

MAY DAY AND THE FIGHT FOR THE 30-HOUR WEEK

By Ruth Johnson
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THE MILITANT

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The Spirit of May Day



Union Chiefs Shadow-Box With T-H, Unemployment

SKOGLUND FACES RENEWED THREAT OF DEPORTATION

An examiner of the Federal Department of Immigration last week over-ruled the application of Karl Skoglund's attorney to set aside the deportation order that has been pending against the Minneapolis labor leader since 1941.

This latest decision in the case of Skoglund, former president of famed Minneapolis Drivers Local 544, is being appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals, final administrative authority of the Department of Immigration.

Skoglund, who is now in his sixties, has been a resident of the United States for 38 years. He came here from Sweden in 1911. He has been active in the socialist and labor movements since he first came to the U. S.



KARL SKOGLUND

2,018 Votes Cast for Filomena Goelman Oakland Candidate

OAKLAND, April 20 — Filomena Goelman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Councilman-at-large, received 2,018 votes in yesterday's municipal primary election.

This was the SWP's first election campaign in Oakland and the vote, representing more than three per cent of the total, is regarded as a good beginning in local electoral activity.

Fail to Mobilize Membership For United Action Campaign

By Art Preis

"It's Time to Slug Back!" is the headline over a big special-feature editorial in the April issue of the United Automobile Worker, national paper of the CIO auto workers union.

Western Union's profits, but it hasn't made a dent on Congress. Two weeks ago a check of Congress revealed that a majority in both houses are against Taft-Hartley Act repeal, the key election promise of Truman and the Democratic Party.

This is typical of the kind of vague, ineffectual and fumbling program the top labor leaders are now advocating in the face of such immediate threats as defeat of the Taft-Hartley repeal bill, growing unemployment and the obvious retreat of the Trumanite Democrats in Congress on all their pledged "Fair Deal" reforms.

Ever since the Senate buried the civil rights promises of both major parties under the filibuster and disemPOWERED the promised "strengthened" rent control bill, the top union leaders, CIO and AFL, have been urging their members to flood their congressmen and senators with letters and telegrams. This may have helped to defray the Postal Department's deficit and to boost

May Day Manifesto Of Socialist Workers Party

Capitalism's deadly triple-threat — war, dictatorship and unemployment — hangs over the American workers on this May Day.

Four years after a war for the "four freedoms," American imperialism's drive for world domination has placed the American people, together with all mankind, under a pall of fear — fear of the atomic bomb, fear of brutal regimentation, fear of insecurity and hunger.

The rulers of America talk of "peace," but they plan war. They howl about the "aggressions" of the Kremlin, while they plant their air and naval bases on every continent.

And now the workers directly face the specter that has haunted them since the end of the war — unemployment. Five million are already out of work, while another 11 to 12 million are reduced to part-time employment of one to four days a week.

War, dictatorship and depression — the unholy trinity of capitalism — today confront American labor with its greatest challenge. The mighty American working-class, mobilized in unions 16-million strong, holds in its hands the hope of peace, democracy and plenty for America and the world.

(Continued on page 3)

War Drive Speeded Up

The first weeks of this pact have seen a tremendous speed-up of the war drive. Truman publicly hurls the threat of the atomic bomb. The Wall Street-Brass Hat clique speaks openly of a "preventive" war against the Soviet Union.

And the war industries monopolists — the Merchants of Death — rub their hands in anticipation of more armaments profits and prepare for M-Day — Mobilization Day — when the brass hats and gold braid will stalk into the factories, mines, power stations, railroad terminals, etc., and clamp an iron military rule on the workers.

Democratic Rights Under Assault

The drive toward military dictatorship and total war has already torn great gaps in the barrier of civil liberties erected to protect democratic rights.

Starting with Truman's "loyalty" purge of federal workers and blacklist of "subversive" organizations, a witch-hunt has been unleashed on the land. Federal and state legislatures are churning out gag-laws to victimize and silence anyone who dares to speak for peace and an end to the war plotting.

