

CIO OPENS ROAD TO MILITANT STRUGGLE

MINNESOTA VOTE TOPS MINORITIES

Final Returns Show Carlson Above CP And SP Combined

By V. R. DUNNE,
MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The state canvassing board which met November 19 in the state capitol has released the following official figures for the minority parties:

U. S. Senator
Grace Carlson (Trotskyist) 8,761
Carl Winter (C. P. sticker candidate) 256

President
Aiken-Orange (S.L.P.) 2,553
Thomas-Krueger (S.P.) 5,454
Browder-Ford (C.P.) 2,711

Governor
John Castle (S.L.P.) 3,175
Martin Mackie (C.P. sticker candidate) 360

Lieutenant-Governor
William Herron (C.P. sticker candidate) 306

Secretary of State
Clara Jorgenson (C.P. sticker candidate) 278

Because the candidate of the Socialist Workers Party appeared on the ballot as the Trotskyist Anti-war Party candidate, it is certain that the 8,761 votes for Comrade Carlson represent conscious support of a proletarian revolutionary anti-Stalinist program.

The support for the Trotskyist candidate is thus even greater than earlier figures had indicated. The candidate not only topped the Thomas-Krueger vote but received a vote larger than the combined vote for Thomas and Browder.

Each of the 87 counties in the state furnished votes for our candidate. This would indicate that the ideas of Trotsky have penetrated the American consciousness even deeper than our most optimistic supporters have hitherto estimated. Fittingly the largest number of Trotskyist votes came from the three industrial counties—Hennepin (Minneapolis), 1,755; Ramsey (St. Paul), 1,034; St. Louis (Duluth), 525.

Following this general pattern other counties showing a heavy registration of votes were those outlying counties in which there are industrial workers such as packinghouse workers, miners, timber workers, and where union organization has penetrated.

Although it was impossible because of meager finances to carry our campaign outside the Twin Cities to any extent, the record of the Trotskyists in the union and unemployed movement has obviously made a deep impression upon the workers in the state.

Among the iron miners on the Range, there are a large number of former Communist Party members who have for years supported the Russian revolution. There were many who voted for our candidate, a Trotskyist, and not for the Stalinist candidates.

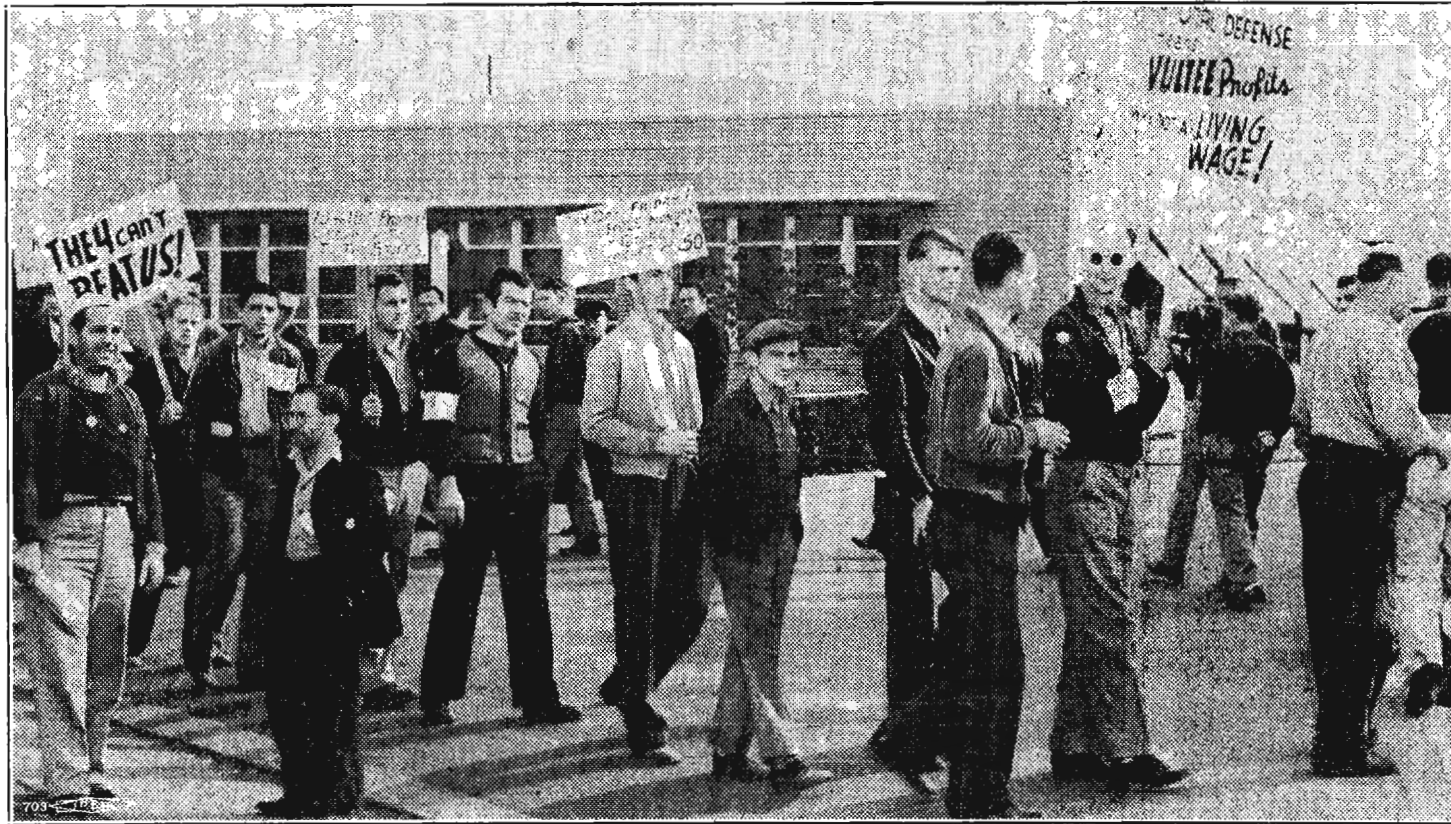
Counties where the militant Farm-Holiday movement once had great prestige and power also furnished a substantial vote to the Trotskyist Anti-war candidate.

Those counties in which state institutions are located and whose employees belong to the State, County and Municipal Employees Union (in which our candidate, Grace Carlson, was active for a number of years and is a well-known figure) also recorded an impressive total.

With complete precinct votes available from St. Paul and Minneapolis a gratifyingly close correlation is shown between the distribution of Socialist Appeals and the vote for the Trotskyist candidate. Our Socialist Appeal had been distributed in these precincts over a period of months. Excellent use was also made of the special Minnesota election edition of the Appeal, and the leaflets and other literature issued in the campaign.

The total vote, though indicative of our support, is of course not the chief value of the election campaign. Many people have been brought closer to us by hearing for the first time in this campaign the revolutionary Marxist program.

Vultee Strikers Point to Boss Profits



Mass picket lines at the Vultee airplane plant in Downey, California, had the factory closed down tight. Shouts of the bosses and government agents about "reds" were answered by placards publicizing the huge profits the company is obtaining through its war contracts.

Demand Freedom For Negro Sailors

By ALBERT PARKER

Letters of protest, demanding the freedom of the Negro sailors on the U.S.S. Philadelphia and an end to the Jim-Crow practices in the Navy, began to pour into the offices of President Roosevelt and Secretary of the Navy Knox last week, at the same time that the government announced its intention of

quarters of the Navy, and that this policy helps not only the country, but the Negro sailors as well.

The letters from various organizations and individuals printed in the Pittsburgh Courier last week showed that an increasing number of people are aroused over the case of the imprisoned Philadelphia sailors, and are eager to express their resentment over conditions in the Navy.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in a letter to Secretary Knox stated that the colored people of this country "are bitter about the treatment of their men in the armed forces of the nation... We wish to enter a most vigorous protest against this action and to request you, as Secretary of the Navy, to intervene."

The N.A.A.C.P. upheld the action of the mess attendants in bravely signing their names to the published letter of complaint, saying they had done so "in belief that they had a just complaint which ought not to be weakened by an anonymous letter."

The Courier also quoted from the "pointed letter" to Roosevelt and Knox by the Workers Relief & WPA Union of Newark, N. J., signed by George Breitman, secretary, which asked for an immediate end to the arrest, confinement to the ship for "further investigation," molestation and indignities suffered by the boys "whose only offense" is that they complained with much cause against a brutal system of discrimination and segregation.

The unemployed union also demanded that Roosevelt and Knox use their powers to put an end to these conditions.

HARLEM UNION OFFERS SUPPORT
Another letter, for Local 32 of the Building Service Employees International Union, signed by J. Cyril Fullerton, executive manager, explained that the union

has a membership of 2,000 who reside and work in Harlem, 90 percent of whom are Negroes.

"We feel as you (The Courier) (Continued on Page 3)

Women Want To Join The Army

With only 99 positions now open for "hostesses" in the Army, the War Department has been swamped with 7,000 applications from hopeful aspirants, most of whom had apparently not even read the requirements.

The applicants were under the illusion that the Army was going to need women workers in canteens, etc., as in the last World War.

However, the women must wait until the men are sent abroad to die on foreign battlefields before they can expect a wide demand for women workers even in the factories at home.

End of Rainbow

Although James Roosevelt is on active service as a captain with the United States Marine Corps at San Diego, California, he will be permitted to continue his motion picture producing activities and without a reduction in pay.

As his first major production, James has elected to make an elaborate musical comedy, "Pot O'Gold." He's the only recruit we've heard of who found army life to be the end of the rainbow.

Aircraft Profits Soar Skyward

"The aviation industry continued in the nine months (January-September, 1940) to establish new records for profits..." states the New York Times, November 24, "as it has done each year for the last few years."

The combined net profits of the seven leading companies for the first nine months of this year are \$33,034,590, or an 81 PERCENT GAIN over the 1939 comparable period, which yielded net profits of \$18,259,877.

MURDER FOR PROFIT--

The Story Behind the Explosions in the Chemical Plants

By DON DORE

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents assigned to uncover evidence of "sabotage" in connection with recent explosions in munitions and chemical plants, have uncovered instead proof of murderous speed-up, negligence and unsafe working conditions which in the past ten months have slaughtered 97 workers and burned, blinded and dismembered 400 more.

