

SPECIAL ISSUE ON REARMAMENT

Workers Age

Weekly Paper of the Independent Labor League of America

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AT FIRST GLANCE

by Jay Lovestone

SIMPLE TRUTHS

SOME truths are so simple, so old, and so firm that too many people tend to forget about them. That's why we have been repeating with such persistence certain features of the present world situation.

It is our conviction that unless labor prevents it, the United States will plunge into the impending world war sooner and with fuller force than most imagine—and certainly sooner and more decisively than in the 1914-1918 war to "make the world safe for democracy."

"It is remarkable how the cleavage between Britain and Germany—the source of which is a clash of purely economic interests—tends all the time to transform itself into a conflict of two moralities. Imperceptibly, the fight for world markets becomes a struggle of rival civilizations."

Those who sneer at Marxian materialism, at historical materialism, can do well to ponder the above. And in viewing the complicated conditions of the moment, all of us will be helped considerably if we employ as our methodology the following essence of Marx's philosophic approach: "Does it require deep intuition to comprehend that man's ideas, views and conceptions, in one word, man's consciousness, changes with every change in the conditions of his material existence, in his social relations and in his social life?"

CHAMBERLAIN AT WORK

AND as Chamberlain is preparing to flirt with the Vatican and to woo Catholicism as a moral force against brute force, we are further reminded of Marx: "What else does the history of ideas prove than that intellectual production changes its character in proportion as material production is changed?"

"Europe these days is constantly falling into two camps. The division between these rival camps is determined not so much by political or racial as by moral considerations. . . . The British vis-a-vis the Pope is equally noticeable because it comes soon after the Holy Father has publicly expressed profound disagreement with the mental attitude of the dictators towards the essential problems of human relations."

Yes, it is clear that Chamberlain is preparing to put over something particularly dirty—some momentous concession to Mussolini or some handsome gift to Hitler—in the very near future. That's the real reason for his going so heavily into the "morality" and "sanctity" game. The Vatican as the fortress of extreme reaction is soon going to be heralded as a force of mighty progressivism by Chamberlain as well as by Stalin's blotter, Browder.

Of the same suicidal brand is the present Stalin strategy of sycophancy before the so-called "democratic" powers. In essence, Stalin diplomacy thus pleads on bended knee to Lombard Street imperialism: "You think you can save your vast empire, your prized India, your precious possessions in Africa, by playing with Nazi Germany. May we humbly say to you that you are wrong? If you really want to save your tottering empire, then play with Stalin."

Lots of dirty water has flowed under the bridges of time since Stalin succeeded Lenin and displaced Leninism. It may appear old-fashioned but we still believe that not until the British Empire is broken up can the talk of world revolution transcend the realm of rhetoric. At the risk of being called cynical and hyper-suspicious, we cling to our contention that the German proletariat, in its struggle to overthrow the Nazi regime, cannot count in the least on British, American, or French imperialism. Hence, "collective security"—1939 edition is as unacceptable to us as was its 1914 edition. Ditto for British imperial anti-Hitlerism of 1939 alongside of Czarist anti-Kaiserism and Wilson-Palmer "democracy" of more than two decades ago.

DECLINE AND DECAY

WORLD production of steel ingots and castings was well over one hundred million gross tons in 1938. This represented a loss of about 20% from the preceding year.

These drab figures tell far more than a surface glance at them would reveal. Despite consumption of huge supplies for armaments, despite a vastly increased supply of iron devoured by the armament industry, world steel production registered a drastic drop. No other facts or figures could be marshalled to indicate as forcefully the gravity of the economic crisis gripping the world. Not even the terrific stimulus of armaments could prevent a sharp decline in the production of the steel sinews of capitalist economy.

The role of armaments as a force for reviving industry is too often viewed falsely and too many economists see only the positive side, the momentary stimulating phase, of armaments. Very few give any consideration to the negative, to the more permanent depressive phase of war preparations. These preparations breed an enervating lack of confidence in social, political and economic relations. The resulting depressive effects on economy may appear intangible to the superficial observer but they are very serious in their undermining influence.

