men with minimum daily pay of \$15. 10. That all employers come under their respective state industrial accident plan.

Beyond question a good program, but entirely beyond reach if dependent upon boss-ridden government board, and with the additional handicap of being hamstrung by a no-strike pledge. This handicap is daily being exposed in its true light, and the rank and file and the more wide-awake union officials are acting accordingly.

But this is only the beginning, for with the feeling of strength that huge war profits have given the employers, they have come brazenly into the open with their campaign of union-busting. At a meeting of the negotiating committee on March 2, John Tennant, of the employers' committee, stated that when the IWA moves "from the creeping to the walking stage" and the organization is strong enough, then and only then can the two woodworking unions, the IWA and the C&J, expect to gain concessions from the employers. At this meeting the employers countered with demands such as the elimination of the union maintenance clause; posting rules listing reasons for immediate discharge; an attempted breakdown of the now standard Jensen vacation clause; attack on the eight-hour day, five-day week, and the new standard ninety cents an hour minimum wage in the fir belt.

Work Stoppages Inevitable

As a result of these combined attacks of the employers and the government, plus the growing unrest of the workers as evidenced by their resort to job action and prolonged strikes, a recent meeting of the IWA executive board authorized that a strike vote be put to the membership at large, when and if it became necessary to gain their just demands and to protect their hard-won gains against the frontal assault of the employers.

Beyond doubt the weapon of work stoppages will have to be resorted to more and more often as the season comes into full swing. The deliberate and planned provocation on the part of the bosses, the connivance of Selective Service Boards, the tacit acceptance on the part of Communist officials in the unions (where such parasites do exist) of almost anything the boss wishes to hand the worker or to deprive him of, are bound to bring that aftermath of unrest which may reach flood-tide proportions.

The tacit acceptance referred to is well exemplified in southwestern Oregon, where the employers have so revised the method of scaling logs as to amount to a virtual twenty to twenty-five per cent wage cut. This happened where one Bill Harris, the business agent, while vehement in castigating the boss for his high-handed measures, is opposed to a stoppage of work. That is a heresy of which he would not be guilty.

The latest reports from the scheduled hearing before the WCLC here in Portland are that the WLB has limited the WCLC to a mere "fact hearing" function. This followed an appeal of the Lumbermen's Industrial Relations Committee, which seeks to have seven sections of the March 4 directive orders (which were favorable to labor) set aside.

In view of the objective situation as it now appears, one may well predict that the well known cry of "Timber down the hill" will not ring out on the mountain air of this West and Northwest country as uninterruptedly as in the two seasons just past.

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Conditions Abominable--Labor Draft Not Working

90,000 British Miners Strike

By MIKE STEVENS

The strike of the 70,000 Yorkshire miners—now increased to 90,000—coming so close after the recent strikes of the South Wales and Scotland miners is quite significant. The action of the Yorkshire miners is not unexpected and this strike will be followed by others.

The newspapers wrote in detail during the first week of the South Wales and Scotland strikes. But the news came to an abrupt halt with the announcement that about sixty per cent had returned to work. This new policy of "playing down" the strikes in the press is quite evident in the Yorkshire strike. According to the papers, the only reason the miners are out is their grievance at being charged for the coal they take home.

But this is far from being a true and complete picture. The miners are rebelling against the conditions under which they work and live—which have always been bad and are getting worse every day. They are fighting against the policies of the government and of their trade union leaders, for it is these policies that have brought the slave-like regulations upon the miners and have made it possible for the owners to exploit them more unmercifully than ever before.

In order to bring about any improvement for the benefit of the miners, a number of radical changes are necessary. This would affect profits and dividends; therefore the government is against any change. The nationalization of the mines is the demand of EVERY British coal miner. But the Churchill government will fight tooth and nail any attempt by the miners or anyone else, to bring about any real reform, no matter how small, that might benefit the working class. That, by the way, was the challenge and demand Churchill threw into Parliament last week when he personally fought against the equal pay bill for women teachers.

"Fools in Power"

In June, 1942, the British government, alarmed at the decrease in coal production, issued a White Paper, in which it stressed that in order to increase the coal output a system of control over the industry was necessary. The Ministry of Fuel and Power (commonly known among miners as the Ministry of Fools in Power) was put in charge, and it developed an administrative machinery with directors, regional offices and thousands of employees. It instituted all kinds of controls—over the workers. On the other hand, it not only did not increase production, but production is still constantly declining. PROFITS, HOWEVER, ARE LARGER THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN YEARS.

The coal industry is considered so important to the war that the government has given it priority No. 1. Anyone called for induction into the Army may choose the mines instead. But miners' wages are not so high on the priority list; in fact, they are TWENTY-EIGHTH down on the list of workers' earnings in British industry.

In its attempts to keep the miners from migrating to other industries, the government froze the men to their jobs. Whenever the miners rebelled against any objectionable condition in the mines, they were fined, imprisoned or threatened with being transferred to some other section of

A Frame-Up

The British government, faced with growing discord among the people by its policies at home, is attempting to intimidate the hundreds of thousands of workers in Britain who have been forced into militant strikes by organizing a frame-up against the British Trotskyists.

The causes of the strike, as is widely known, are the intolerable conditions that the government has attempted to impose among the miners despite universal protest. The frame-up which is planned against the British Trotskyists for allegedly being responsible for the strikes, is calculated to distract attention from those really responsible for the strike.

Although the Trotskyists are few in number, they are active and enjoy the confidence of their fellow workers. It goes without saying that they are supporting the strikers—who know that their unbearable conditions brought them out on strike and will recognize the frame-up.

the country—BY MEANS OF THE LABOR DRAFT.

This, of course, was Paradise for the mine owners—or at least it would be if they could only make it last. The government and the courts were behind the mine owners, and the trade union leaders did everything in their power to keep the men from fighting back.

