

"Workers of All Lands Unite"

SOCIALIST APPEAL

ORGAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY
BRITISH SECTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

FEBRUARY, 1946.

TWOPENCE

TRADE DISPUTES ACT TO BE REPEALED

THE INFAMOUS AND VICIOUS TRADES DISPUTES ACT (1927) IS TO BE REPEALED.

Every section of the working class movement will welcome this really important blow at Tory reaction. There are few measures that the Labour Government takes to which we Trotskyists can give wholehearted support. The Repeal of the Trade Disputes Act is one of them.

We are 100% behind the Labour Government in this step.

Introduced by the Tory reaction as revenge for the General Strike of 1926, the Trade Disputes Act was a tremendous blow at the democratic rights of organised Labour. Its principal aim was to legalise political strikes and thus hamstring the workers from sympathetic strikes of a widespread character, which could be said to coerce the Government.

The Act sought to split the organised working class by denying the Civil Servants the right to affiliate to the Trade Union Congress, the Labour Party or any other political body. It restricted the right to picket and undermined the enforcement of the political levy.

For 18 years this Act has dangled as a sword over the head of the working class.

TROTSKYISTS PROSECUTED UNDER ACT

We Trotskyists were the first, and the only section of the Labour movement to be prosecuted under this infamous Act. Comrades Ann Keen, Heaton Lee, Roy Tearse and Jock Haston, members of the R.C.P., were arrested in connection with the strike of apprentices that began on the Tyneside and spread to the Clyde and several other industrial areas. This strike was aimed against the unpopular Bevin Ballot conscription for pit labour.

Our comrades were charged under the Trade Disputes Act with "inciting, aiding and abetting", and "act-

ing in furtherance of an illegal strike" and tried in the now historic Newcastle trial. Here they used the courtroom to expose the reactionary character of this Act, to expose the hopeless muddle in the coal-mining industry demanding nationalisation without compensation and the operation of the pits under workers control, as the solution to the coal crisis instead of Bevin's Ballot Scheme.

They were found guilty of only one of the charges levelled against them—that of "acting in furtherance of an illegal strike". After spending almost three months in jail, awaiting trial and serving sentence they were released when the Court of Criminal Appeal quashed the conviction against them on the grounds that the Judge had misdirected the Jury on the legal interpretation of "furtherance of an illegal strike."

This was one of the few but really important legal victories in working class history defining the precise usage of the terms associated with numerous anti-Labour Laws.

The Tories will try their utmost to keep this law on the Statute books, to amend the Act of Repeal and keep as much as they can. But it does not seem that they can succeed. The pressure from the Trade Unions is too great for the Government to capitulate on this question.

REPEAL OTHER ANTI-LABOUR LAWS

In welcoming the end of the Trade Disputes Act the workers must remember that it was a legal enactment formulated by the most class conscious capitalist politicians and was aimed to destroy working class democratic rights. There are still plenty of equally reactionary laws, such as the Seditious Act, on the Statutes. These also must be repealed.

DAIMLER STRIKE

BY BILL HUNTER

OVER 2,000 DAIMLER WORKERS IN COVENTRY CAME OUT ON STRIKE ON JANUARY 21st AGAINST THE MANAGEMENT'S ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE EXISTING AGREEMENTS. THE CONVENOR HAS BEEN AUTHORISED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH CONVENORS OF OTHER FACTORIES IN THE CITY OF COVENTRY, TO ASK THEM TO CALL A TOKEN STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF THE DAIMLER WORKERS.

Armstrong Siddeley and Morris workers are levying themselves 2/6 per week per worker in support of the Daimler workers.

STATEMENT OF THE DAIMLER COMPANY STRIKE COMMITTEE

23rd January, 1946.

For several months we have been faced with subtle attempts by the Management to undermine the conditions we obtained both before the introduction of the National Arbitration Award No. 326 and also on Agreements we have reached since that time.

Rate fixers have repeatedly induced men to carry on with a job with promises of a final settlement and on the completion of the job given various hourly rates from 1/9d. to 3/- per hour. This obviously caused confusion in addition to extra work on the part of the Shop Stewards.

We, therefore, decided to ask for the consolidation of the 20/- make up into the Base Rate in the belief that we could then reach a standard basis for fixing prices and also obtain a standard figure for any type of job done on a daywork system.

It may be asked why we have not taken this matter through the channels of procedure with such a strong case in our possession and this leads up to our second claim. It is well-known that the Daimler have acquired a short term lease on the Browns Lane Government Establishment and all speed is being put on to get the Bus work from the Parent Firm to this factory. Again it must be obvious that the time taken through procedure would react against us and enable the Manage-

ment to put the transfer programme into full effect and thus leave us weakened or possibly non-existent at the Main Works.

We have, therefore, requested that when jobs or machines are trans-

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15,000 AIRMEN IN PROTEST STRIKE

Say "Ships for Blighty, Not for Java"

BY A. MAXEY (Ex R.A.F. Sgt.)

15,000 AIRMEN, INVOLVING AT LEAST 12 R.A.F. STATIONS IN THE MIDDLE AND FAR EAST HAVE STAGED A MAGNIFICENT DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE SLOW RATE OF DEMOBILISATION.

Although this is the main issue, the demonstrations are a culmination of grievances on the part of servicemen arising from the conditions in which they are forced to live. Among these grievances are shortage of rations, clothing, and comforts in some places consequent on overcrowding, unbearable climatic conditions—all this added to the general irritation of overseas service.

Added to these complaints which arise out of their daily life the R.A.F. conscripts are protesting at the role of British troops in the colonial areas. This is clear from the entirely political and anti-imperialist slogan raised by some of the strikers: "SHIPS FOR BLIGHTY—NOT FOR JAVA." British servicemen don't want to be used as S.S. in the colonies.

To blame these strikes onto "mis-guided minorities" and "strike promoters" as intimated by A.V.M. Sir Keith Park in official despatches from South East Asia has that old and familiar hackneyed ring. It was the same story that was trotted out against the coal miners, engineers and dockers. But if it failed in its aim to arouse popular hostility to these sections of the working class in war time, it will fail even more miserably to do so against the uniformed workers now that the war is over. For there is an almost universal feeling that the lads should be brought back home.

The press reports show that the airmen conducted themselves in a calm and orderly manner. Having participated in one of the first of the R.A.F. demob demonstrations at Aden, on Sept 9th last year, I have personal experience of the orderly manner in which the service-men conduct their protest.

The "Daily Express", 29.1.46, however, features the beating up of a few

strike-breakers with the object of exposing the strikers as a vicious and unruly mob. The Beaverbrook press has been sufficiently discredited in the General Election for notice to be taken of this anti-Labour sensation mongering.

In the days when a serviceman was considered to be a brainless marching and fighting machine, strikes of the present character would have been put down with a real Tory viciousness. But those days are gone—at least for the present. An entire transformation of outlook has taken place among the mass of the workers and middle class.

With a Labour Government in power and subject to popular pressure the Colonel Bimps who would like to deal with the strikers in the tough old way, are forced to grind their teeth and let an extra glass of whisky muffle their threats.

The alarm of the Labour leaders at the spread of these strikes and the pressure from the officer caste has finally forced the Cabinet to declare that strikes in the R.A.F. or any other service must be regarded as mutiny.

But any attempt at old-fashioned repressions and savage sentences would meet with immediate and widespread public protest and to sympathetic (and therefore more dangerous—for the Government), strikes.

For that reason it is unlikely that we

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LIST OF STATIONS AFFECTED

SELETA, Singapore
LAHORE, India
CAWNPORE, India
DUM-DUM, India
POONA, India
ALLAHABAD, India
MADRAS, India
MAURIPUR, India
PALAM, India
KANSHPUR, India
ALMAZA, Egypt
LYDDA, Palestine

PRESS SILENT ON MOSCOW NUREMBERG LINK-UP

RUDOLPH HESS

The leading spokesman of the Russian delegation to U.N.O. is now Comrade Vishinsky, ex-Menshevik and former opponent of the Bolsheviks, who has found high favour and a very good living in the Russia of Stalin.

He is familiar to us in another role: as the man who prosecuted and sent to their death the majority of Lenin's comrades in arms in the Russian Revolution during the infamous Moscow trials.

The capitalist press has almost un-animously recited that Vishinsky was a famous prosecutor. They have mentioned him in connection with the trial of Metro-Vickers agents in 1933. But not a whisper about the role of Vishinsky in the most sensational trials that have ever been staged—the Moscow trials.

Even A. J. Cummings who had a lot to say on the Moscow trials as an anti-Bolshevik and pro-Stalinist had a conveniently blank memory on this occasion. Was it because of the embarrassing questions that would immediately spring to the mind of his readers if he dared to mention the Moscow trials?

The alleged evidence upon which the cream of Lenin's Political Bureau were convicted and slaughtered by Stalin was that these old Bolsheviks made a deal with Hitler and the Nazis. That they were plotting against the Soviet Union together with the Nazis!

Now, it is possible to test the truth of the alleged evidence presented at the Moscow trials in the Capital at Nuremberg. All the Nazi conspiracies it is claimed by the British, American, French and Russian Governments, are being brought out into the light of day.