Greater Germany and the United States afford striking confirmation of our conclusions. With the annexation of Austria, Germany displaced the United States as the world's premier per-capita steel consumer. This was occasioned entirely by Hitler's mad armament pace. No one can question the essentially unsound, acutely critical condition of German economy. Not even its big spurt in the production of steel for death-dealing machines can hide, let alone overcome, this decadence in its economic life. And the United States, the strongest capitalist economic machine, had the largest loss in steel output (43.5%). Roosevelt's rearmament program cannot alter trends basically. The very war preparations engender a lack of confidence that weakens the underpinnings of the entire system.

Zimmerman Calls For United Labor Front

New Congress Threatens Past Gains

Declaring that the present situation in Congress is a threat to labor gains thru social legislation, Charles S. Zimmerman, head of the Dressmakers Union Local 22, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, last week sent a telegram to national trade-union leaders urging them to call a conference to form a united labor front to press the fight for social legislation. The telegram, which was sent to William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; John L. Lewis, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations; and George Harrison, chairman of the Railway Labor Executives Association, reads as follows:

"Conservative forces in Congress, are organizing to prevent enactment of new social legislation and to revise existing social legislation and to worsen the unemployment situation by cutting down W.P.A. appropriations. This dangerous ten-

dency can be checked only by united labor action. To prepare that united action, regardless of labor's organizational differences, I suggest calling a national conference of representatives of the A. F. of L., the C.I.O., and the railway brotherhoods. Only the unity of labor can defeat reaction."

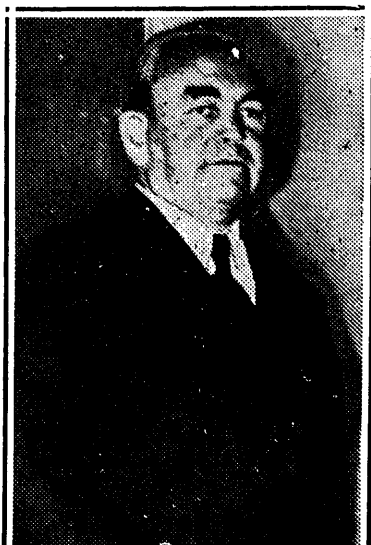
Amplifying his telegram in an address over Station WEVD the following evening, Zimmerman said:

"The President's refusal in his message to propose new social legislation will undoubtedly be taken as an admission of weakness in the progressive ranks by reactionaries in Congress. If they are given a free hand, the benefits that social legislation has brought to labor will disappear. This situation makes it mandatory to bring about immediate united labor action. Such united action would serve notice that labor will not tolerate reactionary attempts to wipe out labor's gains."

Mooney Free!

Famous Labor Prisoner Pardoned

Tom Mooney, for twenty-two years deprived of liberty by the employing class and its agents, was unconditionally pardoned last week by the newly elected governor of



TOM MOONEY Formerly No. 31921

California, Culbert L. Olson. The liberation of Mooney from his long imprisonment is an admission of his charge that he was framed by the railroad corporations of California where, more than two decades ago, he had been an active trade-union and socialist leader.

The same courage and vitality that enabled Mooney to direct his own fight for liberty from his prison cell remains with him now that he is ready to reenter actively the labor movement, which has so long fought for his freedom. "The social order is decaying," Mooney declared in his speech of thanks, "and a new social order must be built up."

Rejoicing at the freedom of Tom Mooney has spread thru the international labor movement, where his cause had become a battle-cry. Fenner Brockway, secretary of the Independent Labor Party of Great Britain, has already invited Mooney to visit England as guest of the I.L.P.

Mooney declared that his immediate attention would be turned to the freeing of Warren K. Billings, framed with him, but still in jail.