Why the Miners Strike

The mine owners began cutting wage rates and making deductions for numerous non-existent items. Pieceworkers were not given their full wages on various excuses, such as "excessive" dirt in the coal and the like. In some of the older mines, drilling and heaving its still done by hand. Hewers and fillers work in seams having a MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF TWO FEET ONE INCH. THEY HAVE TO WORK LYING ON THEIR SIDES AND THEN DRAG OUT THE COAL SIXTEEN TO EIGHTEEN FEET FROM THE WORKING FACE TO THE TUBS. There is less spraying and more dust; the roads are in bad condition and there is a shortage of ponies.

But the miners are fighting back. At the Hatfield main pits it took seven strikes to stop the company's persistent attempts to cut wages. In the Kent coal fields, a threat to strike restored the rates which had been cut. At the Cardowan pit, eighteen strike leaders were arrested and fined. Four months later fourteen of them were re-arrested for not paying their fines. As the news spread, every pit for forty miles walked out. When twenty miners at the Tarenti colliery were sentenced to one month imprisonment for refusing to pay fines for slow-downs, four pits were immediately vacated by the miners. The Durham miners struck for a wage increase; the Sleekburn pits struck to settle grievances; others struck to abolish the vicious contracting system. All of these examples can be multiplied by the HUNDREDS of Britain had over five hundred coal strikes during 1943.

Injuries and Deaths

The mines are becoming more and more unsafe. Ellis Smith, a member of Parliament, in a House of Com-

mons speech, revealed that "There are more injured each year in the mining industry than the total number of people who suffered as a result of enemy air raids from 1939 to the end of 1942. From 1928-37, 1,602,497 were killed or injured... or on each working day three were killed and five hundred injured. That means blood and death on the coal obtained in this industry."

Silicosis, the dreaded miners' disease, is on the rise. In the first six months of 1943, the Rhonda Valley alone reported over four hundred fresh cases. In South Wales it is estimated that one out of every ten miners is waiting for the Medical Board for Silicosis to pension them out of the industry.

The small, damp, ramshackle cottages—most of them built in 1840-56—that the South Wales miners live in, are more neglected than ever by the coal-owner landlords. Miners' food rations are low and, due to the scarcity of goods, there is not as free a flow of goods as to the other industrial communities which can pay higher prices.

Is there any question, therefore, why the miners send their sons into other industries and fight so valiantly when the government tries to force these youths back to the coal fields?

The government's attempts to persuade young men to choose the pits instead of the army has been a miserable flop. Ian MacKay, industrial correspondent of the News Chronicle, estimates that the government has spent over a half million dollars in expensive advertisements to coax the youths into becoming miners. But less than a handful have responded.

Compulsion Not Working

The failure of the advertisements, the miners' sons refusal to return, no replacement of the industry's annual 30,000 "wastage" (old age, accidents, disease and death), PLUS the slow-down and strikes, have the government worried. Something else must be tried. Raise wages? Settle the miners' grievances? Make the mines safe from accident and disease? Don't be absurd! After all, this is still capitalism. So the Bevin Pit Compulsion System was brought into play. The government is drafting young men, between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one, from the factories and shipyards, and sending them into the mines.

This coercion, however, is not proving itself very profitable to the mine owners. These young men have not only been in the forefront of every strike called by the adults, but their grievances have often been the cause of these strikes. Fines and imprisonment have not dampened their militancy. One group in Wales drafted a charter saying: "If these demands are not met the coal shall be left in the bowels of the earth forever. We shall not bring it forth."

In addition to the activity of the youth already in the mines, those that are still in the other industries are organizing themselves into apprentices' guilds to break the Bevin System. These guilds are growing, and we shall hear more about them, because from all indications they realize that pit compulsion is only part of the whole miserable system.

These are a FEW of the reasons for the strikes.

The Churchill government says that the miners are wrong in going on strike. LABOR ACTION says they are right. What do you say?



Wage Increases As Result of Los Angeles Power Strike

LOS ANGELES—Primarily as a result of their strike action, workers of Los Angeles municipally owned water and power department have obtained an additional \$5.00 a month increase in wages. A similar amount with authorized in February during a ten-day strike, bringing the total pay raise to ten dollars a month for all employees earning less than \$350 a month.

The workers had demanded a fifteen dollar increase, and inability to secure any action on this and other demands resulted in the work stoppage in February. The wage scale is still under review by a three-man board, and it is possible that the original demands of the workers may be met when that board submits its findings.

One interesting result of the action of the water and power commissioners in granting the award was Mayor Fletcher Bowren's assertion that other city employees should also get pay increases. Mayor Bowren, it will be recalled, took an unsympathetic attitude toward the demands and actions of the water and power workers, and was largely instrumental in having the Army take over control of the department for a brief period.

Commenting upon the new award, Mayor Bowren is quoted by the Los Angeles Daily News as stating: "There are 10,000 faithful employees who have remained on the job and made no threat of striking, and I certainly am going to do everything possible to obtain for them salary increases comparable to those granted water and power employees."

The Mayor then expressed doubts as to where he could obtain the funds necessary for such an increase. The 10,000 workers to whom the Mayor referred have undoubtedly taken notice of the promise, and have also undoubtedly taken note of the fact that the only way the water and power employees were able to obtain their demands was by resorting to strike action.

The increase was awarded at a stormy meeting of the department of water and power commissioners, and was granted over the strong opposition of Board President James B. Agnew. Agnew termed the increase "a complete surrender to union demands" and also asserted that the Little Steel formula was being exceeded by fourteen per cent.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Union-Busting at Sun Ship

CHESTER, Pa.—The insolent attitude of the Sun Shipbuilding Co. toward the CIO Shipbuilders Union and the firing of key union men caused a series of stoppages here.

In what is an obvious attempt to break the union and demand a new election this spring or summer, the company has refused to settle grievances and has begun a campaign of firings on trumped-up charges. The action of the men followed the firing of a chief shop steward in the central yard. The accumulated grievances of the workers brought partial stoppages in the various yards, with virtually complete stoppage in the segregated all-Negro yard, No. 4.