Every National daily and Political weekly received copies of the letters from the Secretary of the R.C.P., Comrade Jock Haston, to the Prime Minister; to Hartley Shawcross—the British prosecuting counsel at Nuremberg and to the Russian prosecutor, recalling the confessions made in the Moscow trials and demanding that these confessions be verified or refuted by the evidence now in the hands of the Allied intelligence at Nuremberg. But our letters were met with a conspiracy of silence.

On page 4 we publish the letter



DEMAND THE EVIDENCE

"The principles of this agreement, as Trotsky related, were finally elaborated and adopted during Trotsky's meeting with Hitler's deputy, Hess." — VERBATIM REPORT. MOSCOW TRIALS.

from Comrade Haston to Major Atlee and his reply.

Here we will conclude by asking Vishinsky who will read this issue of the "Socialist Appeal", why don't you complete your task of 1936-1937 and 1938 when you sent to their death the Old Bolsheviks, and prove at Nuremberg your foul slander that Trotsky the false evidence you presented at Moscow will not stand the slightest independent investigation?

Worker? We ask the questions: Why don't you, who were so eager to slander the Trotskyists as Hitler's agents, answer our letter on the Moscow-Nuremberg trials? Why are you so silent about the alleged link-up between Trotsky and Hess at the present moment? Why don't you demand, together with the Trotskyists, that for the sake of justice and historical truth, a special committee of working class representatives be set up, to investigate in public during the trial at Nuremberg, the alleged connection which you were writing about only a few years ago?

CRISIS IN FRANCE

BY D. JAMES

WHAT LIES BEHIND GENERAL DE GAULLE'S RESIGNATION? IS IT TRUE THAT HE IS TIRED OF THE CONTINUOUS POLITICAL BICKERING AND IS RETIRING FROM POLITICS ALTOGETHER.

We can say straight away: this decision was not a personal whim of the General. As Franco's "saviour" he has been too valuable to the French ruling class, one of the few means left to them to gain popular support. They would never have allowed him to resign if it had not suited their interests.

It is, then, a manoeuvre by the French capitalist class. To understand why they had recourse to such a dramatic step it is necessary to look a little at the background and recent history of the crisis.

THE BACKGROUND — BREAD RIOTS AND STRIKES

One thing dominates, and in the last analysis determines the French political crisis, and that is the terrible economic chaos and disruption. One of the most important elements in this is the lack of coal. Although French coal production is now practically at its pre-war level, there is a great deficit because of the 20 million tons which France used to import annually. Only a tiny fraction is imported now. The position is aggravated because reconstruction requires much greater imports (some estimate 100 million tons annually). As a result, the factories now work only a 3-day week. Lack of industrial production, and lack of transport have aggravated the already grave food position. The peasants sell to the black market, i.e. to the rich. The workers and small employers go without...

The result is bread riots, and widespread strikes. It is entirely appropriate that the latest governmental crisis should have coincided with a printers strike that made it impossible for the population to know what was

going on: the economic and political factors fusing, as it were, into one great crisis.

Only a Government prepared to take heroic measures could face up to such a situation. But the elections in October prepared all the conditions for a state of permanent political crisis. The three great parties, the M.R.P. (Catholic "Radicals") and the Socialist and Communist Parties, each of approximately equal strength, almost entirely compose the Constituent Assembly. At the same time the plebiscite placed great authority in the hands of deGaulle; since the reply to the second question whether the Constituent Assembly should be fully sovereign or whether the Prime Minister (elected by the Assembly) should have certain powers of legislation independent of the Assembly, was overwhelmingly in favour of the latter. The Assembly has a life of 7 months in which it must draft a Constitution, then there will be a general election.

THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AND DE GAULLE

The formation of the first Government in November, was accompanied by a crisis which showed up the roles of the three parties and deGaulle.

The General was elected Premier, and assumed the task of forming a Government. The three parties all supported a mild reformist programme, drawn up by the National Council of Resistance during the war, which did not go beyond the confines of capitalism. But the formation of a three-party Government, theoretically easy, was in practice very difficult. The M.R.P. fearful of the Communist Party's influence, wanted

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U.S. WORKERS' PICKET LINE -- 1946 MODEL



Part of the giant barricade of autos, trucks and buses which the workers of Windsor, Ontario, established last week to successfully block the use of police forces to smash mass picket lines which the 10,000 striking Automobile workers (C.I.O.) have maintained for more than 2 months around Ford plants. This blockade on Riverside Avenue is over a mile long. (See back page.)

THE CASE OF CALTABIANO

BY D. JAMES

As reported in the "Times", 25.1.46:

"Mr. FOOT (Plymouth, Devonport, Lab.) asked the Home Secretary for what purpose the rooms of Adolfo Caltabiano, of Nassington Road, N.W.3, were lately raided by the police."

Mr. EDE.—My information is that there has been no such raid, (Laughter.)

Mr. Foot.—If there was no raid there must have been a burglary, and will the Home Secretary undertake an inquiry into this case to ensure that both in the case of the alleged raid and the burglary there has been no political victimization? Mr. EDE.—No, I have made inquiries. The police called at this gentleman's address in October, 1945, to make enquiries about a ferocious dog, (Laughter.) A summons was issued and the matter would have come before the court, but unfortunately the gentleman was certified insane. (Loud and prolonged laughter.)

Mr. FOOT.—Is the Home Secretary aware that the landlady, who has certainly not been certified as insane, alleges that some political literature was taken away, and that this gentleman now being carried off to some mental home is, in fact, a highly respectable person who advocates the highly respectable creed of anarchism? (Laughter.) Will the Home Secretary make further inquiries to ensure that his department does carry out the principles of tolerance to which he has paid tribute? Mr. EDE.—I have made the most careful inquiries from the moment that my hon. friend's question appeared on the Paper. I am satisfied that the answer I gave is correct, and I regret to say

that a great many very respectable people are, in fact, from time to time certified insane. (Laughter.)

Mr. FOOT gave notice that he would raise the matter on the adjournment.

CHUTER EDE'S "JOKE"

Leaving aside the question of taste—jokes about mental disorders are in these enlightened days, frowned upon in any respectable music hall—it may come as a surprise to many people to learn that the self-satisfied humour of these "workers' representatives" was in fact a cynical cover to one of the most disgraceful cases of political persecution in recent times.

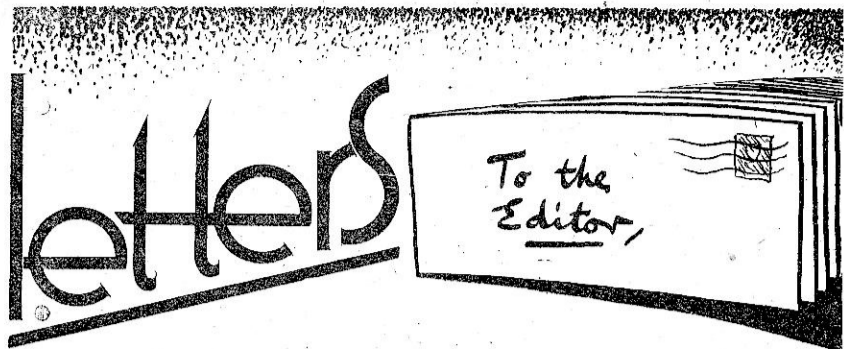
Adolfo Caltabiano is an old militant anti-Fascist, a Sicilian. After years of persecution by Mussolini's police, after fighting as a Captain in the Spanish Republican Navy in the war against Franco, and wandering through Europe as a political refugee, he came to this country in 1940. He was interned—as an anti-Fascist—some time before Italy entered the war. After his release he continued political activity, which frequently brought him into collision with the authorities. He has demanded to be allowed to return to Italy ever since the invasion of Sicily, but this has been consistently refused.

As a consistent Anarchist, fighting against "all forms of Government", he has denounced at the hypocrisy of the ruling classes.

ARRESTED AT HYDE PARK

Recently he has been arrested no less than five times in the course of police raids on the sellers of political

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SOLDIER IN BATAVIA

The letter printed below in part is the reaction of a non-political soldier who is being compelled to wage war by the British Labour Government against the Indonesian people on behalf of Dutch Imperialism.

Of course, he does not understand the bitterness of the Indonesian people who have broken the chains of Dutch colonial slavery. Ill-armed and ill-equipped, they have resorted to desperate measures of guerilla war against the policy of reprisals and razing of entire villages a la Hitler, by the British authorities. They prefer to die in unequal combat rather than accept submission to foreign imperialist yoke.

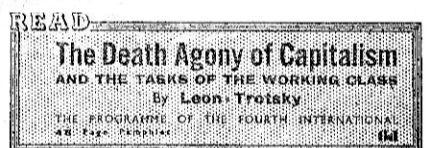
Here we see the beginnings of the disillusionment with the Labour Government. Labour workers! Demand the withdrawal of the troops from Java! Let the Indonesian people decide their own fate!—Ed.

December, 1945.

Dear B... Now that I have heard from you I am glad to see that you are O.K. I am O.K. myself so far, but the way these uncivilised people carry on I never know just when my game is going to be ended. I am not kidding you B... I have never prayed so often in my life as I am doing now. You have no idea just how the silly British Government were fooled into this mess. We came here to disarm the Japs and while we were here the yellow Dutch asked us to protect their women and kids as they were being murdered by gangs of hoodlums.