Specter of Unemployment

The American labor movement is assailed by reaction from without and within. The infamous Taft-Hartley Act remains on the books. Strikebreaking has once more become standard practice, as employer, and police — and even a Catholic Cardinal — brazenly flout picket lines and herd scabs.

The top union bureaucrats are engaged in their own witch-hunt, inserting new gag-laws in union constitutions, expelling rank-and-file militants, encouraging the penetration of sinister ultra-reactionary elements like the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists. They are transmitting into the unions the atmosphere and methods of the police-state that the capitalist politicians and militarists are trying to impose on the population as a whole.

Novack Describes Progress In Rallying Kutcher Defense

By Larissa Reed

"What attitude toward civil rights did you find in the cities you visited?" I asked George Novack, National Secretary of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee, who recently concluded a speaking tour on behalf of the legless veteran.

"I have traveled the country many times on various cases," he remarked, "but never before have I observed such keen interest in problems connected with democratic rights. This trip coincided with the Senate filibuster. The blocking of civil rights legislation in Washington provided the main topic of conversation wherever I went."

"At the same time, furious fights were in progress around FEPC measures pending in both the Pennsylvania and Ohio State legislatures. I believe civil rights is the Number One political issue in the minds of thinking Americans today."

How much interest had he found in the Kutcher case in particular?

"The case of the legless veteran has not received much publicity in the daily press, outside of a few large cities," Novack replied. "A real or alleged spy story will be featured material for weeks, while news such as this abominable persecution is played down or suppressed."

"However, most people and organizations who follow important events in the civil liberties field are familiar with this case. And, thanks to the efforts of our local committees, more and more people are getting to know the facts."

The committee launched in Akron during Novack's stay there typifies the kind of organization the Kutcher committee is aiming to build, he said.

"The initiating members comprise a representative cross section of progressive opinion in this center of the rubber industry, leading Protestant clergymen, among them are the president of the Akron CIO Council, two

ARRESTED IN 1941

During the midst of this struggle for union democracy, Skoglund was arrested and held in jail for 30 days on a bond of \$5,000. This was part of the general persecution of the leaders of Local 544 and the Socialist Workers Party which culminated in the indictment, trial and imprisonment of 18 SWP and Local 544-CIO leaders under the Smith "Gag" Act.

Skoglund was one of the 18 convicted in the Minneapolis Labor Trial and served a 16-month sentence in the Federal penitentiary at Sandstone, Minn.

As a result of his prosecution and imprisonment, the deportation proceedings were held in abeyance, but Skoglund was kept under bond all the time. Now the immigration authorities are proceeding actively against him on the grounds that he had been a member of the Socialist Workers Party, which Attorney General Clark has put on his political blacklist of so-called "subversive" organizations.

The attempt to deport Karl Skoglund, who has lived the greater part of his life in this country, is a clear-cut case of victimization and reprisal for his political views and his loyal and militant service to the cause of labor.

His friends have announced their intention of raising a fund for his legal defense in the federal courts in the event the immigration appeals board, which is expected to rule in a short time, hands down an adverse decision.

POLICE-SPY ATMOSPHERE PERVADES TRIAL OF CP

By Farrell Dobbs

FEDERAL COURTROOM, NEW YORK, April 19 — William O. Nowell's unsavory biography is in some respects a symbol of corrupt Stalinism and government's brutal methods in the legal lynching of scientific socialism here on Foley Square.

A 44-year-old Negro born in Georgia, Nowell migrated to Detroit in 1922 where he went to work for Henry Ford. He joined the Communist Party in 1929, was soon assigned to direct Negro work in Detroit and later spent a year at the Lenin Institute in Moscow. He claimed he was taught that "Marxism means the government must be overthrown by violence."

Nowell said he disagreed with the CP's 1930 decision to advocate creation of a Negro state in the South. When he refused to "correct his error," he was denounced for "factionalism and disruption" and finally quit the CP in 1936.

The Stalinist lawyers tried to make him admit he had "confessed" to the charges of "factionalism and disruption." They contended he was expelled in 1936.