'CIO Receivership Must End'-Martin

UAW President Demands Restoration Of Autonomy to Auto Union

A special meeting of the International Executive Board of the U.A.W. has been called for Tuesday, January 10. Officially, the meeting is called for the purpose of hearing a report on recent negotiations with Ford but, according to the Daily Worker, which seems to have inside information, an effort will be made to remove Homer Martin from the presidency of the union.

This sudden move was apparently prompted with the action of the big Plymouth local of the U.A.W. in Detroit a few days before. At that meeting, attended by between 3,500 and 4,000 members, it was decided almost unanimously, less than half a dozen voting against, to recall the officers of the local, all of them anti-Martin, and to have new elections in ten days. For the intervening period, President Martin was asked to appoint two administrators.

(Special to the Workers Age)

Detroit, Mich.

Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers of America, in a radio address delivered here on Tuesday, January 3, over Station WJR, charged that the C.I.O. Coordinating Committee, composed of C.I.O. chiefs Sidney Hillman and Philip Murray in addition to U.A.W. leaders R. J. Thomas and Martin himself, had not only failed to end factionalism in the U.A.W. but that factionalism had increased and that dissolution of the so-called "peace" committee was imperative.

RESTORE AUTONOMY

"We are determined," Martin said, "that 1939 shall see the complete restoration of our autonomy as an International Union, and I call upon

our membership to join with me in demanding the return of our union to its members, thru the restoration of the authority and control to the hands of its democratically-elected leadership, who are subject to the provisions of our constitution. This can be accomplished by abolishing the so-called Coordinating Committee and the termination of the special agreement now in existence between the Executive Board of the U.A.W. and the C.I.O."

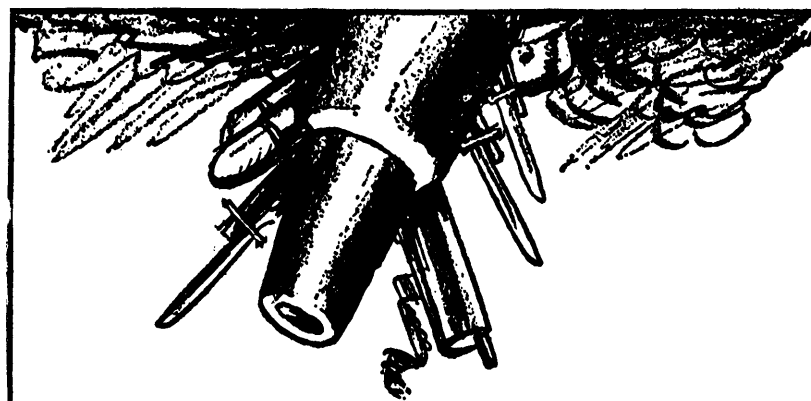
"CLOAK OF IMMUNITY"

"Certain individuals and groups within the union," Martin charged, "have used the special agreement with the C.I.O. as a cloak of immunity, under cover of which they have even intensified their destructive factional activities and propaganda. These activities, if permitted to continue, will inevitably split and disrupt our International Union and may even destroy it. This, I am determined as President of the U.A.W., to prevent. If our great International Union is to resume its progressive and constructive program and go forward toward the achievement of new gains, we must be in a position to determine, without outside interference, our program, policies and leadership."

"It goes without saying," Martin added, "and there should be no disputing the fact that the United Automobile Workers of America belongs only to its membership, to the men and women who, by paying their dues, support it. And we might add that at no time has the membership of the U.A.W. granted to any one the authority to deliver over the direction and control of the affairs of the union to any outside body. In fact, to do so is an open

F.D.R. Asks 2 Billion For Arms; Cuts Relief

"HEAVY, HEAVY OVER THY HEAD"



—From The Baltimore Sun

Reform Policy Part of War Planning

Annual Message Devoted To Foreign Policy, Armaments Program Of White House

A sum of nearly nine billion dollars — \$8,995,663,200 — to cover the federal budget for the fiscal year 1940, was asked by President Roosevelt in a special budget message to Congress last week.