Demands to Be Arbitrated

The stoppages began on the night shifts. Just as the day shift was about to walk out, the company gave in and agreed to reinstate two of the fired men and take the other demands submitted by the union after the men went on strike, to immediate arbitration. The union is demanding:

1. Agreement to discuss a bonus for No. 4 yard similar to those given in other yards.
2. An up-grading system for No. 4 yard equal to that of the other yards.
3. Immediate removal of six speci-

fied foremen and assistant foremen.

4. Elimination of the present method of issuing "pink slips." (The company has a vicious system whereby workers are given these slips for alleged infractions of the company's rules and a dismissal comes with the third pink slip.)

5. A conference on the reinstatement of the discharged shop stewards. A meeting, immediately after work is resumed, on these discharges, and selection of an arbitrator to be sent in by the National War Labor Board.

6. Break down the color line between No. 4 yard and the rest of the yards to permit Negro mechanics to work in all yards.

7. No penalty for those participating in the protest.

8. Replacement of John Pew, Jr. (It has been impossible to conduct negotiations with him.)

"Great White Father"

No. 4 yard, hailed by the Negro press as John G. Pew's contribution to the advancement of the colored people, turned out to be just what LABOR ACTION predicted: an effort on the part of Pew to create further barriers between white and Negro workers by letting the Negro workers think he was the "Great White

Father," as the company union referred to him during the Labor Board election campaign last summer.

But Pew's "gift" turned out to be a place where the Negroes did the same work as the white workers in other yards, but were consistently discriminated against. Unequal promotions and up-grading prevail in No. 4 yard, while Negro mechanics are barred from working in the other yards. No payment of the bonus was made to No. 4 yard Negroes while it was paid in the other yards.

Though the workers in No. 4 yard are Negroes, they are subject to the same capitalist exploitation, and when it comes to defending their interests as working men, questions of race, color and creed don't come into the picture.

Negro workers learned this soon enough and joined the CIO, were active in it and fought for their demands. Though No. 4 yard was a CIO weak spot during the Labor Board election last summer, the stoppage there last week indicated that Pew's benevolent protection was wearing thin. The Negro workers sought protection, not through Mr. Pew and his Sun Shipbuilding Employees Association, but in the CIO Shipbuilding Union.

The Meaning of Dies' Attack

By JOHN BERNE

Martin Dies, the poll-taxer from Texas, and his underlings on the Dies Committee certainly did not scoop any news in "revealing" that there are Communists in the leadership of the CIO and therefore also in the CIO Political Action Committee. This has been common knowledge for a long long time.

The 216-page report of the Dies Committee "exposing" the close connection between the CIO Political Action Committee and the Communists was not motivated by any desire to purify the labor movement.

What, then, are the motives of Dies?

But before going into that question, in the interest of clarity, the position of LABOR ACTION on both the Communist Party and on the CIO Political Action Committee has to be stated. About the Communists, there is no doubt at all that they are the most reactionary and disruptive influence in the labor movement—following, as they do, within the unions, the edicts of the Kremlin, regardless of what that means to the workers. As to the CIO-PAC, it is engaged at present in a gross misuse of labor's political power—working overtime to tie it to the coattails of Roosevelt and other "friends of labor" who are merely capitalist politicians.

So in putting the spotlight on Dies,

LABOR ACTION does not exonerate either the treachery of the Stalinists or the political sell-out of labor by the CIO-PAC.

With this clarification, let us consider Dies' motives in raising the red-scare in connection with the CIO-PAC.

First and foremost is the motive of self-preservation.

As pointed out by Sidney Hillman, head of the PAC, more poll-tax payments have been made in Dies' own home district than at any time in its history. In its effort to corral votes for Roosevelt, PAC has been encouraging citizens in poll-tax states to pay up wherever possible to be able to vote in November. This is a direct threat to Dies and his ilk, who might not even be re-elected if the trend continues.

Another thing Dies does not like is the wide publicity given by PAC to the past records of congressmen. This is a very sensitive nerve in Congressman Dies. That is why the report makes the wild charge that PAC is carrying on "a subversive communist campaign to subvert the Congress of the United States to its totalitarian program."

So Dies attacks PAC because it has attacked him.

The other motive behind the Dies Committee report is, of course, to make anti-union propaganda—which

is very much in style today. No matter how else this 216-page diatribe is considered, it is undoubtedly an attack on the CIO and an attempt to discredit it.

To Dies—to whom the activities of America Firsters, Coughlinites and other native fascists do not seem to come within the jurisdiction of his Committee on Un-American Activities—the strength of organized labor undoubtedly stands out as the most "un-American" phenomenon in the country.

With the keen nose of the capitalist reactionary for what is most progressive in America, Dies rightly sorts out the most advanced section of organized labor—the CIO—as the target for his attack.

The rank and file of the CIO is certainly not going to go soft over Dies because he expressed his "faith" in it as against "thousands of leaders, high and low." That kiss is the kiss of death. Just because the CIO is the progressive force that draws fire from Dies' guns, it has within itself the strength to throw out the turncoat Communists, to end the false political policy of Hillman and the PAC, and to utilize labor's political might as a class to oust not only its open enemies of the Dies variety, but its so-called friends of the Roosevelt variety.

ALP Primaries --

(Continued from page 1)

of Hillman and the Communist Party.

The lessons are clear! What is needed in the State of New York, as well as throughout the country, is the establishment of a genuine independent Labor Party, based on the trade unions, fighting for the political power of the American working class. This need is emphasized by the actual existence of widespread sentiment throughout the labor movement for such a movement and party.

To say, as Dubinsky-Counts-Rose have said, that "another experiment in independent labor political action has failed," is utter nonsense. What failed again was the policy of playing capitalist politics, a policy of class collaboration. What failed was the time-dishonored practice of organizing the workers as a "pressure group" on the capitalist political parties. What failed was the idea that the workers could gain anything substantial by fighting for crumbs off the table of any capitalist politician, whether it be Roosevelt or someone else.