Nowell worked in 1937-38 for

Virtually the entire emphasis of the labor leaders is on the Taft-Hartley issue. They are not only making little visible headway on this question, but are almost completely neglecting the other major issues, such as the growing menace of unemployment and part-time employment.

On this latter vital issue, the CIO offers its local bodies only platonic advice to initiate "Community Service Committees" to help their members file for unemployment compensation or relief. No basic attack on unemployment has been launched. The program of the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay, adopted a decade ago by the CIO and AFL, is still gathering dust.

He spoke at public meetings with the fascist Gerald L. K. Smith during 1940-41 and did work on Smith's files for which Smith paid him.

Nowell testified before the Dies Committee in 1939 and has more recently testified against Gerhart Eisler and a number of Stalinists up for deportation. Shortly after he was lined up as a witness in the present trial he was given a clerical job with the Department of Justice without a civil service examination.

The Stalinists claim that Nowell was a Ford spy when he first (Continued on page 2)

The Outrage in Cleveland--A Grim Warning

By Bert Cochran

The strike at the Fawick-Airflex Company in Cleveland, reported in last week's Militant, was a small affair involving only 125 workers. But it was like a magnesium flash, which for an instant illumined the whole scene with a blinding glare and pitilessly exposed the present ghoulish condition of the labor unions.

How have the mighty fallen! How has the once-proud CIO, whose very name was magic, become the habitat of red-baiters and conscienceless careerists!

The strike was called March 7 by the Stalinist leadership of the CIO United Electrical Union because the company withdrew recognition on the pretense that the union officers had not signed

the Taft-Hartley affidavits. The company had no trouble in getting a complaint judge to issue an injunction limiting the union to seven pickets. So far everything is running according to schedule.

Then the AFL auto union steps in like a skulking traitor and petitions for an election under the Taft-Hartley slave law. In this instance, the wheels of justice grind without any delay. An election is held pronto and the AFL loses, with the majority of the workers voting "No Union" on the advice of their leaders. But the AFL, which is spending bushels of money to teach the benighted workers of Europe and Asia the beauties of "free unionism," has not yet finished. They now start running carloads of scabs through the seven-man

picket line. Surely here is an inspiring demonstration of the superiorities of free American unionism to Stalinist totalitarianism.

The Stalinist leaders thereupon mobilize a mass picket line and blockade the gates. The Fawick workers battle like Trojans to maintain the union of their own choosing. There are a number of clashes with the police and special deputies. Then 12 of the strike leaders are hauled into court and the judge proceeds to throw the book at them. Judge Conell delivered himself of the following judicial pronouncements: "There will be no more picketing. There will be a journal entry that there will be no more, or generalissimo, or speakers, or equipment of any kind. The phoney strike will be declared judicially

at an end." To make sure that there would be "no more generalissimos," the judge meted out jail sentences totalling 440 days for the 12 strike leaders and held them for \$2,060,000 bail.

The next day, when it was pointed out to him that declaring a strike "judicially at an end" was kind of raw, maybe ever illegal, the judge blandly ordered the journal entry not to include this statement, "because I do not consider that there is a strike out there, and therefore cannot order an end to it."

When the Court of Appeals fixed lower bail for the 12 strike leaders, Judge Conell ordered the Sheriff to continue keeping them in jail, and they were finally released only by direct order of the Court of Appeals when the higher court overruled the judge.

Of course, cops and judges breaking strikes and jailing union men and women are nothing new in this land of the free and home of the brave. But honest democrats and lovers of freedom, not to talk of labor leaders, are supposed to get indignant at such travesties of justice. They are supposed to battle the minions and timeservers of Big Business, and not aid and abet them in their nefarious suppressions, aren't they? The AFL officials have again made clear that when they were dubbed "labor lieutenants of the capitalist class," this was not an epithet, but literal truth. Like Judas, they have since received, in payment for their treachery, the traditional 30 pieces of silver. The company recognized AFL strike- (Continued on Page 2)