This gigantic sum represents a slight decrease as against the 1939 budget, which was \$9,492,329,000.

Recovery-relief spending is slashed. The sum requested is \$2,266,165,000, about a billion lower than the year before.

But national defense expenditures are to reach a new peace-time high — two billion dollars, double the previous year, itself a peace-time high.

Taxes are to go up a little higher; the President wants \$442,000,000 in new levies, primarily for armaments.

The campaign to put America on a war footing—psychologically, economically and militarily—was officially launched last week when President Roosevelt delivered his annual message to the new session of Congress.

The greater part of the message was devoted to war preparations and foreign affairs. In the Roosevelt tradition, it was designed rather as an appeal to the public than as a report to the Congress. However, it included, in popular form, the essential points of the Administration program for the coming period.

"IDEALISTIC" CAMOUFLAGE

As "idealistic" camouflage of the war drive, Roosevelt raised the slogan in his message: "Defense of religion, democracy and international good-faith," following very closely the old Wilsonian formula, "To make the world safe for democracy."

"Adequate defense," the President emphasized, consists of three main parts: (1) the building up of the "armed forces and defenses" of the country; (2) the "organization and location of key [economic] facilities"; and (3) the consolidation of the "underlying strength of citizenship," which, he explained, means "national unity." A special message dealing with the first two points, the President said, would be forthcoming in a few days.

In the field of foreign policy, the message implied that the Adminis-

"Wall Street liked President Roosevelt's speech today and expressed its feelings by buying stocks in sufficient volume to lift price fractions to around 3 points at one time. . . . Pound sterling gained more than a cent."—New York World-Telegram, Jan. 4, 1938.

tration would soon move to amend the Neutrality Act so as to give the President greater "discretion," that is, the power to "name the aggressor" and thus involve the country in any foreign war on the side he may happen to favor. There was also a strong indication that resort to economic measures against "aggressors" in the form of sanctions might be sponsored by the Administration. Of course, it is to be expected that the White House and the State Department will strongly oppose any war-referendum legislation or any other proposal designed to keep America out of war.

As far as domestic affairs are concerned, the President made it clear that the period of New Deal social reform was over. The reforms of earlier years, he pointed out, had played a big role in preparing the country for war but such measures were no longer necessary. Aside from government reorganization and railroad legislation, Mr. Roosevelt said, "the past three Congresses have met in part or in whole the pressing needs of the new order of things. We have now passed the period of internal conflict in the launching of our program of social reform." It is on the basis of abandoning any effort at further reform that the Administration expects to cement its "national-unity" front with the conservative elements in the Democratic party and with the Republicans as well.

No "drastic curtailment" of government spending could be expected, the President said, until the national (Continued on Page 2)

Onward, Soldiers of the Dollar

WE ARE MARCHING on to glory with the Bible in our hands, We are carrying the gospel to the lost in foreign lands; We are marching on to glory, we are going forth to save With the zeal of ancient priest, with the prayer of modern knave; We are robbing Christian churches in our missionary zeal, And we carry Christ's own message in our shells and bloody steel. By the light of burning roof-trees they may read the Word of Life, In the mangled forms of children they may see the Christian strife. We are healing with the galling, we are blessing with the sword; For the Honor of the Nation and the Glory of the Lord.

Then march on, Christian soldiers! with sword and torch in hand, And carry free salvation to each benighted land! Go, preach God's Love and Justice with steel and shot and shell! Go, preach a future Heaven and prove the present Hell! Baptize with blood and fire, with every gun's last breath, Teach them to love the Father, and make them free in Death Proclaim the newer gospel; the cannon giveth peace, Christ rides upon the warship his army to increase. So bless them with the rifle and heal them with the sword For the Honor of the Nation and the Glory of the Lord!

WILLIAM C. EGLESTON

violation of our constitution and places our union in a receivership which can only retard its growth and progress and defeat its democratic processes and principles."