But we weren't long here until we learned the bitter truth, that instead of having to fight hoodlums we were up against a well organised party of uncivilised people who had been downtrodden by the Dutch for years. So we have been well and truly left

I suppose in a way we were lucky in being sent to Batavia instead of any of the central towns as the Indian troops and Artillery in these



NOW FOR THE FIGHTING FUND

256 Harrow Road, London, W.2.

DEAR COMRADES,

The Finance Committee is proud of the response to the £500 Expansion Campaign Fund, which exceeded the target by £171 17s. 9d. Indeed, the self sacrifice of our members and sympathisers is a demonstration that our movement will grow and expand its forces in the teeth of all difficulties and obstacles.

Our chief task now, is to stabilise the finances of our Party and its Press around a regular source of income which will enable us to retain the achievements of the Expansion Campaign Fund. In other words, we require the systematic collection of money for the upkeep of the Party; the main burden of which should be shared with our sympathisers who pay in normal contributions to the Party Funds. The keynote is, therefore, a continuation of the Expansion Fund. Since the Expansion Fund concluded, the flow of money to the centre has fallen drastically. It is not enough to have periodic bursts, but sustained effort is necessary.

For this purpose we are aiming at building a regular Fighting Fund of £150 a month. As a start, we propose setting the target of £250 to be collected over a period of two months. The closing date will be April 6th. The backbone of the collections will be through the medium of "Special Subscribers' Cards" for the "Socialist Appeal". These cards will be designed for recording the regular donations from friends of the Party and the "Socialist Appeal" Local Branches will be made responsible for distributing the cards and collecting the money. All monies collected by each Branch will naturally go to its particular target figure.

Here is an opportunity for our friends and sympathisers to render

places have had to come through HELL and have lost a big number of men.

But what gets me B... is the fact that people back home don't seem to be aware of our predicament and you can rest assured that the Government won't enlighten them any. In a way, of course, I am glad as my wife would worry herself to death if she really knew just how much danger I am really in. She is bad enough now with what little news is in the Bighty papers and keeps on telling me to take care of myself (as if she needs to tell me!)

I have just got to tell her lies every time I write to her, so I wish to God we were out of the whole thing as I will be a nervous wreck if it lasts much longer. I am afraid to sleep at nights in case we are attacked. We have lost a few men ourselves since we came here. In fact B... the night I received your letter one of our Corporals went out and has never been seen since. I tried my best to keep him in that night as he was H... of a drunk, but he wouldn't listen to me and now he has gone for ever. And he isn't the first to go out like that B...

So you can see for yourself just how lucky you were in not being sent to the Seaforts. I will close now B... so when you pray put in a word for me as I certainly need it. So write to me straight away B... and let me know how things are with (lucky) you

Your old pal, B...

CORRECTION

Newcastle-on-Tyne, 21.1.46.

To the "Socialist Appeal".

Dear Comrade, I wish to draw your attention to faulty proofing in the January issue of the "Socialist Appeal". In the article of D. James, on page 4, there appears a lengthy quotation from Karl Marx's work "The Critique of the Gotha Programme itself. The quote begins in Column 3 with a comment by Marx from the Gotha Programme itself, and ends on Column 2, line 2. Because of the faulty proofing this is not clear and it can even be deduced (falsely) that Comrade James thinks Marx not only wrote "The Critique of the Gotha Programme", but also the Programme itself.

Ted Phillips.

Comrade Phillips is correct, and we apologise to our readers for the faulty proofing.

Clyde Builders Demo

Demand Workers Control

BY R. TEARSE

FOLLOWING UPON THE MASS MEETING CALLED BY THE GLASGOW BUILDING WORKERS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, AND HELD ON JANUARY 6th (REPORTED IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE "SOCIALIST APPEAL") A HALF-DAY TOKEN STRIKE AND DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16th.

All the important building sites in Glasgow and the surrounding Lanarkshire districts were stopped, and despite intensely cold weather more than 1,500 workers marched through the streets of Glasgow to a final rallying meeting. (It is estimated by the "Daily Express" that at the moment little more than approximately 3,500 workers are engaged in the building industry in Glasgow)

The importance of this demonstration lies largely in the fact that it occurred immediately after the announcement of the recent wage increase of 3d. per hour (4d. for English workers). And there can be no doubt that from the point of view of the organisers of the demonstration it was a success, as the recent increase would have the effect of dampening the militancy to a certain extent.

The mood of the demonstrators was unmistakably clear, and when this is considered side by side with the magnificent spirit shown by the London workers in recent months, it constitutes a warning to the Building

employers and the Union leadership that they will not be allowed to trifle much longer with the demands of the building rank and file.

MILITANT SLOGANS AND BANNERS

Emulating their London Brothers, the demonstrators headed the procession with a coffin, inscribed with the words "The only Contented Building Worker". This was followed by banners carrying slogans, taken from their policy adopted at the mass meeting. Some of the most outstanding were: "3/6 per hour for Tradesmen, 2/6 for Labourers and the Guaranteed Week of 44 hours", "Nationalisation without Compensation", "Workers Control", "End the Industrial Truce", "Payment by Results for T.U. Officials Only", "We Want a National Rank and File Committee", "One Union for All Building Workers", etc. etc.

Three deputations were sent from the demonstration to the Secretary of the Employers Federation, (Scotland)

who refused to deal with "unofficial" bodies; the Glasgow Corporation Housing Convener, whom they failed to contact; and McTaggart, the Secretary of the N.F.B.T.O. (Scotland). The attitude of the latter was interesting. The deputation reported a friendly reception, no doubt due to a recognition of the determined mood of the workers and an unhealthy recollection of the manner in which Copdock was forced to climb down in London.

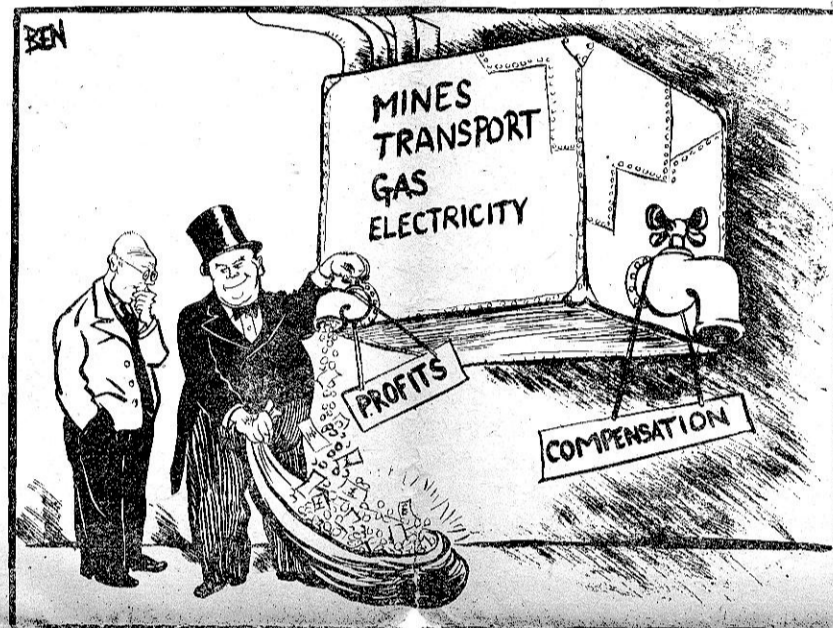
OFFICIALS FEAR MILITANCY

Invited to come and state his position to the demonstration, McTaggart refused to do so. His reason was that he would thereby jeopardise pending negotiations with the employers! As though the best argument to present to any body of employers is not the solid backing of the rank and file.

The truth is that these "leaders", undoubtedly feel more at home in the company of the employers than the rank and file of their own Unions, are reluctant to face the rank and file, especially when in such a determined mood. Any fighting Union leader would have come to the rank and file, taken up their demands, and said to the employers, "grant them, or else". Who could doubt that they would receive the overwhelming support of the building workers, and indeed, the other sections of the working class?

It was significant that the local and national newspapers played down this demonstration, after having given great publicity a few days earlier to a trade by McTaggart against this rank and file movement.

But the rank and file have not yet said the last word. The spokesman of the Campaign Committee, Bro. McGuinness, pointed out, amid tremendous acclamation, that this was only the beginning and that now, after having made their position clear, their immediate task was to get down to the organisation of a solid rank and file movement. Thus, they could transform the present ad hoc body into a really representative committee, covering every building worker in Glasgow and district, linking themselves up with the building workers in other districts and thus equip themselves thoroughly for a determined, united, struggle against their abominable conditions.



"AFTER NATIONALISATION WE'LL USE THE OTHER TAP"

SHINWELL'S IDEA OF NATIONALISATION

BY J. DEANE

"Nationalisation is not intended primarily to benefit the miner. There is the coal consumer to be considered, the interests of the nation, our export trade, and all that." So spoke Mr. Shinwell, "Socialist" Minister of Fuel and Power, in Glasgow on January 17th.

In simple language this statement means that the coal industry is not being nationalised in the interest of the miners and workers who placed the Labour Government in power, but in the interest of the capitalists and industrialists. By the "coal consumer" is not meant the worker-consumer, but the big industrial consumers who will sit on the Consumer's Council and have a directing influence upon the administration of the mines.

Speaking a few days later to the American Chamber of Commerce in London Mr. Shinwell placed his finger on the issue. He said: "We have to cheapen the cost of production because this industry ministers to the needs of the basic element of production." Shinwell thus makes it clear that the Nationalisation Bill is a state-capitalist measure, dictated by the needs of capitalist economy. The nationalisation, reorganisation, and consequent increased production,

will mean cheaper coal. The export industries, particularly the steel and auxiliary industries, will buy coal at a cheaper price and will therefore be able to reduce the price of export commodities and compete more efficiently on the world capitalist market. This is "primarily" the purpose of the Nationalisation Bill.