This was admitted last week by J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, in an interview in the New York Journal and American, November 19.—an interview devoted mainly to spreading "sabotage" propaganda.

LISTED AS "ACCIDENTS"
Hoover had to report that two of the three blasts on November 12, those at the Trojan Powder Co. and the American Cyanamid and Chemical Corporation, have been officially listed as "accidents." Of the tragedy at the Trojan Powder Co. plant, Hoover stated: "Here the explosions occurred in a section of the plant far removed from where the Government or-

campaign to invoke a "sabotage" scare against militant union workers. He warns, "A continued hue and cry about sabotage every time there is a serious industrial accident is bound to have damaging effects on the national morale."

The statements of the FBI chief thus give the lie direct to the Dies Committee, whose spokesman, Rep. Thomas of New Jersey, declared after the most recent explosion that they "definitely prove the existence of a gigantic sabotage plot."

PRESS CRIES "SABOTAGE"
While the press ran huge "sabotage" scare-headers in connection with the blasts two weeks ago and the one two months ago at the Hercules Powder Co., where 51 died due to the use of a method of manufacturing nitroglycerine which had been condemned by War Dept. officials, there have been eleven other blasts and fires of similar character since January

1940 which have received little publicity. And for good reasons. There have been three each in the plants of the du Pont munitions trust and the American Cyanamid and Chemical Corporation. These open-shop corporations have been turning the workers' blood into a golden stream of super-profits. Any real investigation into the causes of the recurrent explosions in these plants would reveal a grisly tale of brutal indifference to the safety of the workers.

GREED FOR PROFITS
Industrial accidents brought injury to 1,600,000 workers in 1939 as compared to 1,375,000 injured in 1938. While employment rose only 7 percent in 1939 over 1938, average hours worked rose 13 percent and disabling injuries from industrial accidents increased 14 percent (U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). Longer hours and

Strike Wins Pay Raise At Vultee

BULLETIN
DOWNEY, Calif. Nov. 27—The Vultee strike was settled today with unanimous ratification of a 16 months agreement which includes compulsory arbitration and wage increases from 3 to 12½ cents an hour. The good faith of the employers is questionable in view of their statement that there will be "no mass re-employment" and "it will be a slow process; the men will be subjected to almost as close scrutiny as when they were originally employed."

DOWNEY, Calif., Nov. 22—24-hour mass picket lines tonight continued to serve notice on the Vultee Aircraft Company profiteers here that the aircraft workers are through with the slave wage of 50 cents an hour.

Outside the plant gates numerous camp fires before the improvised shelters of the strikers throw their defiant glow over the silent Vultee buildings.

While the Dies Committee representatives and the Department of Justice through Attorney General Jackson are vying for the "honor" of breaking the strike, the strikers are sticking to their union demands against the phoney "red" issue. As one worker at a picket fire stated, "I thought the unions were run by a gang of reds and I was against it. But a guy has to be a 'red' to get a decent wage around here."

The solidarity and militancy of the strikers, who are mostly young men without previous union or strike experience and who have come into this rapidly expanding industry from every section of the nation, is truly inspiring. They are totally unimpressed by the charge of "sabotage of national defense" being hurled by the company, which has a back-log of \$85,000,000 in plane orders for the U.S. and Great Britain, and is expected to clean up a net profit of not less than \$12,000,000 in the next year.

The strikers are learning fast, and have a splendid chance of withstanding the boss propaganda and pressure, if the leadership itself continues to hold firm. A typical striker's statement, heard around one of the camp fires, reflects the true spirit. "I voted against the union when we had the election in the plant. But that was a mistake. Now I'm in this fight until we get what we want!"

As a result of the strike, a tremendous organizational impetus has been given to the workers in the other aircraft plants, and the workers are flocking into the union by the hundreds.

Convention Upholds Industrial Unionism

By FELIX MORROW

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Nov. 23—The CIO has successfully rallied its major forces to continue the fight for industrial unionism. That is the great achievement of the five-day convention which closed last night.

It was in the three and a half hours of debate over this fundamental question that this convention came fully alive. That was Tuesday afternoon. Almost everything that took place after that was not in the nature of an anti-climax. Not that vital issues were lacking in the ensuing three days. Indeed, life-and-death questions facing the trade union movement and the workers henceforth fixed on government posts.

The answer given to Sidney Hillman and his master, Roosevelt, in that Tuesday afternoon session, was not only a true one. It felt to be true by almost all the delegates, and they burned accordingly with a zeal that, unfortunately, did not again appear in the convention after that afternoon. But, for that afternoon the convention delegates became as a single mighty voice declaring the will of the CIO to live on and fulfill its historic mission of organizing the industrial proletariat of this country into the only kind of unions that can organize them—industrial unions.

HILLMAN'S GAME
Sidney Hillman's spokesmen could say what they pleased, the delegates clearly understood the real meaning of Hillman's proposal: to push the CIO into immediate unity negotiations with the AFL under conditions favoring the craft union moguls; to surround the negotiations with an overwhelming hue and cry in the boss press, radio, movies, and all other methods of communication and pressure, pushing for unity on the AFL's terms; and to "unite" over the broken bones of the new industrial unions which have been built since 1935—the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, the United Electrical and Radio Workers, the United Automobile Workers, the Rubber Workers, etc.

Hillman's career as a "statesman" in the service of Roosevelt requires that he remove from himself in the eyes of the bosses any stigma of responsibility for the continued division of the labor movement. Roosevelt and the employers want a "united" labor movement—i.e., united under a hidebound, conservative, impotent leadership like that of Messrs. Green, Woll, Frey, with the workers in war industries divided up, if they are organized at all, into scores of craft unions which the bosses can play one against the other. Obediently therefore, Hillman sought to achieve this objective.

"That if he were successful, it might in the end mean disaster not only for all industrial unions but the weakening of his 'own' clothing workers, troubles Hillman not at all. His eyes are

union movement after the consequences of Hillman's proposal would become fully apparent!

POOR CASE FOR UNITY
Their argument for unity negotiations came down to: (1) The CIO had received very bad publicity in the previous negotiations—through no fault of the CIO, they hastened to add—and was therefore held responsible by the "public" for labor disunity, so now it should show it wasn't to blame; (2) to be for immediate unity negotiations didn't mean that they were for surrender to craft unionism; (3) "this time of national and world crisis" makes unity imperative so that labor can "make its rightful contribution to the cause of national defense."

As other Hillman supporter asked for the floor and, as a result, the pro-CIO forces had the floor during most of the afternoon and they made the most of it.

A delegate from Wisconsin read into the record a letter from the AFL central body in Milwaukee which revealed that it was attempting to smash the United Auto Workers local at the Allis-Chalmers plant and replace it with a score of craft units. The letter explicitly repudiated the idea of uniting all the workers in the plant in one local and boasted that its "organizing campaign" had the direct help of the AFL national office.

AFL'S JIM CROW POLICY
A Negro delegate, Neil Weaver, passionately brought to the fore the AFL crafts' "lily white" policy: the only jobs open to his people under that policy, he said, are hod carriers and porters. Where is there any sign that the craft moguls will cease their Jim Crow policy? And what had the AFL ever done for the packinghouse workers, except keep them unorganized? Weaver was scarcely a polished speech, but that only made it all the more genuine a reflection of the bitterness of the Negroes and the packinghouse workers against the aristocrats of labor.

There had been many rumors in the corridors about division within the leadership of the United Mine Workers; that was punctured by the participation in

(Continued on Page 3)

WORKERS' FORUM

Write to us—tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about?—tell us what the bosses are up to—what the G-men and the local cops—and the Stalinists—send us that story the capitalist press didn't print and that story they buried or distorted—our pages are open to you. Letters must carry name and address, but indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Tenement Children Forced to Sacrifice For War

Editor: Just how long are the capitalists and their tool organizations going to be allowed to keep on robbing the poor to pay the rich? Yesterday's Daily News carried the following item:

"About 130 tenement children will eat meat loaf instead of turkey at an 11 A. M. Thanksgiving party, so that the difference in cost may be sent to help children in England. The plan was announced yesterday by officials of Children's Aid Society's Jones Memorial Center at 407 E. 73rd St., where the party will be held."

No doubt one forfeited turkey in the house of Rockefeller, Du Pont, or Roosevelt—which would never be felt,—would more than cover the amount to be raised. But no—the great sacrifice to help British children (and the rich ones, at that!) must be made by tenement children, who are being deprived of their only opportunity all year long for such a delicacy. . . . and justice for all." Indeed!

M. W. New York City

Stalinist Manager Fired For Excusing Absentees

The working of the new Stalinist labor code is illustrated by a story which the Associated Press got past the Moscow censorship recently.

V. Redroff, former manager of the Klueff saw mill on Lake Baikal, wrote to the Communist Party organ, *Pravda*, complaining that he had been unfairly dismissed from his position by the district committee of the Communist Party.

The mill being far from the collective farm market, he explained, he had organized expeditions of the workers to go fishing in their "spare time" and bring the catch back to the restaurant at the mill.

Forty of these amateur fishermen were caught in a storm, and eleven carried far out from shore tossed about for two days before being rescued by a cutter. Redroff generously excused them for their absence from work.

However the district committee of the Communist Party ruled that the "storm has nothing to do with the case. The men missed work. The manager acted as their protector and should be expelled from the party." Redroff was dismissed and tried on charges of protecting tardy workers and disorganizing work.

The story reached the press only because the bureaucracy wished to purge the district committee and to show its "benignity."

But that such an incident could occur at all is sufficient commentary on the arbitrary character of the Stalinist rule and the degree of its separation from the workers.

Minneapolis Sunday Forum Analyzes Workers' Vote

Workers believed the Democratic party was their party in the last election, Ted Dostal, St. Paul organizer of the Socialist Workers party, told a Sunday Forum audience in Minneapolis November 14. Because they associated gains they had made themselves with the Roosevelt administration, the workers supported the Democratic candidate, he said.