Yet the need for an independent Labor Party was never more urgent than now. The prospects for such a party on a national scale, as well as state, are excellent. What the labor unions must do is to begin now, without equivocation, to establish such parties throughout the country, parties based upon labor, in the interests of labor and all who toil, with a labor program. Such parties must be truly independent of capitalist politics and capitalist parties. Then a genuine experiment in independent labor political action would begin.

Smoke Them Out

While Sidney Hillman was busy conspiring with his new-found friends in the Communist Party to squelch any move for an Independent Labor Party, "The Advance," newspaper of his union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, reports in its February 15 issue that "...one of the senators, twitting the Republican Tories for supporting the Tory Democrats in making it as difficult for the soldier to vote as possible, said: 'We all know how the Presidents have been chosen. Five or six millionaire Democrats getting into one smoke-filled room to pick a candidate, and five or six millionaire Republicans getting into another smoke-filled room and picking another candidate.'"

You can help to smoke them all out by getting your local union to start pushing for an Independent Labor Party now! What about that resolution you were going to introduce at your local meeting?

When Capitalists "Educate" Workers

PHILADELPHIA — The latest advance into the field of "workers' education" was announced here at a meeting of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association.

At a luncheon in the South Garden of the swanky Bellevue-Stratford Hotel (at the usual \$3.50 per plate, no doubt), the benevolent protectors of workers' welfare grew expansive and proclaimed their intention "to direct the thought of labor along constructive, cooperative lines."

Republican National Committeeman G. Mason Owlett, president of the association (at \$35,000 a year), elaborated on his program by declaring that "American employers must take their employees into their confidence."

We reprint below a take-off by the labor reporter of the Philadelphia Record on what the "educational program" would probably sound like. Though done in jest, the picture might well become a reality. In fact, the PMA would be much sicker in putting this propaganda over.

If Mr. Owlett doesn't mind, we will look in on one of his classes today. He is nearing the end of the morning's lesson as the curtain goes up.

Mr. Owlett: And now, ladies and gentlemen, I think we are all agreed on the principles of free enterprise as outlined here. Perhaps one of our little scholars will give us a brief definition of free enterprise.

Pupil (waving his hand eagerly): Fifteen dollars a week, sir.

Mr. Owlett (raising his eyebrows): Every week?

Pupil (blushing): Well, no sir. When times are good, I mean.

Mr. Owlett: And what does the loyal worker do when times are bad?

Pupil: Star... I mean, he gets laid off, but he is happy because that proves that he is not regimented and mulcted by unscrupulous union leaders. Besides, free soup will be available Tuesday noons, through the generosity of the business leaders of the community.

Mr. Owlett: Excellent, Quivvrens. Now, I wonder who can tell me what an employee should receive after fifty years of service when his superiors decide he is no longer able to work and... that is to say, relieve him of his responsibilities. What is his reward?

Another pupil (awed): A gold watch!

Mr. Owlett: Well, you should have said a handsomely engraved gold watch, but the answer will pass. (His voice deepens to a growl): But what do we call a social security system which guarantees that man a regular income for the rest of his life?

The whole class: Communism... Radicalism... Un-Americanism... Interference with free enterprise... Regimentation... Dirty politics.

Mr. Owlett: Splendid. I've never known a more receptive class. Suppose one of our cooperative, constructive members tells what he thinks of the forty-hour week?

Quivvrens: It's a cheap political maneuver devised by moronic politicians and supported by money-hungry, dues-chasing, opportunist overlords of labor.

Mr. Owlett (checking the notes): Correct. What is a proper work-week, Quivvrens?

Quivvrens: Why, sir, it would be impertinent for a worker to express an opinion here. The matter should be left entirely to the wisdom of the employer.

Mr. Owlett: Excellent! While we are on the subject, what is overtime pay?

(There is a chorus of boos, but finally Quivvrens makes himself heard): Quivvrens (proudly): There is no such thing as overtime pay, sir!

Mr. Owlett: Very nicely put, indeed! I see our period is drawing to a close. I have one final announcement to make, but before that, is there any alert student who remembers the political duties of the true American workman?

Voice in the rear: I do, sir. He tries to remember what he has been taught here, but in case he forgets he just follows the instructions he will receive in his pay envelope right before election.

Mr. Owlett: That's it, Scudge. Thank you. Now, before the next class I want you each to write a 2,000-word essay on "How American Labor Can Best Get Back to the Golden Age of 1890." The prize for the best work... (he pauses for attention)... The prize for the best work will be a complete collection of the works of Westbrook Pegler!

(The cheers are deafening. Mr. Owlett raises a hand):

Mr. Owlett: Thank you. I know you will all try hard to earn it. I see by my watch that class has been in session exactly forty-eight minutes today. You will be docked for that time. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

(The class applauds heartily and many members stop to write Mr. Owlett's hand as they leave. At least, we think it is his hand they are writing; the curtain falls so rapidly that we can't quite see.)

A Vacation in Heaven

No medals, no citations, no decorations for Vittorio Valentucci, worker in the pressed steel department of the Dodge main plant who died at 2:00 p.m. on February 3.

His ten-year-old daughter ill, and he himself sick, Vittorio appealed on January 28 to Ben Butts of Labor Control for a few months' leave of absence—confident that his almost twenty-five years of service for the company entitled him to this small privilege.

Butts smiled to himself when he heard Valentucci's story—pulling that old gag of a doctor's recommendation for a change of climate! When Valentucci pointed out that he had a release from the War Manpower Board, Butts said bluntly: "If you take a release on that I'll break your seniority immediately." Butts "knew" that the man was bluffing. Why, he was as well as you or I!

Six days later Vittorio died. He can have his vacation now—unconcerned with the charge of absenteeism!

Ford's Scheme to Lower Wages by Shifting Workers

DETROIT—All companies in search of a good scheme for lowering wages should consult with Ford Motor Co. By the simple practice of transferring work from one of its plants to another, this union-hating company is trying to reduce all rates to the lowest general rates paid in any of its plants. Here's how it works:

The company transfers a certain job from its River Rouge plant to the Highland Park plant. If rates at the Highland Park plant for those particular classifications happen to be lower than those at River Rouge, the company uses the Highland Park rates. If, on the other hand, the rates happen to be higher, the company will insist that the River Rouge rates be applied.