Let there be doubt that the needs and conditions of the miners were the last consideration in the Nationalisation Bill, Mr. Shinwell again stated in his speech to the American Chamber of Commerce:

"But there must be a proviso that such cheapening must be consistent, so far as practicable, with decent and human standards of living for those employed in the industry."

COAL-OWNERS COMPENSATED

If one considers that the cost of the nationalisation scheme, to be paid from public taxes, will be in the region of £20 millions a year, and that £150 millions will be loaned to the Coal Board from the proceeds of the industry. To pay these fabulous sums and at the same time reduce the price of coal for industries and export can only mean increased sweat for the miners.

Precisely here is the role of the traitorous union leaderships. The leadership of the Mineworkers' Union has undertaken the production drive on behalf of the Government. Horner, a "Communist", is the Dr. Ley! The miners are to be exhorted to increase their already inhuman sweating—for the benefit of capitalist industry and the coal owners who are guaranteed a profit of £9½ millions a year in the form of compensation.

CAPITALIST MANAGERS TO STAY

The entire administration is, according to Mr. Shinwell, "to be in the hands of a business corporation, administering this great national industry for the public well-being." "This is to be a fair field for men of business capacity and other quali-

fications." The mines will not only minister to the needs of capitalist industry but it will remain in the controlling hands of capitalist managers and technicians.

Small wonder that the coal-owners have accepted the Government's Nationalisation Bill! Their only demand is that compensation should be paid in cash and not Government bonds. Not a thing is to be changed—except that the whole burden, the whole cost of reorganisation and the production of cheaper coal is placed on the shoulders of the miners and the workers as a whole.

"UNOFFICIAL DISPUTES TO STOP" — SHINWELL

All the disciplinary measures necessary to drive the miners will be (Continued in next Column.)

Revolutionary Communist Programme

1. Nationalisation, of the Bank of England, the Big Five Banks and land, the mines, transport and all big industry without compensation; and the operation of these enterprises under the control of workers' committees.
2. Confiscation of all war profits; all company books to be open to inspection by trade unions and workers' committees to counter the financial and economic sabotage of Big Business.
3. Distribution of food, clothes, fuel and other consumers' goods in short supply under the control of committees elected from the co-ops, distributive trades, factories, housewives and small shop-keepers.
4. The control and allocation of existing housing space in the hands of tenants' committees; a state financed national house-building plan directed by the building trades unions and tenants committees.
5. A rising scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum and full maintenance for the unemployed; turnover of Government and other war plants to the production of consumers' goods; a sliding scale of hours to absorb the unemployed without wage reductions.
6. Abolition of the Monarchy and the House of Lords; full electoral rights from the age of 18 years; and full political rights for men and women in the forces; the immediate repeal of the Trade Disputes Act and all other strike breaking and anti-labour laws.
7. Clear out the reactionary anti-labour officer caste from the armed forces; for the election of officers from the ranks.
8. Abolish conscription; for the dissolution of the standing army and its substitution by a workers' militia organised under control of workers' committees; for the establishment of military schools by the Trade Unions at the expense of the State for the training of worker officers.
9. Unconditional defence of the Soviet Union against all imperialist powers; full economic co-operation, credit grants and other aid for the reconstruction of Soviet economy.
10. Full and immediate freedom for India and the other colonies to choose their own form of government; the immediate withdrawal of British troops from all colonial countries.
11. Against secret diplomacy and a peace of vengeance and plunder; against race hatred—anti-semitism, Vansittartism and the colour bar; for the withdrawal of British troops from Europe and Asia and for a peace based upon the self-determination of the peoples of Europe, Asia and the World.
12. Full support and active co-operation with the European workers for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of the United Socialist States of Europe; unity with the workers and exploited masses of all lands in the struggle for World Socialism.

used by the Labour Government. Foreseeing an increase in miners' strikes against low wages and filthy conditions, Mr. Shinwell, in his Glasgow speech stated: "I consider that unofficial disputes should stop. I am contemplating as a last resort drastic action."

The present Nationalisation Bill of the Labour Government, in no way differs from the measures taken in other capitalist countries—including Germany. It is a measure dictated by the needs of capitalism and has nothing in common with socialism.

Only the operation of this industry under workers' control and the abolition of compensation can solve the problems of the coal industry and better the conditions of the miners and the working class.

"BECOME A MINER."

The following is a translation of a letter from a Belgian miner to "La Lutte Ouvriere", Belgian Trotskyist paper. It seems to be an echo of the antics of the Will Lawthers of this country:

"Become a Miner" — A Super Cynical Film

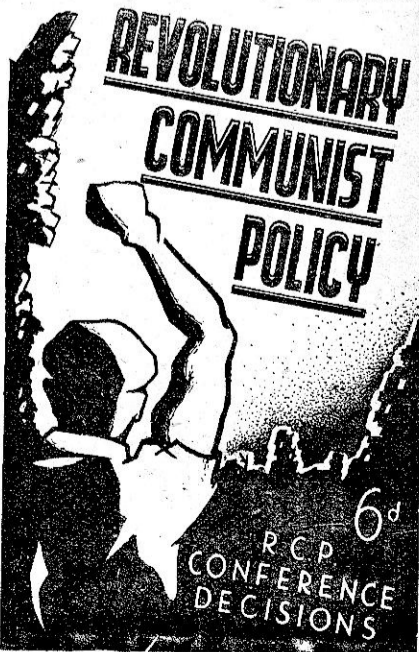
Comrades, At the instigation of the Stalinist party the Van Acker government has released a film entitled "Become a Miner". On December 5th, this film was shown at the "Trianon" cinema at Charleroi, and provoked hoofs and protestations from the audience.

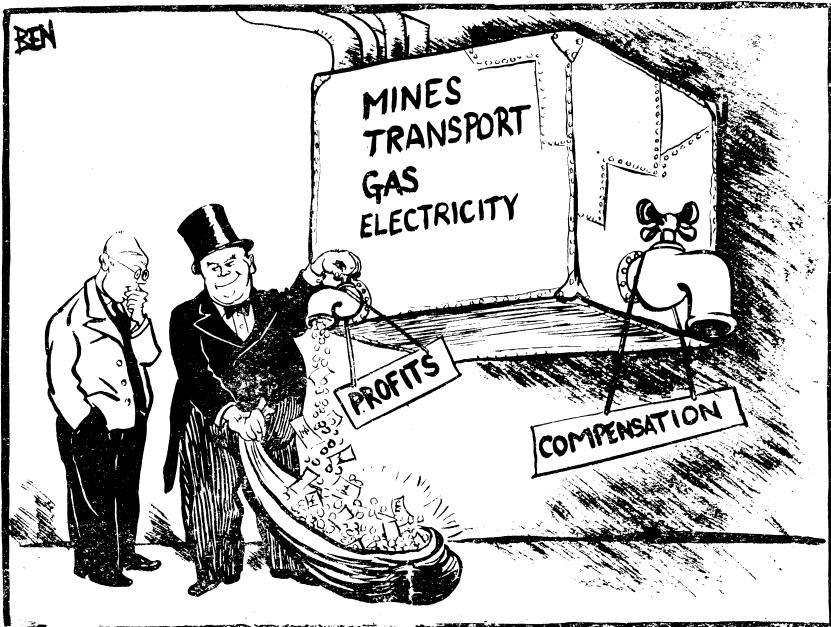
With the most complete cynicism this film "illustrates" in effect the "prosperity of the miner". To entice the workers to the mines it shows the miners' families living very happily in pretty little villas, and earning wages that enable them

to enjoy a comfortable standard of living. But the majority of the spectators were, like myself miners. Far often than not they live in hovels, or in shanties dating from the other war. Their children are puny, as a result of the privations imposed on them by the system of exploitation under which the miners are forced to work.

Though still young, the greater part of the miner-audience would be forced into disablement pension at an early age, at rates that still would not enable them to have necessary attention. But the film showed nothing of all this!

The show finished with some songs rendered by employees of the Ministry of Labour, dressed as mine workers de luxe. But this get-up will be part of their expenses — because the hall emptied. . . . A. BAEYENS, GILY.





**“ AFTER NATIONALISATION WE’LL USE THE
OTHER TAP ”**

SOCIALIST APPEAL
 Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International.
 256 HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W.2
 Phone: CUN 2526.
 EDITOR: E. Grant.
 BUSINESS MANAGER: Ann Keen.