Labor Union Trends

The Outrage In Cleveland

(Continued from Page 1) breakers — pardon, Auto-Workers Local 937 — as the bargaining agent for the plant workers. And what was the CIO doing while all this backstabbing and union-busting was afoot and while the cause of honest unionism was being dealt blow upon blow? Did the Cleveland CIO officials come to the rescue of their sister CIO local? Not quite. Like Pontius Pilate, the CIO "labor statesmen" decided to wash their hands of the whole business. They sat back, unshaken and unmoved, while a CIO local was being cut to ribbons, as if it didn't concern them, or the workers, whose interests, presumably, they represent. Finally, on April 13 — OVER ONE MONTH AFTER THE STRIKE WAS IN PROGRESS — when they could no longer remain silent, the CIO central labor body adopted a resolution. And what a resolution. In times to come, it will be reprinted in the labor text-books as a horrible example of how low the labor movement sank in the late 1940's under the leadership of the Murray-Reuther-Actu bureaucracy. The resolution — let us give credit where credit is due — does come out with the four-square declaration that the "Fawick workers were clearly within their rights in wanting to choose their own bargaining agent without management interference." That's telling them. But don't get the notion from this that you can just do anything. The resolution makes clear that the CIO statesmen have "duties as loyal citizens of this American democracy" and therefore they cannot help but make clear that "Those persons who committed the violence had no right to take the law into their own hands and must suffer the consequences." As for the UE leaders, "It was their duty to show respect for the court by obeying its orders, and not taking the position that two wrongs make a right." Our stern task-masters don't let off the strikebreaking judge scot-free, either. Another resolution, in straight-from-the-shoulder fashion, condemns Judge Connell's "inexpert handling of the Fawick strike." That's making the punishment fit the crime. And that about sums up their

STOOL-PIGEON ATMOSPHERE AT TRIAL OF CP

(Continued from Page 1) joined the CP, but it isn't necessarily so. He may be just another of the many once-sincere persons who became corrupted by Stalinism. Whichever the case may be, Nowell's presence on the witness stand is a mark of the stoolpigeon mentality which pervades this thought-control prosecution. While the police spy Herbert A. Philbrick was testifying, the prosecutor read to the jury the last five paragraphs of the Communist Manifesto. The prosecutor next read excerpts from Stalin's false explanation of Marxism. Then Philbrick explained what Stalin meant. This FBI stoolpigeon's interpretation of the traitor Stalin's interpretation of the ideas set forth in the Communist Manifesto was palmed off on the jury as — "Marxism."



Despite protests from several labor and teacher organizations, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey signs the Feinberg bill, which gives the New York Board of Regents power to draw up its own "disloyalty" list and to bar alleged "subversives" from teaching.

NOVACK MAKES REPORT ON KUTCHER DEFENSE

(Continued from page 1) participated in a radio interview with an official of UE-CIO Local 610, which has endorsed our work. In Cleveland I was the guest of A. I. Davey, vice president of the Cleveland AFL and editor of the Cleveland Citizen, on his regular Sunday radio labor program. Summing up on the results of his trip, he said: "Unfortunately illness forced me to cut the tour short in Chicago, but I believe we have made an excellent beginning in securing support in many cities. It requires considerable time and sustained effort to organize an effective defense campaign even around a case so dramatic and decisive as this. I have heard complaints about the indifference of the average person toward the threats to civil liberties. In my opinion most people are simply uninformed. They cannot learn through ordinary channels either about the facts in this case or the importance of the issues at stake. That is why the activity of our committees is so indispensable. "I can best illustrate this by the following incident. A student editor of the university paper in Akron turned down a request for publicity and support. This young ex-GI told our committee representative that Kutcher got a raw deal but he personally could not see how the inclusion of the Socialist Workers Party on the 'subversive' list concerned him, since he believed in World Federalism and opposed socialist ideas. "That same week, ironically enough, the Akron papers reported a resolution passed by a Veteran of Foreign Wars convention, demanding that World Federalism be outlawed as subversive! The next issue of the university paper published an editorial denouncing this extension of the witch-hunt to the World Federalist movement, as well as an article captioned: 'Men of Principle Take Up Cry for James Kutcher.' After chuckling over this story, Novack concluded: "Seriously speaking, I think that caption is a good slogan for everyone of principle to adopt."