Workers believe that Roosevelt is the symbol of reformism. Trusting falsely in his domestic policies, they did not vote for his foreign policy or the war to which he is leading the United States. Against Hitler and for the pres-

ervation of social gains at home, workers are willing even to submit to conscription; because "they feel a rearmament program really will keep them out of war and maintain social gains."

"The primary problem of American capitalism today is that American imperialism must expand in every direction," Dostal said. "The contradictions which capitalism has created are such that 'only socialism will solve the problems of the world,' the speaker stated, and closed with a call for military training under worker's control and an organized labor party.

Marxist School Finishes Successful Term in N. Y.

NEW YORK—The Marxist School has just finished a very successful semester both from the point of view of the calibre of the lectures and the large attendance at the classes. At least 175 workers attended the school with a goodly portion of them attending all of the courses. William F. Ward's course on "Dialectical Materialism" was the best attended with a registration of 101.

There was such a large demand for a continuation of this course, as well as of "Trade Union Leadership" by Farrell Dobbs that these instructors were prevailed upon to give three additional lectures. All those who want to register for these lectures may do so at once either at the office of the school at 116 University Place or at Irving Plaza, 15th and Irving Plaza where the lectures are being held every Monday evening.

William F. Ward is continuing his course from 7:10 to 8:40 and Farrell Dobbs follows from 8:50 to 10:20. The registration fee is 50c. for the three lectures or 25c. per session.

Many of those who have taken Murray Weiss' excellent course on "Elements of Marxism" have already registered for the additional lectures of William F. Ward, who in the coming sessions will give special attention to the dialectical method used by Marx in creating his great economic work "Capital."

It is very heartening to report that many who have attended the Marxist School have shown that they have imbibed the teachings of the great masters of Marxism, for they have applied for membership in the Socialist Workers Party and are now ready to partake actively in the battle for socialism.

Hitler Offers People Socialism and Dog Meat

November 14 was a big day for Adolf Hitler and a significant one for the German working class. Three things happened.

In Berlin, the Fuehrer decorated 85 "soldiers of labor" for their loyal cooperation behind the lines in furthering the conduct of the war. All of them, including 40 women, were armaments workers. Hitler disclosed the purpose of the little bribe of medals in his accompanying speech which exhorted the workers to display greater unity and determination to bring a quick victory for German arms.

Things have got to a state, however, where medals alone seem an insufficient reward. Therefore on the same day a decree was issued and a promise made. Dog meat was legalized as an item of human food for the workers of Greater Germany if they can wait until January 1, 1941 for the delicacy. This supplements horse meat which has been available for some time. And the "schooner Adolph" did his third deed for the day when he promised behind the lines workers that Germany's main duty—after the war, though—was to serve as a "model socialist state."

They get dog-meat; they are promised socialism. As long as workers anywhere wait for those up above to give them things, that is the way it will be—dog meat in the pot, socialism in the future.

Militarism and Workers Rights

By JAMES P. CANNON II.

Our resolution on military policy proclaims no new principle, but attempts to apply the old principles of Bolshevism to the new conditions. In line with all the programmatic documents of the Fourth International, the resolution says: "The imperialist militarism of the capitalist state



JAMES P. CANNON

is not our militarism. . . . We are against the war as a whole just as we are against the rule of the class that conducts it, and never under any circumstances vote to give them any confidence in their conduct of the war or preparations for it—not a man, not a cent, not a gun with our support. Our war is the war of the working class against the capitalist order." (*Socialist Appeal*, October 5).

So much for the principled position of Trotskyism, which alone among all the tendencies in the international labor movement, remains consistently revolutionary in times of war as well as in times of peace. But, despite our opposition, we have the militarism and tomorrow we will have the war in full scope. That does not change our principle, but it imposes upon us a certain line of tactics since we do not want to remain aloof as mere oppositionists. We do not rest content with general opposition to capitalism and general advocacy of the socialist revolution and simply repeat our ultimate aims as a set of soul-saving formulas. We seek in each and every situation to devise the tactical slogans around which we may carry on continuous and effective agitation leading toward the goal. The problem of the hour is to find a realistic basis for our irrevocable class agitation in the arena of war and militarism which now, and for a whole epoch, will dominate the world. This is the aim of our resolution on military policy.

A PROGRAM OF AGITATION
Our military program is intended as a program of agitation. In order to be effective such a program must take into account not only the objective circumstances (the epoch of militarism), but also the present consciousness and mood of the workers. The American workers are against war, they are fearful of war, yet they are convinced in their bones that it is unavoidable and that the millions of young men who are being drafted and sent up for military training are destined to be cannon-fodder. A comrade writes from Buffalo: "A large section of the working class, and perhaps all of it subconsciously, regards the draft for what it is going to war. Even the National Guardsmen who left town last month were accompanied by weeping mothers and sweethearts."

The workers like to hear the promises of Roosevelt and Willie that American boys will not be sent into foreign wars, but the great mass of them do not believe a word of it. Neither do they believe the isolationist and pacifist liars who say it is possible, under capitalism, to "Keep America out of war."

HATE AND FEAR FASCISM
The workers are profoundly impressed by the fate of the European countries which have been overrun by Hitler's army. They hate and fear fascism. So far they see it incarnated only in the foreign foe, and they are ready if necessary to go to war against it, especially if the war is presented to them, as it surely will be, in the guise of "defense" against a "foreign" attack. Facing the prospect of war it is obvious to the serious-minded workers that military training is needed. That is why they submitted universally to conscription; without enthusiasm, it is true, but also without any serious opposition. This attitude of the rank and file of the American working class is a thousand times more practical and realistic than that of the pacifist middle-heads who proclaim the necessity of socialism and yet oppose compulsory military training—in a world gone mad with militarism.

MISTAKEN OPINION

By such expressions—which are quite typical—the workers express the mistaken opinion that the class struggle ends when they leave the arena of the union and the factory and enter the new arena of war and militarism. They do not anticipate in advance the tremendous new experiences which are destined to make such a powerful impression on their minds, and that in a comparatively short time. Even the reported remarks of some of our sympathizers to the effect that our program "cannot be accomplished," reveals an unconscious tendency to accept as permanent a situation which is radically changing before our eyes and which will continue to change with increasing speed and sweep. Respect for the status quo is out of tune with the times. War and militarism will uproot the workers from the old environment in which their present convictions were formed, impose new and terrible experiences upon them and compel them to think in new terms.

BOSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
The workers have yet to learn that the government, which now appears as a sacrosanct institution standing above the classes, is in reality the executive committee of all the bosses. Experience under the conditions of militarism and war, aided by our agitation, will teach this necessary lesson in the coming period. In the course of these developments our program, if we present it with simplicity and clarity, will not only have success in an "agitational sense," the awakening workers will pass over its extremely modest and elementary demands as advancing troops pass over a bridge to a new point of vantage.

NEW UNION MEMBERS

The American workers have made great advances in the last six years. Millions of new recruits have been drawn into the trade union movement for the first time. They have had to fight every inch of the way to gain the smallest concessions, and then to fight all over again, and continuously, to keep them. In the course of these fights the workers have developed a fervent devotion to their unions. They have learned to hate and distrust the bosses who directly exploit them and the police and local authorities who help the bosses.

In strike after strike the militant American workers have demonstrated that they have no fear

of direct clashes with these local authorities and police. But in their overwhelming majority, the workers still think of the national government as something different. They respect it and at the same time they fear it as a remote power which cannot be combated. The average militant trade unionist, who considers a battle with local cops as a part of the day's business in a strike, is inclined to flinch away from any conflict with "the man with the whiskers," the popular name for the federal government and its police agents.

THE ACE CARD

"You can't strike against the government"—this is not only the dictum of Roosevelt, but also the feeling of the great majority of American workers at the present time. Some of them think they have a right to do it, as was shown by the strikes against the WPA, but the great majority approach any prospect of a conflict with the federal government with the feeling that "you can't get away with it." These illusions of the workers are the ace card up the sleeve of the American imperialists.

A letter from a Toledo comrade highlights this attitude: "I and other comrades have noticed in agitating at employment offices on our military program the following response. White workers agreed that military training is needed, and express distrust of the methods of the present conscription bill. They are extremely sceptical of the possibility of getting the unions to control training or of winning union conditions in the army. 'You can't strike against the government.' 'If you agitated in the army you will be shot.' 'You need trained military men to have good training.' These are the three most common answers. . . . Even some of the politically developed sympathizers of the party say that our program has value only in an agitational sense but that it cannot be accomplished." (My emphasis).

UNEXPLORED TERRITORY
Their scepticism regarding the possibility of realizing analogous conditions in the field of militarism arises from the fact that for them it is as yet unexplored territory. But they will soon discover that the oppression, exploitation and class discrimination, which are the substance of their daily lives as workers, reappear also in the prussianized militarism of the capitalist state in a form that is more intensive, more brutal and more contemptuous of human life. The military experience of the workers will come powerfully to the aid of our program, giving it a burning actuality and make it the banner of their first struggles for a minimum of class independence and self protection. Our program anticipates this experience and attempts to prepare the minds of the workers for a speedier and more conscious reaction to it.

Our slogans carry the class line into the new conditions of militarism. In the factory a militant trade unionist wouldn't trust an employer or an agent of the employers as far as he can kick an anvil in his bare feet. But in the military machine, in the present set-up, the officers corps from top to bottom is dominated by people of this boss type—class enemies who regard the workers in the ranks as cannon fodder, and have no regard for their welfare and safety. Why shouldn't the workers, in such a situation, put

forth the demand for officers from the ranks of the workers and the unions?

RIGHT TO DEMOCRACY

Haven't the workers, who are risking their lives for "democracy," the right to a little democracy for themselves? Out of the billions of dollars of federal funds appropriated for military purposes, why shouldn't a certain sum be earmarked for the establishment of special camps to train workers to become officers? What's wrong about such a demand? And, for that matter, what is "illegal" about it? Indeed, if a serious militant worker who hates and distrusts the bosses and their agents for good reason, will stop to think about it, he must be impressed by the extreme modesty of the demands of our transitional program. They represent not the last word, but rather, the first. Most workers today have the illusion that the class lineup which confronts him in the factory and on the picket line, is by some miracle eliminated in the domain of war and militarism. Our program of transitional demands, proceeding from the Marxist principle which never recognizes a suspension of the class struggle in the class society, is designed to break this illusion, this fetish. That is the purpose of our agitation around the program.