U.N.O. THIEVES KITCHEN

- The first assembly of the so-called "United Nations Organisation", now meeting in London was designed to inspire the peoples of the "victorious" nations that their rulers are seriously and genuinely bent on solving the problems of the world and achieving world peace.
- Tories and Liberals, Labourites and Stalinists — all vie with each other in proclaiming the new future for mankind that opened up with the creation of the United Nations Organisation.
- But from the first few days it has become clear — even to the self-blinded — that the "United Nations" are not so united after all. Indeed, that they are disunited over quite a number of problems. The hopes of the masses are being replaced by scepticism.
- Lenin called the League of Nations, forerunner of U.N.O., a "Thieves Kitchen". The same can be readily said of U.N.O. The addition of Russia does not transform the character of the new Thieves Kitchen.
- U.N.O. is a continuation of the war alliance between America, Russia and Britain. The satellite states are brought into the Assembly, not to decide the fate of the world on the basis of a free and equal vote, but for stage effect. Nothing more. The same economic and military pressure is brought into play as before the war to keep the small states in line on all important questions.
- The real functions of U.N.O., which excludes not only the ex-enemy states, but the majority of neutrals, is not to preserve world peace, but to parcel out the spheres of influence, control of territories and economic pickings that accrue to the victors in the World War just concluded.
- Power lies in the Security Council, and not in the Assembly. More exactly: in the hands of the Big Three, rather than in the Security Council. All the principal questions are solved behind the scenes by the Big Three, in secret discussions. Only minor questions of detail not always possible to solve quietly and amicably behind closed doors are brought out into public for an airing.
- Such was the case when Persia, pushed on by Britain, raised the question of Russian troops and the activities of the Russian Government in the Province of Azerbaijan. Such was the case when the Stalinist delegates countered by raising the question of the activities of British troops in Greece and Java.
- Despite the bluster of Bevin, the Russian action was a strong moral blow at Britain. The fact that the Russian delegates raised the activities of British troops, not as a means of denouncing imperialist oppression, not because of the brutal activities of British and the other imperialists in these countries, or to issue a revolutionary call to the countries oppressed by foreign imperialism, but, as a diplomatic weapon in the game of power politics — this fact will not go unnoticed by internationalists and class conscious workers. These acts do not enlighten but disorientate the best sections of the workers who still have illusions in Stalinist Russia.
- The "good will" of the imperialists was shown for what it is when the question of mandated territories was discussed. Bevin stated that His Majesty's Government was prepared to turn over the territories which were mandated to Britain by the League of Nations, to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations—other than Palestine and Transjordan—which were special cases! However, lest there be any illusions as to what this meant, Bevin explained that Britain still "intends to administer these territories until they are ready for self government or independence"! This simply means oppressing the colonial peoples in the mandated territories with the same policeman wearing a different badge.
- As to the new territories torn from Italy and Japan, President Truman has staked the claim of the American imperialists to "all former Japanese Pacific islands essential to the nations' (American) security." Of course, as the administering authority under the new mandates trusteeship! And what the Yanks don't want, well, that "could be placed under the collective trusteeship of the United Nations."
- Without the destruction of the great imperialist powers and the introduction of Socialist society, a third world war, beginning with the atom bomb which the nations are feverishly developing in greatest secrecy, is as inevitable as the first two world wars.
- From this Assembly the working class can expect nothing, nor can the oppressed colonial masses. The same economies will be pursued with trade wars, crises, and unemployment. The same blows will be delivered against the colonial slaves.
- If there are sections of the oppressed who look to U.N.O. with illusions and bright hopes for the future, these illusions and hopes will be shattered within a few short years at most. And these people will not forget the false prophets in their midst who masquerade as socialists and communists, and who helped to create illusions in U.N.O. instead of exposing it for what it was, a Thieves' Kitchen.
- The workers want an international organisation that will unite the workers and oppressed peoples of the world and build up society in peace. But the Trotskyists say to the workers that such an organisation must be built and controlled by the working class. It must not separate victors from vanquished and unite the oppressor capitalists with the oppressed working class.
- The workers of the defeated nations must be united with the workers of the victorious nations. German with French and British, Japanese with British and American. For that kind of unity the programme of the Fourth (Trotskyist) International prepares the workers. For that kind of unity the Parties of the Fourth International strive every day.
- Only the destruction of capitalism, nationally and internationally, the formation of the Socialist United States of Europe, of the Americas, the Asiatic countries and of the World, only by this means will it be possible to create a World Assembly to plan the international future of mankind.

BELGIAN TROTSKIST CONGRESS

BY E. GERMAIN

BRUSSELS, Belgium. The Fifth National Congress of the Revolutionary Communist Party, Belgian Section of the Fourth International, met here on November 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Twenty-four regular voting delegates, a delegate of the European Secretariat of the Fourth International, as well as representatives from the British, French and German Trotskyist parties actively participated in all the discussions of the Congress.

Our comrades of the Dutch party, prevented at the last moment from sending their delegate, sent a wire expressing their fraternal greetings.

This Congress was the first held by the Revolutionary Communist Party (Parti Communiste Revolutionnaire) since the "liberation." It thus gave the party an opportunity to present to its members and sympathizers, as well as to the entire working class of the country, a balance sheet of several years' activity. It is a balance sheet of which no one need be ashamed. Fifty issues of "La Voie de Lenin" (Lenin's Road) (central organ of the party) were issued illegally; 15 underground papers were published in Flemish; dozens of leaflets were put out in French, German, Flemish and Polish; five pamphlets were printed and published in illegality. That constitutes material proof of our incessant activity during the whole period of the Nazi occupation. This is evidence which shows that not for a single instant did we relax our struggle for the program of the Fourth International.

MANY MARTYRS

For this activity, the P.C.R. had to pay a heavy price indeed. Twenty of our outstanding militants fell in the course of the illegal struggle. Among them we mourn particularly the loss of comrade Leon Lesoll, the foremost leader of the party before the war, and comrade A. Leon, National Secretary of the party during the occupation. Of the 16 comrades who successively constituted the Executive Committee of our party between 1940 and 1944, only three escaped arrest. Four returned to us alive from the Nazi prisons. Three others were killed by the Hitlerite butchers.

The Presiding Committee which opened the sessions of the Congress tallied among themselves alone more than 10 years of captivity in the concentration camps.

PAPER BANNED

The government banned its central organ, "La Voie de Lenin", for appealing for solidarity with the German proletariat. But to-day this solidarity has already become a living reality which the "decrees" of the governors and ministers can no longer suppress. Tomorrow the energetic and incessant intervention of the P.C.R. in the crisis over the monarchy will also bear its fruits, and the slogans of our party, especially that "For the Republic! For the Defence of the Workers' interests!" will become the slogans of the entire working class of Belgium.

DECISIONS ADOPTED

Among the specific decisions adopted were the following: The publication of a printed monthly magazine "L'Avant-Garde" (The Vanguard);

the organization of a campaign of regular political forums in all parts of the country; a program of publication of low priced agitational pamphlets. The first pamphlet, dealing with the problem of pensions, met with considerable success. By November 4, the day after its publication, more than 1,700 had already been sold. The Congress likewise decided on the progressive transformation of "La Lutte Ouvriere" (The Workers' Struggle), leading paper of the party, into a big popular weekly.

POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS

While the Congress placed special importance on the organizational questions, it did not of course neglect its political work, which is correctly conceived by our party as decisive. After a very intense pre-Congress discussion carried on in all branches of the party, which produced consistent clarification on all political problems, three main documents were adopted by the Congress.

A resolution on "The Advance of Barbarism and the perspectives of the Proletarian Revolution", "The Present Situation in Belgium and the Immediate tasks of the Party", and finally, the Congress worked out a Program of Action and adopted a resolution on the situation in the U.S.S.R. and on the situation in the countries occupied by the U.S.S.R.

GREETINGS TO THE INTERNATIONAL

With great joy and pride the closing session of the party Congress reaffirmed its attachment to and complete confidence in the only surviving International, the Fourth. The P.C.R., together with its French sister section, began in 1942 the work of reconstructing the revolutionary centre in Europe and took the most active part in the work of the European Conference of the Fourth International which united, under the very noses of the Gestapo, the representatives of FIVE different sections somewhere in Europe. Today TEN European sections are already participating in the work of the European Executive Committee, as testified to by the 10 signatures on its Manifesto for the defence of the colonial revolution.

The participation of the International delegates in the work of the Congress only crowned a permanent and fruitful interest of the international revolutionary leadership in the life of our party. At the very time when internationalism has almost disappeared even from the vocabulary of the reformist and Stalinist renegades, we are particularly proud of this fact. The Congress proclaimed before all the world that the P.C.R. is merely an integral part of the one and only party, the World Party of the Socialist Revolution, the Fourth International.

NICOLA BARTOLOMEO

At 4 o'clock on January 10th, 1946, Nicola di Bartolomeo, member of the Political Bureau of the Party (Communist Workers Party, Italian section of the Fourth International) died at Resina. His passing will be profoundly felt by all who knew him—a militant of exceptional valour, tempered in the struggle he sustained for twenty years in dedication to the cause of international communism.

Soon after the First world war Di Bartolomeo, then in his early youth, was condemned by a military tribunal for inciting soldiers to rebellion. A militant communist, he was forced to go abroad to France, where he was among the first to adopt an open opposition to Stalinism. From then onwards Di Bartolomeo never ceased to struggle in the ranks, firstly of the Left Opposition, and then of the Fourth International in France, Belgium, Holland and England. The Spanish Civil War was for him an occasion to reaffirm his position with the revolutionary courage of a Bolshevik-Leninist, of a Trotskyist confident of his position and determined to defend it with his very life.

Upon returning to France, Di Bartolomeo fought for the unity of all forces of the Fourth International, but upon the outbreak of the Second imperialist war he was again sent to a concentration camp. The French police handed him over to Italian fascism, which banished him to confinement on the island of Trenuti. Even in Trenuti he began establishing the basis for a Trotskyist movement in Italy. The founder, after his release, of the Partito Comunista Operaio, Italian section of the Fourth International, Di Bartolomeo with his authority and experience sustained our movement in the first stages of its existence.