Fund Lags 11% as Drive Goes into Second Half

By Reba Aubrey Campaign Manager Branches of the Socialist Workers Party sent in \$1,023 on their \$7,500 Militant Fund quotas during the week, but the national campaign is still lagging behind schedule by 11% Those branches that have not fulfilled at least 50% of their quotas are not keeping pace with the campaign, which accounts for the 11% lag. Toledo leaped from the zero column to third place in this week's "Scoreboard" with 80%. Another leap and Toledo will finish before the May 15 deadline. Youngstown moved into fourth place with a \$100 payment, boosting it to 80%. Newark makes sure it stays high on the "Scoreboard", by sending in regular weekly payments on its pledge. Boston Branch jumped from the zero column to sixth place with 61%. Dottie B. of New Britain while on a visit to New York turned in \$25 — 50% of that branch's quota — "because it looks bad to be in the zero column."

SCOREBOARD FOR MILITANT FUND

Table with 4 columns: Branch, Quota, Paid, Percent. Lists various branches like Morgantown, Seattle, Toledo, etc., with their respective financial contributions and percentages.

THE MILITANT ARMY

Election Campaign Helps Los Angeles Increase Circulation

"I have a lot of good news to report," writes Al Lynn, Literature Agent for Los Angeles. "One very happy carry-over from our election campaign has been sales of Militants to union meetings. In the past week or so, we sold 5 copies to a Carpenters Union meeting (three of them at a dime each), 4 copies to the UAW Council meeting, 9 copies to a Workers Party meeting, 5 copies plus a copy of the pamphlet, Socialism on Trial, to a meeting of the Socialist Civil Rights Congress — until they called the cops — and 9 copies to an Amalgamated Clothing Workers local. We have also placed 10 copies of Socialism on Trial on one of the major newsstands and hope to push it on stands and in stores." Comrade Lynn says that Los Angeles plans to devote more attention to increasing circulation of The Militant and Fourth International, monthly magazine of American Trotskyism. "I can report that both publications are resulting in many complimentary remarks from the comrades, and the strengthening of the editorial staffs, etc., is really paying off."

First 50 Get Them We have just received 50 bound copies of the 1948 Militant from the bindery. The first 50 to send in their orders get this limited edition. Additional copies may not be available for some months. A complete banner year of The Militant in durable book form for handy reference! Only \$4.50, postage prepaid. The Militant 116 University Place New York 3, N. Y.

WOMEN UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR PEACE Will Big Business succeed in dragging the United States into another world war? Not if the deepest wishes of the women of America break through into the arena of political struggle. They know that another war with its bloodshed, death and atomic ruin can mean the end of everything we hold dear. Leon Trotsky, who gave his life in the struggle to make our globe safe for mankind, understood what power women can wield when they decide the time has come for a basic change. Among these wage-earners and housewives, said Trotsky, will be found "inexhaustible stores of devotion, selflessness and readiness to sacrifice." Trotsky spoke the truth. Among our strongest supporters are women. They stand courageously beside their husbands in the battle for peace through socialism despite the difficulties and hardships this often means. They tell their friends and neighbors about The Militant and how it fights for a world where children can grow up free from hunger and fear. They ask for contributions to help The Militant spread the truth. They try to widen the circle of Militant readers, knowing that each new subscription may mean another recruit in the fight for the socialist world of the future — a world of brotherhood, good living, happiness and boundless progress. These are the pioneer women of today. Why not join their ranks? Start your subscription to The Militant now. Name Street City State

Meetings to Celebrate May Day

NEW YORK: Movie "ROAD TO LIFE" at 2 P.M. sharp. SAN FRANCISCO: Banquet at 6 P.M. sharp. ST. LOUIS: "The Significance of May Day" at 8 P.M. CHICAGO: Dancing at 9 P.M. CLEVELAND: Entertainment at 9 P.M. TWIN CITIES: "Workers Rights in Danger" at 8 P.M. AKRON: May Day Banquet at 9 P.M. BOSTON: "A Fighting Program for American Labor" at 8 P.M.

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