MILLIONS OF WORKERS

In the army of conscription the situation will be radically changed. It will consist of millions of young workers—the proletariat in arms! They are accustomed to certain rights. Their mighty numbers will confer a sense of power upon them. It will not be possible to treat them like cattle for any length of time without creating a profound discontent in their ranks.

Our military transitional program is not for a day, but for tomorrow, for a long time. If only a part of the militant workers take interest in it and regard it as a good thing if it could be accomplished—that is already a gratifying initial success. It is up to us then to convince these workers that our demands are reasonable and practical in the present situation, and fully within their rights, as indeed they are.

A WORKERS' QUESTION

Our aim, it must always be remembered, is not to convince quibbling factional opponents who wage a fictitious political struggle in the form of literary exercises, but workers who take the question, as they take all questions, seriously. That is why we hinge our agitation around illustrations from the life they know, that of the factory and the union. Their class attitude in the factory is the product of their experience, aided by the agitation of the more conscious elements. The right of the workers to organization, to have union officers of their own choosing, to be represented by shop committees of their own trusted people—these precious and necessary rights were not conferred upon our workers by benevolent bosses or an impartial government. In fact, they also were once "illegal," and more than one worker has been "shot" for advocating them. The workers' conviction that they need these things in the factory, in order to set limits to oppression and exploitation, is the result of their experience.

AN EXTENSION

From a reading of the text of my speech (*Socialist Appeal*, October 12) it is clear beyond possibility of misunderstanding that I was arguing against the prejudices of the workers and not against any principles hitherto maintained by our movement. On the contrary, I took pains to assert that our new concrete practical slogans are simply "an extension of the old policy, an adaptation of old principles to new conditions." My speech as a whole, as well as the resolution adopted at the Chicago Conference and the published letters and comments of Comrade Trotsky, on the subject are all permeated with this idea. We stand now as before, on the principles of Bolshevism and we aim to advance these principles by a transitional program in the military epoch.

Anyone who wants to conduct an honest dispute with us must begin by stating our actual position fairly and honestly and then criticize us from one of two standpoints: (1) the principles of Bolshevism are wrong and, likewise, (the practical slogans designed to apply them); or, (2) the transitional program violates the principles of Bolshevism on war.

METHOD OF CONFUSION
Shachtman, writing in *Labor Action* (November 4) employed a different method of attack, a method designed not to clarify, but to confuse. At the beginning of his article, as the first "point" which sets the tone and shapes the character of his article as a whole, he "lifts" my above-quoted statement out of its context and tries to make it appear that I am arguing not against the prejudices of the workers but against the principles of the modern Trotskyist movement! Then, with mock seriousness, he asks: "Of which old policy is our military program an extension?"—and solemnly pretends that I may have been speaking of the policy of the "liberals, social democrats and Stalinists." Then, after explaining to us that "Trotsky above all taught the movement that the workers themselves must take charge of this fight against Hitler," he ends the first "point" and premise of his article with the devastating question: "If that was the 'whole principle of the new policy' what was the principle of the 'old' policy?"

But I had explained in the sentences he quoted, and can only repeat here again, that we are not enunciating any different principle but simply attempting to apply "old principles to new conditions." But Shachtman, obviously calculates that by the time he

TRADE UNION NOTES

by Farrell Dobbs

ATLANTIC CITY—The recent AFL-proclaimed "spirit of victory" over the CIO has expired in the womb. After a spirited discussion on the second day of the CIO convention, the industrial union workers gave Frey, Hutchinson, Woll and their mouthpiece, Green, a clearcut answer: *No capitulation to craft unionism! Forward to a ten-million-membered CIO!* Throughout the sessions this theme was echoed by the delegates. The Atlantic City gathering voted to launch a large-scale CIO organization drive, with Ford, Bethlehem and aircraft at the top of the list.

VULTEE SHOWS WHAT IS COMING

Meantime, events in the Vultee strike were giving a clear indication of the forces of reaction gathering to oppose the CIO in this drive. Charges of "treason" have been levelled against the Vultee strikers. Congressmen, administration officials and the boss press have launched a many-sided attack on the union. The Dies Committee has announced that it will investigate the strike. This announcement provoked a public statement by Attorney General Jackson that the FBI has already investigated and found that the Vultee strike was started and prolonged by "communists."

Headlines in the boss press are beginning to brand all strikes as impediment, if not outright sabotage, of "national defense." Comment is being introduced in the press through the Gallup poll and by other means to imply that public opinion is in favor of drastically curbing the unions. From various quarters demands are already arising for compulsory arbitration of labor disputes involving "defense" production. The appointment of Doctor Mills signals a sharp turn to the right by the NLRB. The increased participation of military officials in the mediation of labor disputes foreshadows an added use of the military boot against striking workers.

GREEN AND HILLMAN'S JUDAS ROLE

The AFL leadership will, no doubt, attempt new incursions into CIO territory in the mass production industries. Striving for ultra-respectability, the craft unionists will play a miserable role in this effort. As in the past, they will frequently furnish a pretext for the corporations and their government stooges, to represent struggles for wages and conditions as jurisdictional fights between unions. They will give some support to certain forms of anti-labor legislation and anti-labor White House policies when directed mainly against the CIO. In their eager desire to weaken the CIO, the craft unionists will forget that by these actions they are also feeding on their own flesh.

Sidney Hillman, whose speech at Atlantic City reached a new low in grovelling before the powers that be and playing on every chord of reaction among the workers, will prove to be more of a detriment than a benefit to the CIO. Hillman made it clear in his convention address that *above everything else* he is out to help build the war machine.

THE ROLE OF MURRAY AND JOHN L. LEWIS

Phillip Murray, the new CIO national president, has indicated ability to resist outright capitulation to craft unionism under government pressure. He also appears capable of going a certain distance in an organization drive in the face of the growing pressure from the bosses and their government. However, it is no accident that he placed the strongest emphasis on a demand for more "defense commissions," one for each industry, in his remarks at the convention. Murray is a "labor statesman." He is not a

party, Shachtman runs true to form from beginning to end. The dubious methods which he employed in his premise are maintained throughout the article. Misrepresentation is followed by falsification and reinforced with a spice of outright literary forgery. In debating with Shachtman one needs not a pen but a pair of hip boots and a shovel in order to dig down and clear away the filth which he piles over the essence of every dispute. It is not a very agreeable task but in the line of duty I shall return to it again, insofar as the exposure of these methods of the political underworld helps to facilitate the explanation and clarification of our military transitional program to workers who are seriously and honestly interested in the question—the most important and burning question affecting their lives.

(Editors note: This is the second of a series of articles by Comrade Cannon. The third will appear next week.)

TRUE TO FORM

In his lengthy attack on the military policy adopted by our

Come to the
Old Time Beer Party
for the
Time of Your Life
Saturday, Dec. 7th
8:30 P. M.
VICTORIA HALL
Irving Plaza
Irving Plaza
Irving Plaza and 15th Street
Polkas - Waltzes - Jazz - Entertainment
Admission 49c
Auspices: N. Y. Local, S.W.P.

The Negro Struggle

LABOR WITH A WHITE SKIN CANNOT EMANCIPATE ITSELF WHERE LABOR WITH A BLACK SKIN IS BRANDED — KARL MARX

By ALBERT PARKER

HILLMAN IGNORES JIM CROW

It is not only on the question of awards to corporations guilty of refusing to recognize the rights of trade unions that Sidney Hillman is being attacked nowadays. It is also because he has taken no steps to do anything about the war production industries' almost universal policy to refuse to hire colored workers at all, or to hire them only as porters, etc.

One instance after another has been widely publicized in the Negro press, giving names of scores of the largest corporations receiving contracts from the federal government, that openly announce their Jim Crow hiring policies.

Hillman has not done a thing about it to date, any more than he has done anything else generally for the working class in his post of Labor Commissioner of the National Defense Council.

His announced intention of resigning as vice-president of the CIO in order to devote himself fully to protecting the bosses' interests in the labor field should produce no tears from workers, Negro and white, for whose interests he has shown by his actions he has no intention of fighting.

HARRISON APPOINTMENT PROTESTED

Vigorous protests were entered this week against the rumored appointment of George M. Harrison as next Secretary of Labor by both the National Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Harrison is the grand president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, and his policies and record in the labor movement with regard to Negro workers were offered as more than adequate reasons why he should not be permitted to receive a post where he would have wider jurisdiction for his Jim Crow policies.

Harrison, according to the Urban League, has as head of this union, concurred in its membership policies which shunt colored railway clerks off into "auxiliary locals" where they pay the same dues as the white workers but have no voice in the determination of union policy and no representation on the policy-making bodies, or conventions.

It was also pointed out that Harrison had played a prominent smelly role in the fight against colored freight-handlers (reported in the article below.) The NAACP telegram to Roosevelt said, "Negro Americans and their white fellow workers who are seeking full democracy in the labor movement view with justified alarm possibility of having as Secretary of Labor a man who believes that Negroes are not entitled to full membership in organized unions."

Both organizations also objected to the "trade union segregationist" who is already in the Department of Labor, Dan Tracy, head of the AFL Electrical Workers Union.

SEEK SHOWDOWN AT AFL CONVENTION

Efforts were being made this week to bring to the floor of the AFL convention the story of a fight being conducted by the colored National Council of Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees, representing about 50 federal union locals and 2,000 workers throughout the country, to protect their rights as union members.

After six years of struggle to establish these federal locals, during which they received no help whatever from the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, and during which they obtained contracts from a number of important railroads, they were ordered last September by William Green to comply with the order of Harrison, head of the BRC, to turn in their charters and their treasuries and join powerless Jim Crow auxiliaries.

Meeting in Cincinnati at that time, delegates from these locals voted not to abide by Green's order. They demanded either a separate international charter from the AFL or the right to join the BRC with the same rights that other members enjoyed. In the meantime they decided to continue their work under the National Council plan.