This vicious practice has been the cause of numerous stoppages during the past several months in the Pratt & Whitney division of the Highland Park plant. Here the production of aircraft engines was transferred from the old River Rouge aircraft building, where negotiated rates were higher than those at Highland Park. Employees who were transferred from River Rouge along with the job were paid their old rate, while Highland Park employees placed on the job received lower rates.

Thus there were two sets of rates

being paid to workers working side by side and doing identical work. To remedy this situation the company proposed that all rates be reduced to the general level of Highland Park rates. The union insisted that the same rates apply as were negotiated at the Rouge aircraft building.

After frequent stoppages and walk-outs, in which the Pratt & Whitney workers were solidly united in their demands for higher rates for everyone on the job, the Regional War Labor Board issued a directive ordering Ford Motor Co. to pay the higher rates, retroactive to the period when work was begun on the job.

This represents only a partial victory for the union, as the company has appealed the case. This suspends the order until the National War Labor Board makes its decision. But it is a victory nonetheless.

It testifies to the fighting spirit and solidarity of the Pratt & Whitney workers, who showed their union leaders in no uncertain terms that they would not tolerate the chiseling of the company. In spite of the no-strike pledge imposed on them from above, the workers fought against a cut in wages with the only weapon they have—the strike—and they won!

Review of the News

Steel Companies Get More Time

The powerful case presented by the United Steel Workers, CIO, for a wage increase and other demands, left the representatives of the corporations gaping. The attorney for Bethlehem Steel, in asking for additional time to prepare an answer to the union's bulwark of facts and figures, said: "We could not possibly have anticipated the breadth of the union's attack on the stabilization program"—meaning, of course, the Little "Steal" formula.

In spite of the objection of the union that the companies have known the union's demands since last December, the companies got a postponement until April 18. What else could be expected from the WLB?

It Happened in Weirton

Twenty-five members of the United Steel Workers, CIO, were arrested on March 30 for attempting to distribute handbills to employees of the Weirton Steel Co. The CIO is conducting a campaign to organize the 12,000 employees of the company. The handbill read: "Despite the baseless claims of others, the USW, as in 1936, '37, '41 and '42, is carrying the fight alone for a general wage increase for steel workers throughout the nation. Do your part. Join the USW now."

The sheriff arrested the men on the trumped-up charge of "unlawful assembly." On two other recent occasions Ernest T. Weir's "hatchet gang" severely injured a number of union members, several of whom are still laid up in a hospital. It will be remembered by readers of LABOR ACTION that Weir considers it his pay-triatic duty to manufacture weapons for use against workers—for which, by the way, he gets priorities.

FDR Allows 'Fraud' to Become Law

After branding the "states' rights" servicemen's voting bill as a fraud, President Roosevelt did not veto it. It is now, therefore, the law of the land.

This new law was commented on by Senator Green, Democrat, of Rhode Island, as follows: "I am still convinced that more men and women in the service could vote under the old law than under the new law."

Republicans recalled, with amusement, the President's recent challenge to congressmen "to stand up and be counted," and chided that by neither signing nor vetoing the bill, he "placed the shoe on the other foot." The President's message to Congress was a model of temperateness this time. Certain amendments that the President asked for were introduced by Senators Green and Lucas. But the rank Rankin hastened to predict the fate of any amendments by asserting that "we have provided the very best law we could under the circumstances." To labor, as to the men and women in arms, this is still a fraud!

\$1,165,800,000 Taxes on Consumers

On April 1 we began paying a little more for a long list of commodities due to the new tax law. A worker's glass of beer is taxed ten per cent; his wife's Woolworth earnings are taxed twenty per cent. We now pay twenty per cent more on electric bulbs, on face powder, on handbags. Next winter a working woman who might otherwise be able to afford an inexpensive fur coat or a fur-trimmed coat, will find it prohibitive to pay the twenty per cent tax. A night's fun in a cabaret will be out of the question for working people—the tax is thirty per cent. A tax has been slapped onto or increased on many other items, including telephone bills and movie tickets. Even postage rates are up.

Congress found it necessary to impose these new sales taxes so as not to inflict any further "hardships" on big business, whose war profits in 1943 amounted to a mere \$10,000,000,000 AFTER tax deductions.

A Gruesome Report on Italy

John Daly, CBS reporter, returning after fourteen months in the Mediterranean area, revealed some damning details about how AMG is running "liberated" Italy. Here are some of the high points:

The Allies pay Italian workers a daily wage of ninety cents. Potatoes at forty cents a pound—when you can get them—gives an idea of how far the ninety cents goes.

AMG is supposed to distribute food, but it is falling down on the job. There is starvation and malnutrition. "The death rate in Naples is four times that of Rome," according to Mr. Daly. "Officials refuse to admit that these people are starving to death. They say that so-and-so died of influenza, with malnutrition as a contributory cause."

'The Insatiable Greed of Russia'

Smuggling it out through underground channels, the Polish Socialist Party has sent a message to Clement B. Attlee, Deputy Premier and Labor Party leader of England. Nine-tenths of this 4,000-word appeal to British labor is devoted to a denunciation of Russia. The Polish socialists ask for arms to be used not only against the Germans but also against the Russian army, which represents "the insatiable greed of Russia." The appeal states that "even temporary occupation of Polish territories by the Soviet will magnify the calamities caused by German occupation."

New Crop of German Communists

If credence is to be given to a dispatch from Stockholm, Sweden, a development of the utmost importance has taken place in Germany. Not only has Communist activity begun again there for the first time since the Nazis took power in 1933. But the report states: "According to information reaching here, the new crop of German communists are convinced internationalists, which may perhaps make cooperation with Moscow difficult."

If it is indeed true that the new crop of German Communists are through with Stalinism and adhere to the principles of international socialism, this is glad news at which all class-conscious workers can rejoice.

Political Rough-riding by Churchill

Liberals were amazed at the coercive measure taken by Churchill in the House of Commons last week on what appeared to be a very minor issue.