The quotations of the speech cited above are portions of a letter which Martin has addressed to all officers

and members of the U.A.W. and which he read verbatim in the course of his address.

Martin said he was reading the full text of his letter for the purpose of explaining a recent statement made to the press in which he (Continued on Page 3)

SP-ILLA Dressmakers in Joint Anti-War Appeal

Call on Trade Unionists to Fight Administration Drive to War

(The appeal below was recently issued in leaflet form jointly by the New York Dressmakers Branche of the I.L.L.A. and the Socialist Party.—Editor.)

GREAT danger threatens the American people. Under all kinds of deceptive slogans, a concerted move is under way to stampede this country into a vast super-armaments program. It is not enough that last year more millions were spent on the army and navy than ever before in the history of this country while at peace. More and still more must be spent! More and still more must be thrown into the bottomless pit of war preparations!

For the bankers, industrialists and munition makers, all this means the protection of their "interests" (investments and business) and the increase of their profits at home and abroad.

For labor, for the mass of the people, the super-armaments program means war; it means that this country will be swallowed up in another world slaughter, bringing fascism in its wake.

It means lower living standards for the masses. It means that billions of dollars will be taken away from unemployment relief, housing and other really useful social expenditures to be burnt up on armaments and munitions. It means drastic cuts in W.P.A., social security and public works to swell the profits of the "merchants of death." It means a military fascist dictatorship for the United States, which will outlaw strikes, conscript labor, curtail collective bargaining, place the lives of the workers and their organizations in the hands of the war-mongers to be disposed of

at their will.

They tell you that rearmament will bring prosperity and cut down unemployment. This is a deliberate fraud. Armaments economics is false economics. As President Roosevelt himself emphasized in his address at Buenos Aires two years ago, on December 1st, 1936: "Employment thru rearmament is false employment. . . . We know that nations guilty of these follies inevitably face the day either when their weapons of destruction must be used against their neighbors or when an unsound economy, like a house of cards, will fall apart."

The poison of jingoism, of whooping it up for war and armaments, is spreading, even in the labor movement. In the ranks of labor, it is being peddled most brazenly by the Stalinites. Throwing overboard all the principles and traditions of the class-conscious working-class movement, the Communist Party has come out for the big armaments program, side by side with the American Legion and other patrioteering, chauvinistic organizations Workers!! Trade Unionists!!

Beware of the poisonous propaganda of the war-mongers and armaments boosters in whatever guise it may come.

Remember: Bigger armaments mean slashes in relief, cuts in W.P.A., retrenchment of low-rent public housing, abandonment of public works.

Against war! Against armaments! Against fascism! For jobs - for peace - for freedom!

C.I.O. Control Big Issue In U.A.W. Faction War

Martin Strength Grows; Union Demands Autonomy

By GEORGE F. MILES

"WHAT does Martin say?" This is the question most often heard among auto workers for since the capitulation of some of his supporters on the International Board, giving the C.I.O. "peace" pact a majority, President Martin has not spoken up.

MARTIN AND THE PACT

Perhaps it was a feeling of futility and disgust with the grasping careerism of some, which, in comparison, make a weather-vane a symbol of stability; perhaps his fear that a continued struggle against the C.I.O. pact would not be understood by the membership, which might be made to believe that he was fighting to hold his own position as President. Whatever the exact reason, President Martin did go along with the pact, never professing to believe in it but rather taking the point of view that it was a decision of the union, and, like all other decisions, would have to be tested in life. Nor did he speak up during the last several months when a bitterly biased International Board majority worked overtime to undermine his prestige and standing with the membership, to break up his support in the ranks and to eliminate his friends and supporters in the union.