Harrison has indicated that "we will not surrender jurisdiction over these workers" in his letter to Arthur Williams, head of the Council. Green is backing him, of course, in spite of the fact that the AFL's official position, as written down on paper at several conventions, condemns all forms of discrimination on account of race or color.

JIM CROW WOMEN TOO

It's not only men who get Jim-Crowed by the Army. Women are eligible for this treatment too. An example will show that women can be hurt pretty hard by this kind of treatment too.

Mrs. Burmeda Coleman and Miss Hattie Combre, employed by the Louisiana Industrial Insurance Company in New Orleans, took a civil service examination for tabulating machine operators at Camp Beauregard, near Alexandria, La.

On November 7 they received telegrams from the Camp to report for work. They then quit their jobs, which were relatively quite good ones, and spent a bit of money travelling from New Orleans to Alexandria.

When they got there on November 11, however, they were met by Major Dupont, commanding officer in charge of the camp, who told them that it was not known that they were Negroes, and that Negroes could not be used in that capacity at the camp.

So there they were, Jim Crowed as hard as any private in a separate regiment, without any reimbursement for the expenses they had incurred, and no jobs. It's a great country!

Highlights of the C. I. O. Convention

One of the most wonderful things about the convention was complete absence of speeches by government officials and other capitalist politicians, such as filled the first week of the AFL convention. Whatever motivation John L. Lewis may have had for thus arranging things, the net result was fine. Think of it! A trade union convention in which only trade unionists talk!

In its own way the capitalist press indicated which convention it considered most important. The crackerjacks came to Atlantic City, while the second-string men were sent to New Orleans. A total of 105 reporters registered with the press committee.

That 43-minute ovation to John L. Lewis on the first day was a pretty mechanical affair, engineered by the Stalinists and perfunctorily participated in by the rest. But, make no mistake about it, the ovations he got during and after his Tuesday afternoon speech on "labor unity" were the real thing. Lewis made the greatest come-back I have ever seen. He could get practically anything out of that convention—except one thing: re-election to the presidency. He made it quite clear, however, that he'll be back for that next year.

And in his speech after election, Murray made clear—in an almost-involuntary ejaculation which was edited out of the stenographic record—that he was under no illusions as to the "quirk of fate" which had given him the job.

The Stalinists were crazy enough to try to persuade Lewis to stand for re-election. After the "Draft Lewis" resolutions, passed in whatever locals they could manage it, the Stalinists flooded the convention with enormous buttons bearing the legend, "Forward with Lewis and CIO." Lewis poured cold water on all this in his very first speech the first day, but the Stalinists still kept hoping. None of them, however, dared to take the floor and make the proposal. Nor, for

that matter, any other proposal of their own. They were conspicuous by their silence. Matles, Quill and Curran were their only big-guns who took the floor and then only to agree with administration proposals. The only time their Fur Workers delegation sent a man to the microphone was to speak for a resolution against the government's frame-up of the union's leadership. And Harry Bridges never once took the floor!

With the national elections over and done with, an attempt by the clothing workers' delegates to work up some indignation against the CIO NEWS' failure to print pro-Roosevelt speeches was a flop. One of them dramatically (so he thought) pointed to the fact that the post-election number was "perhaps the only paper in the U. S. that didn't carry Roosevelt's picture." He got very little applause for his pains. A Negro delegate followed him to the mike and asked him why the CIO "should cringe before the powers that be"; the applause was good and strong.

The Hillman crowd had proposed a constitutional amendment barring Communists from paid office. Fortunately it didn't get very far. Nor did the Hillmanites carry the issue to the floor. Unfortunately, however, the Lewis-controlled resolutions committee brought in a thoroughly reactionary resolution denouncing communism, a resolution which can easily become the base for a red-baiting campaign in any CIO union. As the vote was called for, a grinning SWOC organizer called out: "Watch the commies vote for it." They did.

Next to the debate on "labor unity," the high point of the convention was the discussion on the poll tax. The way in which it enables a tiny handful of Bourbons to perpetuate a naked dictatorship over the eight Southern states where the poll tax still is in force; to send to Congress the stark-

est reactionaries of all, who through long tenure in Congress rise to hold most of the all-powerful committee chairmanships in Congress and thereby spread their rule over the whole country—all this was brought out by a series of dramatic speeches by Negro and white delegates from the South.

Incidentally they showed how deep is the bond of black and white solidarity in the CIO—it was just a matter of course to them and the rest of the convention that a delegate was a brother no matter what the color of his skin. What a contrast to that painful moment at an AFL convention, when the lone Negro delegate, A. Philip Randolph of the Railroad Porters, rises to plead with the "bily white" craft unionists for justice for his race!

The high point—carefully prepared for and finally reached—of Hillman's speech was his declaration that he had the "full confidence of the President of the United States." He stopped and waited for the applause. It was pretty tepid. The speech was a supreme effort by Hillman, but it fell flat. Hillman's strong point is committee-room and string-pulling stuff; he is neither an orator nor has he the necessary presence for the platform. In addition, of course, he had a very bad line to sell—the duPont-Morgan Defense Commission.

John L. Lewis has the best poker-face in the business. He gave no sign of any kind during Hillman's speech, but kept doing two things as he sat on the platform facing the audience. He kept teetering back in his chair until he had to grab something to save himself from falling. And he kept spitting on the floor.

Hillman scored off Lewis just once, but that was very effective. That was when Hillman, in the course of his speech, reminded the delegates that the United Mine Workers' constitution bars communists from membership. "What's

good enough for the UMW is good enough for the CIO," said Hillman. Needless to say, the Stalinists have never, in this whole period, ever published that disgraceful fact about the constitution which John L. Lewis rules over.

For long, dreary hours the convention would drone along, drugged in routine. Then, suddenly, some delegate would come alive at the microphone and rouse the entire convention, sometimes with just a single sentence. As when a Negro delegate, speaking on the need for more democracy, told what happened

to him in 1918 when he came back from France to the Southern town from which he had been drafted. "They ripped the medal from my breast and the uniform from my body and drove me back to the cotton fields." There were enough moments like that in the convention to make it more than worth while. Never mind the "responsible" speeches of Lewis and Murray and their associates, their talk of collaboration with the employers, etc. etc. That convention was as much a part of the class struggle as any picket line that ever slapped down a fink.

SOCIETY NOTES

The Waldorf-Astoria is seething with social consciousness. The National Association of Day Nurseries holds its second annual conference under the aegis—as who does not these days—of national preparedness. The Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Sockman told the delegates how "the child is the first line of defense" and assured his mink-craped audience that day nurseries are an important link in the nation's preparedness program. Par-sighted, these bourgeois! Munitions must be made for papa to use on the nasty enemy. Mama wants take papa's place in the factory. But something has to be done with junior. So the Day Nursery springs into action as a munitions-plant auxiliary. Who says Park Avenue isn't doing its bit?

Grace had been said. Sixty-three starved, homeless men sat around the breakfast board at the Salvation Army Social Service Center in Pittsburgh. Amen had hardly been uttered when they dug ravenously into a meal including angel-food cake and pancakes. In a few minutes two of them rose from the table, staggered across a hall and fell dead. Nine more died in hospital beds, and fifty-two others lay retching and writhing for days. Roach poison had been served in the pancakes. The Salvation Army had at last solved the unemployment

problem for at least eleven men.

The move to help big business build better blacklists was given a delicate shove forward on November 14 when members of the Architectural League of New York interrupted a pleasant luncheon to be finger-printed by Detective James F. Kenny, purely in the interests of the "anthropometric method of identification." They were photographed in radiant smiles, presumably to show that finger-printing doesn't hurt. It doesn't. It's the use to which the prints are put that does.

A fancy shop advertises "scalp belts" of leather with eight daily gilt disks, on each of which is engraved the initials of "one of the men in your life." How about tattooing this data around the waistline? It's just as colorful and can't be changed each week.

TROTSKY MEMORIAL FUND

The following additional contributions to the Trotsky Memorial Fund have come during the last two weeks:

Boston	\$2.50
Rockville	\$ 2.00
Lynn	8.00
Detroit	50.00
Los Angeles	29.15
Milwaukee	1.00
St. Paul and Minneapolis	130.00
Individual Contributions	2.30
Newark	20.50
Youngstown	6.00
Toledo	15.00
Chicago	20.00
TOTAL	\$316.45

Buffalo has pledged \$25.00 to the fund. Allentown pledges \$15.00 and Texas \$5.00. CHICAGO INCREASED ITS PLEDGE TO \$200.00.

Branch	Quota	Amount paid	%
Baltimore	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	100%
Rockville	7.00	7.00	100%
Toledo	50.00	50.00	100%
Lynn	100.00	83.00	83%
Boston	100.00	59.50	60%
Detroit	200.00	115.00	58%
Chicago and Indiana Harbor	200.00	105.07	53%
Newark	150.00	70.50	47%
Allentown	15.00	6.00	40%
Milwaukee	5.00	2.00	40%
Flint	150.00	56.00	37%
San Francisco	100.00	35.00	35%
Los Angeles	150.00	49.15	33%
New York	1000.00	255.00	26%
Minneapolis & St. Paul	1000.00	230.00	23%
Milwaukee	5.00	1.00	20%
New Haven	20.00	3.50	18%
Youngstown	50.00	6.00	12%
Akron	10.00	0.00	00
Buffalo	25.00	0.00	00
Cleveland	70.00	0.00	00
Hutchinson	10.00	0.00	00
Philadelphia	30.00	0.00	00
Pittsburgh	10.00	0.00	00
Portland	10.00	0.00	00
Quakertown	7.00	0.00	00
Reading	5.00	0.00	00
Rochester	15.00	0.00	00
St. Louis	5.00	0.00	00
Texas	5.00	0.00	00
Individual Contributions		2.30	
TOTALS	\$3507.00	1145.02	33%

To All Branches---

Pioneer Publishers announces that the new pamphlet "Defend the Negro Sailors" by Albert Parker will be available to the branches in bundle orders at 1½c per COPY PLUS POSTAGE. A fortunate circumstance makes it possible to offer this pamphlet at this low price. However it is imperative that the entire press run be gotten into the hands of the branches for immediate distribution as this pamphlet deals with a subject which is very current. The pamphlet will lose much of its value to you unless it is used now!!! Get your orders with cash in at once!