The House had passed, by a majority of one vote, an amendment to the government's education bill, the amendment providing the same pay for women teachers as for men. Immediately Mr. Churchill interpreted the vote as a challenge and demanded a re-vote, the result to be taken as a vote of confidence or lack of confidence in the government. The outcome of the second vote was, of course, a foregone conclusion. The House reversed itself and voted the innocuous amendment down, 425 to 23.

When a government becomes so touchy on the question of confidence, there is usually reason for it. In England there are 135,000 miners on strike. On the political field, results of by-elections have given the government candidates at least nine defeats out of thirty-four elections, and in many places where the government candidates won, it was against stiff competition. In his recent speech, Churchill found it necessary to devote a great portion of it to defense of his policies and promises for the future.

Victims of the Nazis and the Allies

On March 31 the British White Paper went into effect and Jewish immigration into Palestine was ended. This is in violation of the British mandate over Palestine calling for a Jewish homeland, in violation of the Balfour Declaration, and a repudiation by this government of its responsibility and right under the treaty of 1924 to stop Britain's action.

The event produced public protests in Palestine. In Jerusalem, Haifa, Jaffa and Tel-Aviv there were street fighting, attacks on police headquarters, and wounded and dead. Here the President tried to crawl out of his very recent promise to help the Jews. He explained that he was talking about the post-war period. It is well known, however, that the Wagner-Taft resolution that was dropped for manufactured "military reasons" referred to the present.

On March 24 the President appealed to the German and other European people to help the Jews escape. Escape to where? He also assured correspondents that the United States is caring for as many refugees as possible, and referred to Africa. On investigation it has been discovered that the United States is not caring for a single refugee there.

There are said to be still 30,000 unused entry permits into Palestine. Will they be issued? No word has come forth from the mighty as to this. What will happen to the 2,000,000 Jews trapped in the Balkans? British and American imperialism is concerned with power politics in the Middle East. That is the answer.

C. P. Leaders Sponsor New Party

Communist Party Is Cracking

The first reaction by former leaders of the Communist Party against the "new line" in support of capitalism recently proclaimed by CP Secretary Earl Browder has just been rebelliously reported to LABOR ACTION.

The reaction has taken the form of an attempt to break with the official Communist Party and to establish a "genuine" Communist Party in its place.

Who the Sponsors Are

The attempt, LABOR ACTION learns, is being made by two former leaders of the Communist Party, William F. Dunne and Norman H. Tallentire. The two men, while not members of the Communist Party in recent times, belonged to it almost from the days of its foundation back in 1919-20. Dunne, once a prominent labor leader in Butte, Mont., joined the Communist Party in the very earliest days and became a member of its Central Committee and editor of its official weekly paper of that time, The Worker. He continued to be a member of the Central Committee for many years, was often a delegate of the party to congresses of the Communist International in Moscow,

and for some time worked in the Executive Committees of the Communist International and the Red International of Labor Unions. Conflicts with the present party leadership led to his separation from the party about a couple of years ago.

Tallentire, one of the founders of the Communist Party, was for many years one of its most active organizers and for a period of time also a member of its Central Committee. He is not known to have been actively associated with the party in recent times.

Following the Browder decree that the Communist Party is to "dissolve" itself and openly support capitalism and oppose socialism as "utopian," the two former leaders began to circulate CP "old-timers" with a proposal to establish a new and "genuine" Communist Party.

What About a Program?

Just what program this new party is to have is as yet unknown. It may be surmised, however, from the fact that, so far as is known, neither Dunne nor Tallentire has ever separated himself to any important degree from the principles and the un-

principledness of Stalinism, or from its practices.

They remained silent while the Stalinist bureaucracy committed its most monstrous crimes against the great principles and ideals of the Bolshevik Revolution and against the champions of this revolution, the Trotskyists. The frame-up, imprisonment, exile, shooting and assassination of all the old Russian revolutionaries, as well as the enslavement of the Russian people by the Kremlin bureaucracy, never met with a word of protest by either of these two men. On what program different from that of Stalinism they now expect to form a "new" party is thus far a mystery.

Equally unknown is the degree of response they have met with from the "old-time" CP members "they have approached. For the most part, these elements, even when they entertain private disagreements with Stalin or Browder, are worthless, corrupted and tired-out hacks, who stand by cynically while workers are tricked into joining the CP, only to be subjected to the same corrupting poison which they themselves have absorbed in the past fifteen to twenty years and which they helped to disseminate.

It will nevertheless be interesting to watch this new development as a symptom of the further disintegration of Stalinism in this country, a process that can only be welcomed by every genuine socialist and thinking worker in the labor movement. LABOR ACTION will have more to say on this score.

Foster-Darcy Affair

Meanwhile, all does not seem to be sweet harmony in the ranks of the Stalinist bureaucracy here. Following a number of rumors about disagreement with the Browder policy on the part of William Z. Foster and Samuel A. Darcy, two of the most prominent wheelhorses of the Communist machine, the Daily Worker has published two statements.

One statement by Foster vehemently denies that he has any disagreement with the new line. People in a position to know the facts claim that the truth is otherwise. Foster, who has never really reconciled himself to the fact that his former office boss, Browder, replaced him as party boss, appears to have found the new ultra-reactionary line of the CP a little too much for even his capacious stomach to digest. However, he was subjected to such a merciless drubbing by the bureaucracy that he caved in. Old and decrepit, he did not have the stamina to buck the Kremlin paymasters.

Another statement, however, verifies the reports about Darcy. Leader of the Communist Party on the West Coast for many years, and recently the party boss in Pennsylvania, Darcy has just been ousted from his post by an official decision of the Philadelphia District Committee of the Communist Party of Pennsylvania.

The committee statement says that although Darcy pretended to be in full agreement with Browder on the new line, he sought to use his Pennsylvania post to sabotage it from within. "Darcy... did not wait for the opening of the pre-convention discussion on March 20 to express his differences to the membership and Party Committees," reads the statement. "Instead, he proceeded to engage in factional activity and to mobilize in a concealed and underhand fashion against the policy that he himself had professed to support."