The imprisonments, concentration camps, exile, the instability and hardships of his personal existence and the calumnies of every kind cast at him by the political opportunists, parasites and traitors to the working class, against whom he conducted a ceaseless and relentless struggle, never succeeded in weakening his will or caused him to vacillate from his position.

Nicola di Bartolomeo has departed at a moment when his endeavours opened up ever greater prospects for our party. He was unable to see the conclusion of all his struggles that were always the struggle of the proletariat. In him the workers' movement loses a trade unionist of the highest ability, a journalist and orator of valour; but it loses above all a great figure of untiring energy and an incorruptible revolutionist.

The Partito Comunista Operaio and the Fourth International carry on his fight under what was his banner, the World Revolution: upon his road, proletarian internationalism, and for his aim Communism.

The Political Bureau,
 P.C.O. Italian Section of the Fourth International.

CANADIAN STALINIST SPLIT

NEW C.P. FORMED

THE DECEMBER 1945 ISSUE OF "LABOUR CHALLENGE", CANADIAN SOCIALIST PAPER, REPORTS THE FORMATION OF A "CANADIAN COMMUNIST PARTY" BY A GROUP OF WORKERS EXPELLED FROM THE "LABOUR PROGRESSIVE PARTY", THE CANADIAN STALINIST ORGANISATION.

This group of militant workers, led by McKean, ex-provincial leader of the L.P.P., was expelled in the midst of an internal discussion equal to the recently held Browder-Foster discussion in the American Stalinist organisation. The official statement issued by the L.P.P. was that McKean and his followers in British Columbia had been "convicted" of spreading "slandorous" statements against Tim Buck and the leadership of the L.P.P.

The programme of this newly formed "Canadian Communist Party" clearly demonstrates the far-reaching political differences of these militant workers with the policy of Stalinism. Their policy statement reads in part: "As a separate class, the economic and political interests of the working-class can only be served by an independent political party whose policies represent the best interests of labour."

"The Labour Progressive Party posing as a Marxist Party of the working class, has falsely advised the workers that their interests could best be served by collaborating with the employers; they falsely promised full employment, prosperity and security; they falsely advocated that labour's interests could be served by entering the government with the capitalist's own party—the Liberal party—in the form of a Liberal Labour coalition government. The policies of the Labour Progressive Party have been designed more to utilise the trade union movement to secure votes and force the C.C.F. to agree to a saw-off in the division of parliamentary seats by the hypocritical use of the slogan 'labour unity' than to genuinely defend the true interests of the membership of the trade unions."

"Dominated by a bureaucratic top leadership which forced the membership to accept ready-made policies without any democratic discussion, the L.P.P. by machine-like tactics, has, on many occasions, succeeded in prevailing upon the membership of the trade unions to accept policies against their own best interests. "... the L.P.P. can no longer be considered as a bona fide workers' party but rather as a second Social Democratic reform party, copied after the C.C.F., but competing with the C.C.F. for the working class vote."

"The C.C.F. has a programme of reforms and extension of public ownership which in no wise corresponds to a programme of scientific socialism: or the kind of programme, strategy and tactic necessary to give a correct lead to the working class in its day to day problems."

And then, under the heading: "For An Independent Class Party of the Working Class", the statement outlines its general objectives: the establishment of working class power through the methods of Marxism-Leninism.

Despite important omissions—the nature of Stalinism, the causes for the degeneration of the Third International, open recognition of the need for an international based upon Leninism and Trotskyism—this programme of these communist workers is a great step forward and will have profound repercussions in the Canadian Stalinist organisations.

In every country the advanced workers are moving to a collision with the counter-revolutionary and reformist policies of Stalinism. In Britain this has already taken the form of a revolt, as yet elementary, against the policies of the British "Communist" Party which has become the champion of state-capitalism.

Our Canadian comrades will, we are sure open up discussions, with a view to bringing these Communist workers into the ranks of the Fourth International, the World Party of Socialist Revolution.

G.I. PROTESTS

BY SGT. WILLIAM GARROW (U.S. ARMY)

In recent weeks American troops have taken part in a series of world wide demonstrations and strikes.

The touching off issue of G.I. protests was an announcement that demobilisation was to take place slower than hitherto and would be entirely dependent on the arrival of replacements. Pacific demobilisation is to be cut from 800,000 to 300,000 monthly. But of equal importance was the universal distrust of the soldiers for the "brass-hats" and Washington politicians—a complete disapproval of the complete lack of democracy in the army structure, and the privileges enjoyed by the reactionary officer caste.

Another factor, perhaps the decisive one, was the existing low morale of American troops. Many of these are seasoned troops with years of army service. Respect for the officer caste has almost vanished amongst these troops. And even new recruits, still in their teens, take their cue from the veterans. In consequence even those who had no immediate prospect of returning home took part in the demonstrations.

The G.I. has no interest in policing the world in the interests of Wall Street imperialism. All he wants is to go home.

In a measure, "Stars and Stripes", official U.S. army organ, reflects the growing discontent and the desire to go home. This, in spite of attempts to keep the paper innocuous and subject to strict censorship. In proof of this we have only to recall the resignation of one of its former editors and the campaign waged by General Patton to have popular cartoonist, Bill Mauldin, removed from the staff. Mauldin's cartoons, perhaps unfamiliar to British readers, were products of a serious attitude towards the problems of the enlisted man. This was sufficient, in the opinion of General Patton, to undermine the morale of his troops.

A few weeks before the demonstrations occurred, the Pacific "Stars and Stripes" editorially attacked the army administration for its encouragement of inequality, injustice and its role in promoting officer hierarchy. This was symptomatic of the troops feelings. On his arrival in the Pacific, Secretary of War, Patterson, registered surprise that discharge points had stopped accumulating since V.J. Day. When this report was published, the troops in the Pacific were swept by a wave of anger and resentment. Such ignorance could only be a result, not merely of incompetence, but of disregard and indifference to the conditions and future of the men living in lonely spots amidst populations living in terrible conditions. Men

many occasions, succeeded in prevailing upon the membership of the trade unions to accept policies against their own best interests.

"... the L.P.P. can no longer be considered as a bona fide workers' party but rather as a second Social Democratic reform party, copied after the C.C.F., but competing with the C.C.F. for the working class vote."

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"sweating out" the hours and days, hanging on to every report of discharge eligibility, discussing demobilisation day in and day out—to these men this "register of surprise" typified the callousness of Washington politicians.

Slogans shouted by the men indicated that they clearly understood the role intended for them by American capitalism. In mimeographed manifestos they charged that "... the State Department wants the Army to back up its imperialism" and that "redeployment has been deliberately slowed down to force compulsory military training."

Ten thousand troops demonstrated in Manila in an angry revolt against their army existence. They demanded the resignation of Patterson, and a new plan for speedy demobilisation.

On Guam, a dung heap in the Pacific, that became the graveyard of so many American and Japanese soldiers, a mass hunger strike of 3,500 troops was held. Elsewhere in the Pacific demonstrations and marches were held.

The following days saw a repetition of these events on the European scene. A Paris demonstration occurred almost spontaneously on the day that the Pacific reports were published. In Frankfurt a demonstration, having the elements of preparation and organisation occurred. In the afternoon leaflets calling for a protest assembly were passed from hand to hand in the Mess Hall.

The huge modern I.G. Farben building (of which not a stone had been damaged in the terrific bombing of that city) buzzed with staff conferences and appeals to the troops to desist from this demonstration. Troops were confined to billets, a blanket order to truck-drivers not to transport troops to assembly points was given. In Paris, Frankfurt, London and elsewhere the demonstrations were held and continued for several days thereafter. A G.I. "Committee of Liberation" was elected to plan a programme for continuing demonstrations. In Berlin one unit was warned against preparation and a search was made through the billets for fire-arms.

These demonstrations, which are unique in American military history, and regarded as seditious by the "New York Times", are only the beginning. The vigorous strikes of the American workers make a bond between the worker in uniform and the worker in the plant. It is a good augury for the future of American Socialism.

FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS FROM THE RANKS!
 WITHDRAW THE TROOPS FROM OCCUPATION AREAS!

OUR LETTER TO ATTLEE CRISIS IN FRANCE Daimler Strike

(Continued from Front Page.)

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY

British Section of the Fourth International
General Headquarters:
256 Harrow Road,
London, W.2.
23rd December, 1945.

Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
Westminster, London.

Dear Sir,
In 1936-37 and 38 a series of trials took place in Russia in which it was alleged by the prosecution that old Bolsheviks such as Kamenev, Zinoviev and others, connived with Leon Trotsky, together with the German General Staff and the Government of Hitler, to act as quislings in a war against the Soviet Union.

These trials were universally condemned by all but the Communist Parties and the agents of Stalin, as frame-up trials. This was also the verdict of the independent Commission of Inquiry set up in the United States headed by the famous educationalist Dr. John Dewey, which investigated all the available evidence over a period of many months.

During the war, the Stalin regime and its agents in this country through the "Daily Worker", have assiduously spread the story that there were no quislings in Russia because they were all exterminated during the Moscow Trials, and this line of argument has been taken up by even wider circles.