NOTEBOOK Of an Agitator

"BANDIERA ROSSA"

The biggest and most important news that has yet come out of the bloody and destructive war of the imperialists is contained in a little news item tucked away in the corner of the paper last Friday. A United Press dispatch from Athens, dated November 22nd, says: "News of Koritz's fall, given to several thousand Italian prisoners in camps here, started off a spontaneous demonstration. Anti-Fascist Italians sang 'Bandiera Rossa', the Italian revolutionary song."

What a message of hope and promise for tomorrow that brief item contains! And what testimony to the real feelings of the Italian soldiers which found tumultuous expression at the first opportunity. Now the world can know the real meaning of the defeats of the Italian army. The brave soldiers who sang that song to celebrate Mussolini's defeat at Koritz were saying for all the world to hear that they have no interest in the tyrant's war of conquest and that for them, as for the oppressed masses in all imperialist countries, the main enemy is at home.

RESOUNDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Above the sound of the biggest guns that message resounds throughout the world today. For eighteen long and terrible years now the Italian masses have known the yoke of fascist tyranny. But deep in the hearts of the enslaved there abides the memory of their song of freedom. At the first opportunity it came spontaneously to the lips of the imprisoned Italian soldiers in Greece.

When the journalists and commentators speculate about the further progress of the war, they are in the habit of considering only the pronouncements and plans and schemes of the statesmen and generals in the rival camps. They leave out the people. It is customary also for cynics, capitulators and renegades to rule out the people—the workers—in the fascist countries as an independent factor in coming events. The people haven't spoken yet but they are going to say the final and decisive word. The revolutionary song of the Italian soldiers in the Greek prison camp is a signal. The explosive which will blow the fascist tyrants to hell is located in their own countries.

HEROIC ITALIAN WORKERS

The heroic Italian proletariat showed its mettle in 1921. The workers occupied the factories and were ready for the next decisive steps. Betrayed by pusillanimous leaders, and lacking a strong party of Bolshevism which alone could lead the resolute struggle for power to the very end, the great movement of the Italian workers suffered defeat. In the reaction from that defeat they fell under the iron heel of fascism. But we must believe that they have lived all these terrible years on the memory of their great hope that the people will yet go forward ("Avanti o popolo") under the scarlet banner ("Bandiera Rossa").

A POIGNANT MEMORY

The brief dispatch from Athens recalled to me the poignant memory of the departure of the Italian delegation from the Fourth Congress of the Comintern in Moscow, at the end of 1922. The news of the fascist coup d'etat had arrived and the delegates were returning home to take up the underground fight. The great hall in the Kremlin resounded to their song, "Bandiera Rossa," in which the delegates of all the other countries joined. Many of those communist fighters went to their death; and so did thousands and tens of thousands of others of the flower of the Italian proletariat, in the course of these eighteen tragic years.

SEED OF COMING REVOLUTION

But the blood of these martyrs is the seed of the coming revolution. It flowered spontaneously in Greece the other day for the first time, at the first opportunity. We have ground to believe that those Italian soldiers in the Greek prison camp expressed the profoundest sentiments of the enslaved masses at home and the equally enslaved soldiers in Mussolini's army of conquest. In that sentiment in the hearts of the workers in all the warring countries—and in that alone—resides the hope and the confidence that the bloody and terrible war into which the imperialists have plunged the world will be brought to an end by a victory of the people. "Avanti o popolo!"—go forward, people, under the scarlet banner! "Bandiera Rossa trionferà!" J. P. C.

An Analysis of the Two Conventions

AFL---CIO and WAR

What are the differences separating the AFL and CIO? Will there be unity between them? Are the bosses preparing to crack down on American Labor? Will the trade unions survive the war?

Speaker:
FARRELL DOBBS
Labor Secretary, S. W. P.
Wednesday, December 8 8:30 P.M.
IRVING PLAZA
Irving Place and 15th Street

CIO Opens Road---

(Continued from Page 1)

the debate of the union's chief figures: Van Bittner, Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Kennedy, John Owens. They went over the history of the last five years and pilloried the AFL leadership's attempts to smash the new industrial unions.

James B. Carey and James Matles spoke of the growth of their union, the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers. They claimed an additional 50,000 organized during the last year. What they had to say was particularly impressive for it is an open secret that, whatever conceivable concessions the craft unions may come to make to other new unions, the U. E. now the fourth largest union in the CIO, will be dismembered if there is "unity" in the immediate future.

John L. Lewis was the final speaker against the Hillman proposal, and it was unquestionably one of the most effective speeches ever made by that powerful orator. Not the least of the reasons for his effectiveness was that on this question Lewis found himself in a position where he could speak with absolute honesty and truthfulness.

LEWIS CHALLENGES HILLMAN

The AFL has not recognized the principle of industrial unionism in the mass industries, said Lewis. Can we make them recognize it? No, not now:

"There is no peace because you are not yet strong enough to command peace upon honorable terms. And there will be no peace with a mighty adversary until you possess that strength of bone and sinew that will make it possible for you to bargain for peace on equal terms."

Lewis publicly threw down the gage of battle to Hillman. He recalled the defection of Dubinsky and Zaritsky. "And now above all the clamor comes the piercing wail and the laments of the Amalgamated Clothing workers. And they say, 'Peace it is wonderful.' And there is no peace." "Dubinsky took the easy way. Zaritsky took the easy way. If there is anybody else in the CIO that wants to take the easy way, then in God's name, take it!"

RIDICULES AFL TOPS

The convention delegates roared and huffed themselves with delight as Lewis interspersed logical argument with some screechingly funny Shakespearean comedy, ridiculing the Amalgamated Clothing Workers resolution's proposal to "explore the possi-

bilities" of peace.

"We have explored every proposition," said Lewis. "What have we all been doing? I have been an explorer in the American Federation of Labor. Explore the mind of Bill Green? Why Bill and I had offices next door to each other in the same corridor for ten years. I have done a lot of exploring in Bill's mind, and I give you my word, there is nothing there."

"Explore Mathew Wolf's mind? I did. It is the mind of an insurance agent, who used his position as an officer of the AFL to promote his insurance business. It is so because I told him so and he agreed with me."

"Explore Tom Rickert's mind, of the United Garment Workers? I did, and here is what was in his mind. He said he did not propose to let the Amalgamated Clothing Workers into the AFL if he could help it. I said to him that he was getting \$20,000 a year graft out of the advertising monopoly in the AFL, and I had a paper in my pocket to prove it. He knew it and agreed to that as true. And I thought then I had explored his mind enough."

"Explore the mind of Bill Hutcherson? I did. There wasn't anything there that would do you any good. So what? Waste more time on unprofitable explorations?"

"Well, what do the draftees expect—snug well-heated quarters like the officers? After all someone has to get hardened up to do the fighting for Wall Street."

Demand Freedom---

(Continued from Page 1)

do that Jim-crowism when captioned by that lofty term, 'The American Way', or race discrimination even when covered by the American flag to disguise its viciousness... stinks to the high heavens nonetheless.

"We are definitely united to lend your worthy paper every possible means of support in its drive against this outcropping of injustice which has now come to the surface in the United States Navy."

"We have one aim and that is to see that justice is secured for the colored men in the Navy who are now being unjustly punished for demanding their rights as men and American citizens."

What Do They Expect?

In an editorial of the Army and Navy Register for November 16 we read the following:

"Troops have been encamped in these days of chilly night in tents with less than a quarter of the Sibley Heating facilities. Troops have been for weeks in camp without hot water for washing and bathing."

Well, what do the draftees expect—snug well-heated quarters like the officers? After all someone has to get hardened up to do the fighting for Wall Street.

Treatment of Negroes in the Navy.

Added to these this week were the names of Negro sailors from two other ships. Those on the U.S.S. Brooklyn, stationed off Mare Island, California, show that they understand what is going on behind the closed doors of the Philadelphia case when they write:

"They are trying to make an example of Johnson and Goodwin (two of the Philadelphia men) to try to scare the rest of us into submission. But these constant letters to you are the only hope Johnson, Goodwin and the rest of us have to get your help, that of the N.A.A.C.P., and other such organizations throughout the country so that this case will not be dropped into obscurity and forgotten by our people while conditions remain the same. We, part of the messmen of the U.S.S. Brooklyn, ... are prepared to sacrifice the time that we have in here and ourselves to help remedy this condition."

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FIGHT WITH THE
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

ON THE WAR FRONT:

For:

1. Military training of workers, financed by the government, under control of the trade unions.
2. The establishment of special officers' training camps, financed by the government and controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.
3. Confiscation of all war profits—all company books to be open for trade union inspection.
4. Expropriation of all war industries and other operation under workers' control.
5. Trade union wages for all workers drafted into the army.
6. Full equality for Negroes in the armed forces—Down with Jim Crowism.
7. An end to secret diplomacy.
8. A peoples' referendum on any and all wars.

AT HOME:

For:

1. A job and decent living for every worker.
2. Thirty-thirty—\$30 weekly minimum wage—30 hour weekly maximum for all workers on all jobs.
3. \$30 weekly old age and disability pension.
4. Full social, political and economic equality for the Negro people.
5. Workers Defense Guards against vigilante and fascist attacks.
6. A twenty-billion dollar Federal public works and housing program to provide jobs for the unemployed.
7. Expropriate the Sixty Families.
8. An Independent Labor Party based on the Trade Unions.
9. A Workers' and Farmers' Government.

Vultee Strike

When more than 3,000 workers at the Vultee aircraft plant went out on strike for a rise in wages, the employers screamed like a hog with its foot in a noose.

And in order to save the poor employers who are going broke on a backlog of \$84,000,000 in orders for planes, with "reasonable" profits guaranteed and the industry expanding at an incredible rate in view of unlimited future orders, government agents swooped down from all sides.

There is good reason for this alarm on the part of the bosses and their government agents. Success for the workers in the Vultee strike can give the impetus that will lead to complete unionization of the airplane industry and provide such a spurt to the labor movement as it has not received since the great days of the first CIO upsurge.