The Stalinists apparently continue the pretense that their party allows any kind of discussion, while coming down like a ton of brick on the head of anyone who tries to do any discussing. Darcy's "whole status" is referred to in the "coming district convention."

Just what Darcy stands for is also a mystery at the moment. The falling out of these bureaucrats who committed and condoned the greatest crimes in the history of the international labor movement, is significant only as an indication of the degeneracy of Stalinism.

Neither the Browners nor the Darcys have any other road for the sincere communist workers but the road of reaction and servitude to the Moscow autocracy they have served so faithfully. The road of working-class progress, of revolutionary socialist principle, has been marked out by the Workers Party. It is a road that leads in the opposite direction from Stalinism.

Life Imprisonment For Negro Soldiers--'Scottsboro' Method

By JESSIE KAAREN

An investigation arising from a chance letter sent by a Negro soldier, Edward R. Lorry, to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has disclosed one of the most cynical and brutal examples of Jim Crow injustice ever known in the Army—an Army which already has a long list of Jim Crow acts to its "credit."

Two Negro soldiers were sentenced to life imprisonment at a court martial. They were charged with rape, in spite of testimony by the woman revealing that she was a prostitute and had accepted payment from the soldiers.

This testimony was supported by a white soldier, a Lieutenant Engels, who was also involved with the woman but was not court-martialed because of it. Lieutenant Engels was dishonorably discharged from the army for conduct "unbecoming an officer," but is now awaiting re-induction.

The original charge was brought against the soldiers by a white officer, whose name is not mentioned. This officer happened to be at the scene of the alleged "rape" with a girl of his own on his arm, and perhaps, fearing that he was recognized, decided to start the offensive against the Negroes. A report, stating that the woman "raped" had been examined in the local hospital PRIOR to the incident and was found to be suffering from gonorrhea, was ignored at the trial.

A Forced Confession

The private who wrote the letter, Edward R. Lorry, had been stationed in New Caledonia, one of the Pacific islands off Australia, along with his friend, Frank Fisher, Jr. Before the trial of the two boys, Private Lorry had been kept in prison for five days, starved and tortured, until he consented to sign a phony confession.

At their trial the boys were represented by a counsel whom they had met only the day before and who did not ask any questions that would establish their innocence. Neither did the presiding judge give the boys a chance to clear themselves. The soldiers were convicted and finally sent to the U. S. Penitentiary on McNeil Island in the state of Washington. From there Lorry wrote the letter to the NAACP, parts of which we quote here:

"I am writing for your help as a citizen of this country and a member of the military service. I was tried for rape and sentenced to life at McNeil Island but sir that for something I did not do. The woman stated in court that I paid her... I volunteered into the service at the age of eighteen as trying to do my part in this war. The woman is a well known prostitute of the island. Any soldier can tell you what kind of woman

she is. She live out to get five or ten dollars from the first soldier she meet. White or colored. I happen to be a colored soldier tried for this woman.... So please investigate my case and let me know if I can get back to duty."

The case has been pushed into public view now that the brief asking for a review of the case has been filed by the NAACP with Secretary of War Stimson. The case was originally tried in New Caledonia, where the two boys were convicted last June. Their sentences were upheld by the Army commander at Melbourne, Australia.

Additional information reveals that the military authorities had rejected a plea for clemency on the ground that the civil authorities in New Caledonia would not like it. According to this information, Major-General James A. Ulio, adjutant general, sent a telegram to the island command in New Caledonia, asking whether "exercise of clemency would adversely affect relations with civil authorities in view of press reports of statements of island government concerning misconduct of American troops, including criminal assaults by Negro troops on white women."

The answer received to this telegram was reported to be as follows: "In my opinion exercise of clemency in cases of Fisher and Lorry at this time would adversely affect relations with civil authorities and would also adversely affect internal discipline, particularly since press comments thereon attributed to Rep. Vito Marcantonio have come to the attention island command concerned. I recommend against clemency at this time."

'Scottsboro' Technique

And so, because the Negroes happened to be seen on their night off by a white officer with a girl of his own, and because the army authorities were anxious to appease the civil authorities and use the case as a threat to Negro soldiers stationed there, these two young boys were framed by the "Scottsboro" technique and a confession extracted from one of them by the old time-honored "third degree" method.

These boys were chosen as the victims first of all because they were Negroes and secondly because they were young and easily intimidated. They were railroaded into life imprisonment by a crude frame-up—the authorities never counted on the spunk that Lorry displayed in sending out that letter.

The whole affair is typical of the Army's relations with Negro soldiers—displaying total disrespect for Negro life and dignity.

However, this is one case the Army didn't get away with. The publicity and widespread public interest that the case is getting will undoubtedly make a difference when the case is reviewed.

Wage Freeze --

(Continued from page 1)

Roosevelt bears the main responsibility for this situation because the Little Steel formula is his baby and because he refuses to rescind the Stabilization Act despite the failure and refusal of Congress to enact the other points of his program. Thus the seven-point program has become a one-point program directed against the living standards of every working man and woman in this country.

The political lesson in this situation is that labor must turn to itself for political hope and salvation. Conditions dictate the political organization of labor, the establishment of an independent party of labor and independent labor political action.

The grave mistake of the labor of-

ficialdoms is that with knowledge of the facts about capitalist political double-dealing at the expense of the workers, they still continue to play the game of big business politics, supporting one or the other of the capitalist parties and capitalist politicians.

An effective, fighting labor program in the interests of the workers, whether over wages, hours, conditions of labor or anything else, needs to be fortified by the political organization of labor.

This is the most important political task facing the entire labor movement—the AFL, the CIO, the Railway Brotherhoods and all independent unions—namely, the establishment of a mass Labor Party based on the trade unions in the country.

Will Capitalism Provide Jobs For All Workers?

By SUSAN GREEN

Irving S. Olds, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, recently answered this question—IN THE NEGATIVE.