Now that the Nuremberg Trial is taking place, it is possible in open court, before the public gaze of the whole world, to prove either that the charges levelled against Trotsky and the other collaborators of Lenin in the October Revolution of 1917, were in fact true, or that the Moscow Trials were a gigantic frame-up.

It is alleged by the prosecution at Nuremberg that the secret Nazi pre-

parations for war are being brought out in public court. If this is true, then there must be documents in existence proving or disproving the vast conspiracy alleged by the Prosecutor at the Moscow Trials, Vishinsky (who is also attending the Nuremberg Trial) to have existed between the Nazis and Leon Trotsky.

Our Party, and all the sections of the Fourth International have a vital interest in this case. For many years we have been the object of a worldwide slander campaign directed against us on the basis of the "evidence" at the Moscow Trials. We believe that this is an opportunity not only to vindicate ourselves, but the memory of Leon Trotsky. Whatever you, your Party, or your Government might think of his theories and political ideas, he was, you will agree, a distinguished socialist revolutionist, who dedicated his whole life to the emancipation of the working class from the wage slavery of capitalism. In the interests of truth, and of history, of the struggle of the workers for socialism, your Government, as the representative of the British Labour movement, has the moral duty to pursue this matter so that the validity or otherwise of the Moscow Trials can be established once and for all in the eyes of the world working class.

We ask you, through your representative at Nuremberg, to bring out the relevant issues in the Moscow Trials, to call upon the Russian representative to produce the "evidence" relating to the connection between Leon Trotsky and his son with the Nazis, as a vital part of the present Nuremberg Trial.

We further request you to make it possible for the Revolutionary Communist Party to have legal representation at the Nuremberg Trial with (a) a watching brief; and (b) the right to intervene and question witnesses as well as some of the

accused at Nuremberg, who were directly linked with Leon Trotsky by the prosecutor Vishinsky in the infamous Moscow Trials.

Yours sincerely,
Jock Haston, General Secretary,
Revolutionary Communist Party.

THE REPLY

10 Downing Street,
Whitehall.

Dear Sir,
I write to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to the Prime Minister of December 23rd, and to inform you that it is not possible for His Majesty's Government to take action in the manner suggested therein.

Yours truly,
J. M. Addis,
General Secretary,
Revolutionary Communist Party.

Airmen Strike

(Continued from page 1.)

will see the old time repression. The organised Labour Movement, which has a real sympathy for the servicemen's demands must, however, carefully watch the interests of the servicemen and see to it that there is no weeding out and reprisals.

The favourable reports written by Major Wyatt, M.P., in "Reynolds News", and given by Mr. Harold Davies, M.P. to the press agency is an indication of the really popular feeling in support of the R.A.F. strikers' demands.

The statement of the Government that they must have troops to maintain "Law and Order"—read "protect imperialist plunder"—and that there are not sufficient transports to bring the lads back home is not acceptable. Let the colonial people form their own governments, and bring the boys back home. Use the ships that are now being used to carry troops out to the East on an imperialist mission of repression, for the purpose of speedily transporting the discontented servicemen back to Blighty.

And to ease the antagonism between the officers and men that springs from the caste system, which considers that the officer caste are not only born with a lisp but with all the attributes of godly beings—whilst the rankers are born to jump to it and bianco; it is necessary to end the privileges of the officer caste.

This could be carried out immediately by a Government that was serious about democracy by the abolition of the officers appointed from above and the election of officers from the ranks. Solidarity with the Airmen! Demand the withdrawal of the troops!

THE CASE OF CALTABIANO

(Continued from page 1.)

literature at Hyde Park, London, and each time sent to prison because he refused to pay fines. The last time, the magistrate decided that he be committed for observation at St. Pancras Hospital. On December 17th he was declared insane and passed on to the Friern Hospital, where on December 18th he was certified insane under Article 16 of the Lunacy Act, 1896.

VISITED CALTABIANO

I have visited CALTABIANO, and can testify from my previous knowledge of him that he is perfectly sane. All his acquaintances and friends who have seen him report the same. He is quite unchanged, discusses rationally, and is so far, quite cheerful. He possesses, it is true, a particularly fine example of the excitable Southern temperament, and he never ceases to denounce all Governments and authorities. But as far as I know this is no evidence of insanity. In fact it is equally arguable that the respectable doctors and politicians, who hold that capitalist society with its atomic bombs is perfectly rational, are themselves insane.

The official diagnosis is a farce. He is held to suffer from paranoia, which expresses itself in... delusions that the hospital authorities are taking part in a plot to deprive him of his liberty! In any case, persecution mania and irrational obsessions are quite detectable even by laymen. Caltabiano has never, in the 2½ years I have known him, shown any sign of such disorders.

A particularly brilliant example of Chuter Ede's humour concerns Caltabiano's "ferocious dog". I know this dog, and have often seen it, playing with children, including my own. In point of fact, the policeman called at his house, not because the dog was ferocious, but because it was not licensed. A small point, but a particularly dirty one.

SEND PROTESTS

So far Michael Foot is the only Labour M.P. who has taken the case up. But not all Labour M.P.s are of the type of Ede. We appeal to them to take it up and demand a full enquiry and Caltabiano's immediate release. He is only an individual, but his case puts to the test the whole attitude of the Government to liberty and human rights. Every worker who values these things must also protest in every way possible.

(Continued from page 1.)
to form a Right-Wing Government together with the Socialists. The Socialists for their part, declared they would only participate in a three-party Government. The Stalinists profited from this situation by denouncing the M.R.P. as reactionary; not in order to press for revolutionary measures, but in order to secure a more favourable position within the coalition.

This deadlock resulted essentially, not from any principled differences between the parties—all were agreed on maintaining capitalism—but because of the insoluble class contradictions in France; the restiveness of the masses who expected socialist deeds from the working-class parties they had elected, and the cowardice of the leaders of these parties who feared above all assuming responsibility for Government without the representatives of the capitalists.

De Gaulle thought he saw in this situation, his great opportunity to play the rôle he coveted: that of Bonaparte, the supreme arbiter, independent of popular control. By refusing them one of the three most important Ministries, he made their participation in the Government impossible. Having by this means provoked a first-class crisis, he broadcast to the nation over the heads of the Assembly. But conditions were then

munist Party, which has declared its readiness to accept responsibility." Alas! Brave words in London, but cowardly deeds in Paris. The old game of coalitions is being played once again. If the Communist Party were serious and a Marxist Party it would draw up a programme for expropriating the capitalists and transforming France into a Socialist country. It would say to the Socialists: "There you are, this is our programme. We shall not enter any Government pledged to defend capitalism. Only on the basis of this programme shall we accept responsibility!" Such a lead would transform the situation overnight. The Socialists would have to agree or be exposed before the masses, who would recognise in such a programme their only solution.

Instead, the Stalinists, Socialists and M.R.P. are forming a new Government. Its programme can be summed up in one word: deflation. Ruthless wage-fixing on starvation levels. Salvation of the franc at the expense of the workers and small men. But... no measures against Big Business. The M.R.P. would not agree, and, you see, we must have national unity.

Not a single English paper expects this Government to last until the elections. The Stalinists see as their only hope, bringing the date of the elections nearer. They calculate that popular feeling against de Gaulle's high-handed action will assure them a good majority. Even if they succeed in achieving this, there is no hope that any such tricks will serve them. Along this road of class-collaboration, their discredit is certain. With it, almost certainly, the discredit of the working class organisations, and the victory of reaction. Only one thing could avert such a catastrophe, and that is the existence of a strong revolutionary party.

THE ONLY ROAD

Parliamentary democracy has been in a state of agony in France ever since 1934 when fascist rioting brought a right wing government to power. Saved in 1936 only by the great working class upsurge, it declined again into the dictatorships of Daladier and Petain. Its rebirth in 1944 was due, as in 1936, to one thing only: the working class upsurge and the absence of any mass basis for reactionary dictatorships.

But the infant is doomed from birth, because its mother cannot feed it and the substitute foods are slow poison. In other words, French capitalism is in a state of such crisis that it cannot give rise to a stable democratic regime. The class struggle bursts the bounds of society. The capitalist class temporises, and prepares to consolidate its rule in a dictatorship. The working class has only one road to follow, namely, that of revolution. But the Socialist and Stalinist parties cling to capitalist democracy, and in doing so prepare a terrible defeat.

Real measures to solve the crisis must be revolutionary measures. Firstly: Abolish the Black Market by confiscating the fortunes of the big capitalists. Nationalise big industry without the crippling burden of compensation. Abandon the disastrous policy of chauvinism, and extend the hand of solidarity to the German workers. Coal is needed! Reparations for coal is a myth; but in a United Socialist States of Europe, the Ruhr and Saar miners would willingly work to help the other nations of Europe as well as their own to re-build.

Only our French brother party, the International Communist Party, has this programme. It alone fights consistently the ruinous policies of the reformists and demands an end to the policy of Coalition and a struggle for power by the workers organisations. This party provides the only hope that the crisis will be settled in a revolutionary way and will lead to a Socialist France. It is literally the only reliable barrier to the threatened Gaullist dictatorship.

(All the views in this article do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Board.)



GENERAL DE GAULLE

unripe for his assuming personal power, his support was too weak, and he was forced to accept the dictation of the Assembly to form a three-party Coalition Government. He formed a Government in which the Socialist and Communist Parties (a large majority in the Chamber) were in a minority of 10 to 11 M.R.P. and "non-party experts."