The FBI as usual cried out "Reds!" And claimed to have scooped the Dies Committee in uncovering these "subversive elements" on strike at Vultee. Which should prove an object lesson to the 3,000 Vultee workers that the FBI and the Dies Committee are agencies of the bosses and that a "red" in their language is a worker with enough militancy to stand up for his rights.

But the Dies Committee and the FBI now have a new competitor in the field. None other than the "New Leader," organ of the Social Democratic Federation, which claims that it is "devoted to the interests of the labor movement."

This rag expresses its "devotion" to the labor movement by crying out in a front page headline of its Nov. 23 issue: "Reds Cripple Vital Plane Production at Vultee."

Like the FBI and the Dies Committee, the "New Leader" feels it a personal insult that a rise in pay should even be mentioned to bosses rapidly becoming millionaires out of the armament business.

Together with the FBI and the Dies Committee, the "New Leader" is acting the role of a strikebreaker at Vultee. The "New Leader" is interested in labor the same way an executioner is interested in getting his victim into the electric chair without a struggle.

Tampico Incident

Last week when the press reported that war ships of "unknown nationality" had caused the scuttling of one German freighter a few miles from Tampico and the return of three others to port, the *Socialist Appeal* made the supposition that these warships were American warships and that their action constituted the first step of military participation by the United States in World War No. 2.

Additional information now confirms this supposition.

On November 18, Tampico port authorities re-

ported they saw the silhouette of American warships in the distance and recognized among them the destroyer Plunkett.

The Mexican press was almost unanimous in the belief that the warships were American.

Lieutenant Zavala, commander of the Mexican gunboat, Queretaro, who warned one "foreign warship" out of "Mexican territorial waters," is reported as chief authority for the belief that at least one American destroyer entered Mexican waters.

Later in the day of November 18, three United States destroyers cruising close to Tampico where the German boat was scuttled detained and examined the papers of two neutral ships, one the Honduran freighter Ceiba, the other the Mexican tanker, Cerro Azul. This occurred within the 9-mile limit off the Mexican shore. The American destroyers were reported to be the Plunkett, the Broome and the Gilmer.

The Navy Department denied officially that U. S. Naval vessels stopped any merchantmen near Tampico. At the same time Under-Secretary of State Welles declared that the American destroyers alleged to have turned back the four German Ships had not entered Mexican territorial waters.

In view of the fact that Welles remained silent as to the identity of the warships which did drive back the German ships, his statement can be taken as merely a diplomatic evasion of the question.

The Mexican government on November 22 issued a declaration which was pointedly silent as to whether American destroyers had violated Mexican territorial waters, but added significantly: "The German craft attempted to leave Tampico with duly cleared papers; American destroyers, after they were some hours at sea played searchlights on them..."

It can thus be taken as officially established that it was American war ships which turned back the German freighters and which violated Mexican territorial waters.

It has become a commonplace that modern wars commence without a formal declaration of war. Incidents such as this one in Mexican waters simply increase in number until the nations become involved in major military operations. Determining the "aggressor" in the conflict is simply a legal question that not even the bourgeois jurists themselves can settle upon.

What is important in this incident is its clear proof that the Administration in Washington is cold-bloodedly and deliberately taking this nation step by step into the second world war. "Aid to Britain short of war" becomes increasingly vague as Roosevelt under this formula prepares to march American soldiers onto the battlefield to die for Wall Street.

Ominous Warning

The fate of the trade unions in France is an ominous warning to the trade unions in the United States. In France the workers made tremendous gains, including the 40-hour week, vacations with pay. In 1936 they could have gone a step farther and placed a genuine workers' government in power. But they failed to do that and instead began conceding to the offensive of the bosses.

First they accepted chiselling on hours and wages. Then they accepted wholesale increases in hours, wholesale decreases in wages in the face of mounting cost of living. They gave up their 40-hour week. All this was done in the name of "national unity," and "national defense."

But when the Nazi machine rolled over the frontiers, the bosses sold out. They sold out the French workers who had been stupid enough to believe what the bosses told them.

Now the Vichy government has dissolved the trade unions in France by decree. It is against the law in France to belong to a trade union. All the union funds and union property have likewise been confiscated by the government.

The bosses begin with chiselling on hours and wages, but in time of war they end up by wiping out the trade unions. Let the fate of the French trade unions not be lost upon the American workers!

Cynical Propaganda

In order to make the Second World War for profits and colonies more palatable, the entire capitalist press is busy painting up the Allies of Wall Street as simon pure democracies fighting for "all that America stands for."

While European workers are still only aliens subject for hounding by the Dies Committee, their capitalist governments allied with Wall Street have been covered with a coon skin cap and enrolled in the ranks of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The *New York Times* for instance in its issue of November 18, declares in relation to the war between Italy and Greece that "Two forces are at work here: totalitarianism and democracy."

This is just about as cynical a declaration as the *Times* has seen fit to print in some time. It is well known that Greece is governed by a totalitarian dictatorship with as brutal and cruel record in repression of workers' organizations as the bloodiest of them. We may be sure that if Metaxas had seen fit to swing into the orbit of Berlin instead of London, the *Times* would have likewise seen fit to drag out his evil record as a totalitarian dictator and print it with appropriately scathing comment, including perhaps even his imprisonment of members of the Fourth International.

But where profits are concerned, the capitalist press is also concerned that they are covered with the sweetest smelling names. In this respect they stop at no lie no matter how brazen, even to calling Metaxas a democrat and Roosevelt a friend of labor.

Child Labor in USSR

Stalin Issues Decree Driving Soviet Children From School
In Order to Create Larger Labor Reserve; Decree Retroactive

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

By ukase of October 2, Soviet children 14 years of age and over are immediately subject to draft into a conscript labor force; the right to education so solemnly "guaranteed" by the Stalin Constitution, has been abolished, without a formal constitutional amendment, or consultation of the Supreme Council of the USSR. The doors of secondary schools and universities have been slammed shut in the faces of the Soviet youth.

RETROACTIVE LAW

The retroactive law passed by People's Commissars introduces "payment for instruction, from September 1, 1940, in the eighth, ninth and tenth grades of secondary schools, and in universities." (*Pravda*, October 3, 1940. Our emphasis).

In Moscow, Leningrad and capital cities of the Soviet Republics, the tuition in secondary schools is set at 200 roubles a year; "In all other cities and villages—150 roubles a year." Tuition in universities is 400 roubles a year in Moscow, Leningrad and capital cities of the Soviet Federation; 300 roubles in other cities (where universities are few and far between). Art schools—fine arts, drama, music and other highest paid professions—500 roubles. State subsidies to university students have been withdrawn, except for the "best students." The rest, and this means approximately 98 per cent, will have to support themselves. The supply of Soviet scientists, engineers, technicians, already meager, is thus further reduced at the very source. Even in secondary schools education is no longer free.

SCHOOL INACCESSIBLE TO POOR
The average wage of a Soviet worker is below 200 roubles a month; the mass of the peasantry earns far less. Secondary schooling is therefore inaccessible to the sons and daughters of workers and peasants, and within reach only of the privileged progeny of governmental, party and trade union bureaucrats, functionaries of the GPU, labor aristocracy (Stakhanovists), factory directors and administrators, engineers, doctors, and so on. Thousands of children who had already started the current school year must now leave the secondary schools, not to mention those poor students still able to penetrate into the universities and technological institutes.

AMERICAN PRESS SILENT
Not a word of this has been allowed to leak out in the American press. In the last of a series of articles purportedly devoted to the "cultural and economical well-being of the people of the USSR," featured by the *Daily Worker*, one G. Stanley writes: "After the Revolution the doors of universities were thrown wide open to all the working people." (*Daily Worker*, November 16).

He forgets to mention a trifle newly added by Stalin: tuitions. This article is dated, Moscow, November 15, six weeks after the publication of the above decrees, six weeks after "all the working people" were kicked out through the wide open doors. Mr. Stanley is under orders to suppress the fate of one of the remaining conquests of the October revolution. As for the capitalist press, the editors are well informed but keep silent lest the diplomatic negotiations between Washington and Moscow be hindered unnecessarily.

STALINIST BOAST
What about other educational facilities so precious to all the "Friends of the Soviet Union"? The same Stanley in the same article still boasts brazenly: "But the network of educational institutions is not limited to ordinary schools. There is also a wide network of correspondence courses available to all Soviet citizens. Thus, while continuing to work in the factory, office or on the collective farm, one may qualify for the degree of engineer, teacher, agronomist etc."

Stalin's pen-prostitute again obeys orders. The readers of the *Daily Worker* must not learn that correspondence courses are henceforth restricted likewise to those who have the cash in their pockets to pay—one-half of the respective school and university fees. The Soviet press is even conducting a campaign to place lectures at clubs, enterprises, collective farms on a paid admission basis. People, it appears, don't like free lectures.

The official motivation of the cultural expropriation of the Soviet youth follows: "After duly considering the higher level of material welfare of the toilers and the considerable sums expended by the Soviet government on constructing, equipping and maintaining the incessantly expanding network of secondary and highest educational institu-

tions, the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR finds it necessary to place a share of the educational expenditures in secondary schools and universities in the USSR upon the toilers themselves, and has in this connection decided... to introduce the above-listed tuitions." (*PRAVDA*, October 3).

To believe the Kremlin, the toilers are now so well off that their children need no longer go to school.

REAL MOTIVE

The real motive for the cultural expropriation of the youth lies in the child-labor decrees promulgated on the same day. The *Pravda*, in an editorial hailing these "historic decrees of October 2"—incidentally, no comment has yet appeared in any Soviet paper on the equally "historic" abrogation of free education—declares openly that child labor was made necessary by the scarcity of labor which, in turn, was primarily due to the refusal of peasants to leave the land.

"In pre-revolutionary Russian villages... millions of poor peasants would leave each year to hire themselves out in cities... In the USSR... the collective farmers lead a secure life. But for this very reason the old sources which assured a spontaneous influx of labor forces into industry have been shut off, have disappeared." (*PRAVDA*, October 3.)