He was speaking at the yearly meeting of the Travelers Aid Society. The financial editor of the New York Sun reports Mr. Olds as taking "a crack at those who are making so much fuss over the 'obligation' of industry to provide jobs for every one after the war—to avoid the accusation that the capitalist system has fallen down."

Mr. Olds reminded his audience that industry "can employ men ONLY when it has a ready SALE for the goods the men produce."

In a word, to Mr. Olds, industry has no obligation to provide jobs. To expect the capitalist system to abolish unemployment is to make a silly fuss. There has always been unemployment under capitalism—so why talk about its falling down? There has always been unemployment because privately owned industry employs men only when there is a profitable market for its product.

That's the answer of a top-notch industrialist to the unemployment question: IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN—IT ALWAYS WILL BE—UNDER CAPITALISM!

By his brutal frankness Mr. Olds illuminates the falseness of all the "plans" that come from those who profess it is possible to "reform" capitalism. For as long as industry is owned by the class typified by the United States Steel Corporation and Mr. Olds, they are the ones who determine how industry will function.

'SIMPLE AND FUNDAMENTAL'

Mr. Olds made the position of the industrial masters very clear and concrete for he went on to point out that "it costs United States Steel, for example, around \$5,000,000 a day to carry on its present daily output—an outgo it couldn't stand many days if there were no income."

By "income" Mr. Olds, of course, means PROFIT—and he doesn't mean any old kind of profit either!

The financial editor of the New York Sun comments very sharply and briefly on Mr. Olds's statement: "That all is very SIMPLE AND FUNDAMENTAL, but a powerful lot of people either don't understand it or don't wish to admit that they do."

Now everything is settled. Unemployment is "very simple and fundamental." All that is necessary is to "understand" this.

What have LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party to say about this simplicity and fundamentalism of capitalism?

First of all, they do indeed admit that it is fantastic to expect the United States Steel Corporation or any other private enterprise to lay out \$5,000,000 OR \$5 A DAY to run its plants so that workers may have jobs.

But LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party do not admit that for this reason unemployment is inevitable. They do not admit this because the United States Steel Corporation and private ownership of industry are not inevitable, not ordained to everlasting life.

On the contrary, LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party point out that the capitalist system is doomed to go down in defeat. It is doomed exactly because, as Mr. Olds states, it is based on "a ready sale for goods" rather than THE HUMAN NEED FOR GOODS.

The human need for goods never ceases—even though the money to buy goods may be lacking. FULL EMPLOYMENT, THEREFORE, WILL RESULT WHEN INDUSTRY IS RUN TO FULFILL HUMAN NEEDS. And labor will fight till it wins this objective!

RELIEVE MR. OLDS AND U. S. STEEL

The idea is to relieve United States Steel Corporation and Mr. Olds of their RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE PROFITS OUT OF INDUSTRY. The idea is to nationalize all industry and place it under the direct control of qualified workers' committees. The idea is that men and women can be fully employed in producing the never-ceasing needs of the population—with no concern about profits out of sales. The idea is that men, women and children can consume and enjoy everything that is produced by hand and brain, limited only by their capacity to produce.

It is for this that a workers' government must be formed. A workers' government will set itself the task of ending the capitalist system which—as frankly admitted by the capitalists themselves—has no solution for unemployment!

The admission of top capitalists that their system cannot provide security for the workers is an admission of abysmal failure and defeat, from the workers' point of view. At the same time it is a challenge to the workers to take over production themselves for the benefit of the whole people.

The fight for the thirty-hour week, to provide more jobs, is a fight in this direction. The fight to prevent government war plants from being turned over to private industry is also a fight in this direction. These plants must not be shut down for lack of "sales" but held as public property and operated by the workers to produce civilian goods. The demands for a peacetime public improvement program to equal the enormous war program is in the right direction.

All these things the workers will be able to accomplish only by and for themselves, as they end their dependence on the capitalist class—as they break with the Siamese-twin political parties of the capitalist class—as they strike out on the path of independent political action through an Independent Labor Party.

This is the path leading to a workers' government, to the end of capitalism, to the permanent solution of the unemployment question.

Peasants Rebel In China

By L. K. LOW

According to a news item in "Amerasia" (March 3), a peasant rebellion involving one million people has been going on in Kansu, China, since February, 1943. The Kansu peasants are fighting against the provincial governor, Ku Cheng-lun, and the forces of Chiang Kai-shek's First Army have been sent in to suppress them.

The grievances of the peasants are: excessive taxation in kind, the forceful and undemocratic system of military conscription, and the onerous method of labor conscription whereby every four families must provide the government with the work of one man each day, together with implements, mules, etc. Although armed only with ancient rifles and other antiquated equipment, the peasants have so far been able to resist Chiang Kai-shek's crack troops.

Kansu is one of the three Northwest provinces (Kansu, Ninghsia, Shensi) in the border region where the Chinese Communists set up their government during the period of struggle with Chiang Kai-shek.

In the summer of 1943, five divisions of Chiang Kai-shek's best troops were moved to the border between Szechuan and the Northwest provinces. The inference generally made at the time was that these troops were sent to guard against the armies of the Chinese Communists. However, in the light of the "Amerasia" report, it is clear that it is not the Chinese Communists whom Chiang Kai-shek fears.

According to "Amerasia," not only are the Chinese Communists not leading the peasant revolt but they are actually trying to aid the central government to suppress it.

Between 1928 and 1935, the Chinese Communists, in line with the international policy of Moscow, led the peasant war against Chiang Kai-shek. In 1935 the policy of the Popular Front was introduced. The Chinese Communists made a complete about-face and called for national unity with Chiang Kai-shek against Japan. The price of national unity was retreat from the economic and political reforms which the Chinese Communists were beginning to introduce into the areas which they controlled.

Now the Chinese Communists are learning that large masses of people cannot be so easily manipulated according to the zig-zag policies dictated by Stalin. Kansu has a history of many bloody rebellions, the last only a few years before the war. Today, because of Kansu's importance as a link with Russia, the rebellion of the Kansu peasants takes on added significance.

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