This Government was a synthesis of all the irreconcilable elements. Neither its composition nor its programme fitted it to deal with the terrible problems confronting it. Its sole acts of any importance were to nationalise some of the banks, with heavy compensation, and place them under the control of bankers representatives, and to devalue the franc. The workers and employees demands were unsatisfied. The food situation deteriorated. Public employees staged a great demonstration strike against starvation wages. Bread riots broke out. The parties comprising the Government ceaselessly attacked each other. The meetings of the Assembly frequently ended in uproar.

DE GAULLE'S STRATEGY

De Gaulle gained support in the plebiscite for his demand for "strong Government" because the interminable crises from 1934 onwards had discredited parliamentary "democracy" in the eyes of large sections of the people. The root cause of this was the failure of the workers' parties to give a bold socialist lead, and their clinging to a coalition with the capitalists in the Popular Front. Today the same process is being repeated, but since the economic situation is far more acute, it is greatly accelerated.

This is the secret of de Gaulle's action. By resigning he throws full responsibility on the workers' parties. He calculates that the next period will put them to the test, and believes that they will fail. A further period of permanent political crisis, endless wrangling but no action, will discredit them. In the meantime, he and his supporters will build up the story that de Gaulle is ready once again to "save the nation". The secret political police (D.G.E.R.), a de Gaulleist weapon will be strengthened. The stage will be set for a military coup.

An astute calculation! Only one thing can assure that it goes wrong, and that is a bold policy of class independence by the working class. If the reformist and Stalinist leaders continue their old class-collaborationist game they are putting all the cards in the hands of the French capitalists whom the General represents.

WHAT NEXT?

The wretched Socialists and Stalinists, who learned nothing from the debacle of the Popular Front, have learned nothing from these latest events. The "Daily Worker" (22.1.46) correctly recognised that "in this situation the initiative passes to the Com-

ferred, the personnel should also be given the option of going with such job or machine. This also has been refused and promises given to skilled men, who assisted both the firm and the country by going to dispersal points at such inconvenience, are being refused their jobs back and placed on the "dole". At the same time new men are being utilised from the ranks of the unemployed and offered work at semi-skilled rates at the Browns Lane Factory.

These facts can only lead up to one conclusion and that is a general attack on all the workpeople both pieceworkers and dayworkers in the establishments concerned, and later the conditions imposed can be used against the district as a whole.

The fight at Daimlers is the fight of the City for its future conditions, and we are determined to resist to the utmost and place our case before the workers for their support.

On Friday 25th, the striking workers held a meeting outside the factory gates of the Daimler parent factory. The meeting was quiet but determined, the morale of the workers was high. The convenor—Bro. Barrett—announced that the workers of the Browns Lane factory had joined the strike. Arrangements for picketing went through smoothly and efficiently.

Bro. Stokes, A.E.U. official reported that he had been in telephonic contact with the Daimler management and had placed before them what the strike committee regarded as their minimum demand—that a Conference of representatives of the workers in the three Daimler factories, Union Officials and representatives of the management and the Employers Federation should be called immediately on resumption of work. The management flatly refused this exceedingly reasonable demand, stating they would only discuss with each factory separately! Bro. Stokes declared that if the company got away with their drive to lower rates, it would only be the first step in the lowering of the standards of the whole district.

The pressure of the Daimler workers' militancy and the feeling of the workers in Coventry, whose wages have steadily dropped during the last few months, was evident in that both the A.E.U. official and Bro. Jones of the Confederation of Engineering Unions, who followed him, made militant speeches, declaring the necessity to stand up to the employers' actions.

There are a number of important lessons to be drawn from this strike. By their struggles in the past, Coventry workers achieved standards in general higher than those elsewhere. While they remain high, they are an aim and a lever for the workers of other areas. So far as the Coventry workers are concerned they must realise that this strike is not an isolated struggle, but is only one aspect of the general tendency of employers in the area to depress wages. In fact, the struggle fits into a picture even broader than that. Today the motor industry is in the first line of export drive of the employers. For months motor manufacturers have been running a campaign under the slogan of "Take the brake off the motor industry". However, the campaign of these employers is not confined to propaganda hiding their profit hunger with talk of "Britain's need for exports". They have been exerting pressure on the Labour Government to relieve taxation—which would mean, of course, removing the taxes from the motor manufacturers and placing the burden on the workers as a whole. But, further than that, and most important for the workers in the industry, the employers—having neither the plant nor the cheap raw materials of the American industry—are faced with the necessity of forcing down wages and intensifying labour exploitation if they are to wage a competitive struggle with their rivals on the world market.

Workers of Coventry! The necessity exists for the unity of the district to protect its conditions. Workers in the motor industry! The struggle of the Daimler strikers is your struggle. If these workers successfully resist the actions of their employers, then that will aid the defence of your conditions in the future. Donations to assist the Daimler strikers should be sent to:

Daimler Strike Committee,
A.E.U. New Hall,
143, Foleshill Road,
Coventry.

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2,000,000 U.S. WORKERS STRIKE

THE STRIKING AUTOMOBILE, MEAT - PACKING, TELEPHONE AND ELECTRICAL WORKERS HAVE BEEN JOINED BY 800,000 STEEL WORKERS.

2,000,000 American workers are on strike for wage increases. Half the industrial manpower of this great continent are affected, and other industries are threatening immediate action.

The power-drunk American capitalists are already beset with doubts by this greatest American strike wave in history which is only the beginning of the American workers' struggles. This battle of Titans, between the wealthiest section of world capitalism and the highly organised and industrially militant American workers, is a battle with no quarter given. Defeat for the capitalists would radically alter the whole tempo and events of the class struggle in America. (The realisation of this has forced the capitalists to organise a full-scale attack upon the organised labour movement.)

The "Militant", organ of the Socialist Workers' Party, American section of the Fourth International, which is playing an active part in the strike movement, states the position clearly:

"It (General Motors Corporation) announced, in effect, that the small clique of Wall Street bankers and industrialists is now ready to do battle with labour in order to put labour 'in its place'. It has now become clear, even to the blind, that Big Business, gorged with war profits, has closed its ranks for a full scale assault on organised labour. 'Labour thus faces a crucial battle, a battle that will determine for a long time to come the standard of living, and the place and role of the American worker. Those are the stakes of this fight.'"

FABULOUS PROFITS OUT OF WAR

The demands of the Steel workers are for 11d. an hour increase. The Steel bosses have offered 9d. an hour. The automobile workers are demanding 30 per cent. increase, the "Big Three" (General Motors, Chrysler, and Ford) have offered 20 per cent. Big Business argued that they could afford no more! To this the workers replied as one voice: OPEN THE BOOKS! An indication of the fabulous wealth of these industries can be obtained from the following facts published by the United Steel Workers Union and the "Militant":

The profits of the steel industry, before taxes were deducted and during the five war years, 1940 to 1944, rose 276 per cent. over the peace-time level of 1935-39—from 933,000,000 dollars to over 3,500,000,000 dollars.

Profits, after taxes had been deducted, rose 113 per cent. during the war period from 576,000,000 to 1,000,225,000 dollars.

Open profits acknowledged in 1944 were 190,366,000 dollars. Concealed profits in the same year, were 271,165,000 dollars. This is a total profit in 1944 of 461,531,000 dollars after all taxes had been paid. The peace-time average from the industry was 115,000,000 dollars.

Additionally, the steel industry can reclaim this year from the United

States Treasury tax refunds amounting to 140,000,000 dollars or 29 per cent. more than peace-time profits.

The General Motors Corporation is controlled entirely by the Du Pont family, who are the virtual owners of the E. A. du Pont de Nemours Coy., the giant munitions and chemical trust, U.S. Rubber and scores of subsidiary industries. From General Motors' alone this family takes 50,000,000 dollars a year in dividends, bonuses and assets. While 92 per cent of the shareholders only own 22 per cent, the Du Pont family owns 23 per cent! The G.M. board of directors owns 30 per cent of all common stock, by virtue of which it controls completely this giant motor industry."

Small wonder that these financial sharks rejected the proposal by Truman to set up a "fact finding commission" which guaranteed before hand not to disclose a single business secret!

ROLE OF TRUMAN AND CONGRESS

Truman's policy has been an attempt on the one hand, to maintain the Roosevelt pose of "a friend of labour", and on the other to prevent the headlong dash for inflation caused by the uncontrolled profit-lust of Wall Street financiers and industrialists, on the other hand. Congress—the "Charlie McCarthy of Big Business"—has stood firmly on the side of the bosses, and has even rejected Truman's attempts to compromise. It is trying hard to use anti-labour legislation. Tear gas and batons are being used by the State police to break the picket lines. This precisely is the method of Congress.

One of the most significant features of the strike movement is that the workers have also rejected the "fact finding commissions" and the "30 days cooling period" proposed by Truman. For the first time in history the workers have remained on strike in those plants seized by the Government.

This is an enormous step forward for the American working class and in itself reveals clearly the depths of the crisis, and the militancy and class awareness of the workers. The American workers are learning through bitter struggles that Truman and Congress are the clerks of Wall Street.

WORKERS OUT FOR VICTORY

Despite all the wealth of the American capitalists, despite the tear gas, batons, propaganda, and gangs of strike-breaking thugs, the picket lines remain solid. The workers realise what is at stake in this great conflict in America. The workers of Britain will support their American brothers in their struggle which can only end in the struggle for Socialism.