PREFERRED THE LAND

During the first two Five Year Plans more than 15-million peasants swarmed into the cities, where conditions were better than in the country. As the housing, living and working conditions grew more and more intolerable, the peasants preferred to remain on the land. With the inception of the Third Five Year Plan (1938), the flow of peasants was reduced to a trickle. The passage of the June laws has evidently shut off even this trickle. The acute shortage of labor was further aggravated by the mobilization of vast armies.

The text of the ukase restoring child-labor reads:

"In our country unemployment has been destroyed, poverty and pauperization in city and country forever abolished, and in view of all this we haven't got people who would be compelled to knock at factory gates and beg admission into the factories, thus spontaneously forming a constant reserve of labor power for industry."

All "spontaneous" sources of adult labor supply have been "shut off" by the fatal regime of the bureaucracy. But if adults cannot be compelled "to knock at factory gates and beg admission," there still remains the youth. Unable to get adult workers, the Kremlin proposes to tap the reservoir of child labor, to create by ukase hereditary industrial serfs.

DRIVEN OUT OF SCHOOLS

The chairmen of collective farms are instructed by law to "designate two (children) for every 100 members of the collective farm." Smaller collectives, at least one. In the urban centers, the city soviets will do the "designating" with this difference, that city quotas are not fixed in advance. In other words, the urban youth will be driven into industry at a speed depending upon the circumstances. But this child labor itself must have a "reserve." In order to create such a "spontaneous" reserve it was indispensable to drive the children of workers and peasants, the overwhelming majority of the Soviet children, out of schools. And so they were driven.

Child labor cannot operate modern industry. This, by the way, was one of the reasons the bourgeoisie was amenable, under work-

Crazy as a Fox

After months of stalling around, a federal court the other day finally denied the contention of the attorneys of H. C. Hopson, Associated Gas and Electric system executive, that he was mentally unbalanced, and ordered him to stand trial for milking some 20 millions from the stockholders of his company.

Hopson's doctors had testified that he was "lacking in spontaneity," worried too much, had a sensation of "wandering about through cellars and basements" and had a compulsion to lie abed all the time.

If it takes insanity to cause a utilities magnate to swindle 20 million bucks, then all the rest of the capitalists must be raving bug-house material.

ing class pressure in advanced countries, to legislating child labor out of the basic industry. One is almost embarrassed to repeat this elementary fact. Yet Stalin not only reintroduces—on the very eve of the Twenty-third Anniversary of October—this bestial relic of barbarism but envisages it as the only available reservoir of labor power for Soviet industry. The irreconcilable conflict between the further rule of the bureaucracy and the further economic, cultural and social advancement of the Soviet masses dictates the logic of Moloch-Stalin's decrees.

WINDOW DRESSING

But will not the children first go to "trade schools"? Doesn't the law provide for 1-2 years' training at "government expense"? Won't they serve only as apprentices?

All this is window-dressing, for the consumption of the gullible faithful abroad, and the venal apologists of the G.P.U. The decrees provide that the Council of People's Commissars, through a specially appointed board, has sole and complete jurisdiction over the "disposal of the labor reserve." This ominous clause invalidates in and of itself any and all other provisions, assuming of course that the gang in the Kremlin feels itself in any way bound by the scraps of paper it labels "laws." There are no facilities for housing let alone training. If any further verification of the real aims of these decrees is required, we cite the date set for the induction of child labor into basic industries—coal mines, ferrous and non-ferrous mines, iron and steel, non-ferrous metallurgy, oil industry, building trades: *It is six months.* That is, approximately the time it will actually take to fully organize the draft.

ENSLAVING YOUTH

The bureaucracy avows, in so many words, that it cannot operate Soviet industry today and has no prospect of operating Soviet industry in the future except by enslaving the youth of the country, by chaining them to industry just as it has sought to chain the adult workers. That is its program "on the threshold of Communism."

It may be argued that by employing child labor the bureaucracy will be able to alleviate at least partially the crisis now convulsing Soviet industry. In any case, success in smashing the resistance of the workers to the June laws. Moscow fervently hopes so. But other and much more immediate consequences must flow from this ruthless attempt to enslave the youth. It is as if Stalin was deliberately bent on convincing every child in the Soviet Union that his regime is the mortal enemy of the youth whom he has now expropriated not only politically, but culturally and socially.

DRIVEN INTO BLIND ALLEY

Except for a thin layer of privileged and exempt children, the mass of the Soviet youth can no longer cherish any illusions about their future. In the period of the first two Five Year Plans, these illusions—"Wait till we finish the Second Five Year Plan and enter Communism!"—played an enormous role in stabilizing the regime. Driven into a blind alley the youth has no perspective, no alternative other than to engage in an open struggle for self-preservation. Stalin has lit the fuse to a charge with the greatest explosive power.

The first steps in this struggle have already been taken by the younger workers in their resistance to the June 26 laws. The October 2 legislation will not reduce but intensify tenfold this resistance. They have acquired a powerful ally in the youth of the land, especially the sons and daughters of the millions recently incorporated into the Soviet Federation.

BUREAUCRACY SEES DANGER

Nor is the bureaucracy blind to the danger. But it deludes itself with the assurance that the totalitarian machine of repressions will again see it through. All the gears of the apparatus are grinding overtime. The party and the Komsomol (Russia YCL) have orders to "engage in vast political-mass activities which will insure the fulfillment of the ukase, and in particular obtain a considerable flood of voluntary declarations of enrollment in the schools" (read: child labor army). All campaigns in the press have been sidetracked in favor of this latest one. Newspapers shriek hysterically about the "unanimous approbation of these great historic decrees;" rave about the great uplift of alleged factory mass meetings all equally unanimous; and, above all, greet ecstatically the least rumor of "voluntary enrollments."

It is as if Stalin intended to leave nothing undone in exposing to every child in the Soviet Union the methods and inner-mechanics of his rule.

Go Forward

Latin American
Workers Face
U. S. Imperialism

By JOSEPH HANSEN

Vice-President Wallace, the press informs us, has been studying Spanish the past few years. His interest in this language is not strictly cultural. He is learning Spanish the better to represent the interests of American imperialism in the coming period. For the expansive force of imperialism follows geographic lines and the first area of conquest for U.S. imperialism is Latin America.

Wallace has already been detailed to represent Washington at the inauguration of President-Elect Camacho in Mexico City on December 1. Almazan, who pretended to be the legally elected president of Mexico has thus been discarded by Washington after being held on the shelf since last July pending "conversations" with the representatives of the Mexican bourgeoisie over the oil expropriations, naval and air bases, and the construction of military highways connecting with the great military highways in the United States.

The Junket of Wallace to Mexico City is thus part of the drive of U. S. imperialism south of the Rio Grande.

In Brazil, the controlled press applauded the idea of "mutual friendship" visits such as that of Wallace to Mexico.

For despots such as Vargas in Brazil and throughout South America it is largely a question of the price that can be obtained through conceding to one or another of the imperialist powers. And this price is expressed in the form of "loans" after "good neighbor" visits to Washington.

A commission from Argentina, for example, is holding out for a \$250,000,000 loan before cementing a "friendship" with the U. S. imperialism which would include construction of naval and air bases on the Rio Plata. Of the South American nations Argentina has up to date carried on the most independent policy in relation to the United States. This was due to the fact that her exports, grain, beef, hides, etc. were barred from this country by high tariffs and went to Europe, principally to England.

The commission which is dreaming of the \$250,000,000 loan is also asking the Washington administration to make possible the export of agricultural products from Argentina to the United States. But this can only be done at the expense of the agricultural areas. And the switch in the farm vote in the recent election into the Republican camp has already given warning to Roosevelt that the farmers are in no mood to brook increased competition in a market already glutted with agricultural products.

The Roosevelt Administration which could find no solution to over-production save curtailing and destroying crops here at home, will find it scarcely possible to grant the Argentine request that the customs let down the barriers to her surpluses.

THE CASE OF MARTINIQUE

Already Washington has obtained eight new military bases from Great Britain along the Atlantic coast from New Foundland to Trinidad.

The use to which Roosevelt intends to put these bases are shown clearly in the case of Martinique, French possession in the Caribbean.

Operating from the newly acquired base of St. Lucia, U. S. warships are patrolling the vicinity of Martinique, enabling British warships to withdraw for service in the North Atlantic. But the island of Martinique possesses one of the finest harbors in the Caribbean, and on top of this there are 110 American bombers on the island which were sold to the French government before the capitulation to Hitler.

Washington wants these bombers, the harbor, and in fact the entire island, and the neighboring one of Guadeloupe.

Already the capitalist press is laying down the appropriate barrage of propaganda preparatory to direct military action. The *New York Times* began the campaign with queries about these 110 airplanes gathering rust in the Caribbean. But the *New York Post* has been the most blatant. In an editorial in the November 14 issue it demands: "Why is it important for the free nations of the Western Hemisphere to wrest control of the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe from 'France' at once?" And then after an argument as to the desirability of Martinique coming under U. S. domination, the *Post* declares: "Our interests command action at once."

As if this language were not strong and plain enough, the *Post* editorial referred to what purports to be an inside story on conditions on Martinique published the previous day. The story describes the influx of Nazi agents who presumably were sent to agitate the native population against the United States. It speaks of military preparations for defense of Martinique, the possibility of Martinique being used as a base for German invasion of the Western Hemisphere.

The people are starving to death, the article reports—which is probably true as all the Latin American peoples suffer in frightful poverty, although without commiseration from the capitalist press until it is deemed feasible to seize them from a rival power.

The people of Martinique, reports the article "want to come under the wing of the U. S." and "the 250,000 inhabitants of the island are on the verge of revolution, but have no arms to rise against the rulers."

What is this but the classic formula of imperialist conquest? The islands are a rich prize; enemy forces are free to utilize them; the people are starving; they "want" to come under the imperialist wing; they are even ready to carry out a revolution if they are aided with arms—all this sounds like Hitler himself announcing the formula for further expansion. Imperialism speaks the same language the world over!

TIME TO LEARN SPANISH!

For the workers of the United States the expansion of American imperialism southward increases the need for stronger ties with the workers of Latin America in order to obtain greater unity and striking power against the common enemy.

Wallace's example is not bad—it is time to learn to speak Spanish!