But even his silence was not received graciously. It was interpreted by his opponents as a method of eloquent protest against their deeds and misdeeds. He was stirring up the membership even with his silence! More recently, the Stalinists have charged that Martin is not as silent as first impression would indicate. They point to a series of mimeographed leaflets under the signature of E. Greene, which are being sent thru the mails to members of the U.A.W.; they charge, tho not officially, that these are issued by some one close to Martin. Nor do the Stalinists deny that he has been bucking many of their proposals in the International Board.

That anonymous leaflets, sharply condemning the International Board for scheming to abolish the union paper, for voting back-pay to the expelled officers, for playing the Stalinist game, for curtailing the autonomy and democracy of the union, could receive such widespread support in the ranks, is in itself an indication of the slight hold which the International Board has over the membership as well as of the widespread dissatisfaction in the ranks with conditions in the union.

"REVOLT" OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

It was under these circumstances that a panicky group of officers received the news of their appointments to various union departments by President Martin. For months, the officers, especially those who had been expelled and later reinstated, conducted an energetic campaign to the effect that President Martin was assigning them no functions for factional reasons of his own. When the assignments finally did come, they merely changed the version slightly and now shouted that the appointments were made for factional reasons. Vice-Presidents Mortimer Frankenstein and Hall announced their determination not to take over their new functions—Hall was assigned to General Motors Department, Frankenstein to West Coast aircraft and Mortimer to East Coast aircraft—and said they would appeal to the C.I.O. Coordinating Committee (Progressive workers in the U.A.W. call it the "Subordinating Committee.")

Just what happened at the Coordinating Committee is not known. But it is known that the Coordinating Committee refused to take up the appeal of the disgruntled officers. Some insist that the groundswell of dissatisfaction in the U.A.W. with the leadership the C.I.O. is known to back, had something to do with it. Others state that the officers were advised to solve the problem in their own International Board where they could easily override Martin's appointments by majority action of the Board.

BITTER FACTIONALISM

Whatever the fact may be, certain it is that the controversy over appointments brought to a head the latent division in the union. Having picked the wrong issue for a showdown, the International Board majority is now anxiously looking about for some way of regaining its lost ground. Their hatred of and opposition to President Martin, which unites them today, was brought to the surface by recent events. Where they whispered before, they now talk quite audibly of President Martin's removal from office even before the convention of the union in August. Martin's leading role in a number of very satisfactory settlements with the employers they look upon as personal affronts and his conference some time ago with Henry Ford actually became the cause of violent panic. So factional is their outlook that any achievements of the union in which President Martin participates, are derided and prayers are regularly

* This article was written before President Martin's recent address demanding the abolition of the C.I.O. Coordinating Committee.

ly offered for some crushing defeat to throw in the face of President Martin.

To this cynical approach to basic union problems the broad sections of the membership are responding in their own way by a profound contempt for the majority of the Board. And this attitude is not confined to progressive workers—it crosses all former faction lines. At one meeting where Board members tried to sell the assessment, a former "unity" caucus leader said he might be able to sell the assessment to his membership but, in order to do that, he would also have to sell the International Executive Board and that no man could do. On the refusal of some of the officers to take their appointed posts, most of the former "unity" locals turned against them and ordered them to obey President Martin's instructions. At other local meetings, Board members sweat blood trying to explain why the Board voted back-pay for the reinstated officers and then immediately called for an assessment to refill the plundered treasury. Or why the Board must continue to meet in Washington, at great expense to the union, unless it be that C.I.O. leaders want to keep the union under their thumb.

Altho opposition to the International Board majority headed by Frankenstein and Mortimer is widespread, this opposition does not express itself in terms of a well-defined program. To some extent, the E. Greene leaflets have served to unify and give form to this discontent in the ranks but the leaflets themselves are lacking in clarity on many questions and have at no time presented a well-rounded program. But a number of issues are taking shape in the ranks and are bound to make themselves felt in any future union controversy. The issue of autonomy is uppermost, the union never having accepted the idea of placing its autonomy in the custody of C.I.O. receivers. The type of constitution which the C.I.O. adopted in Pittsburgh has helped to aggravate matters and to intensify the desire

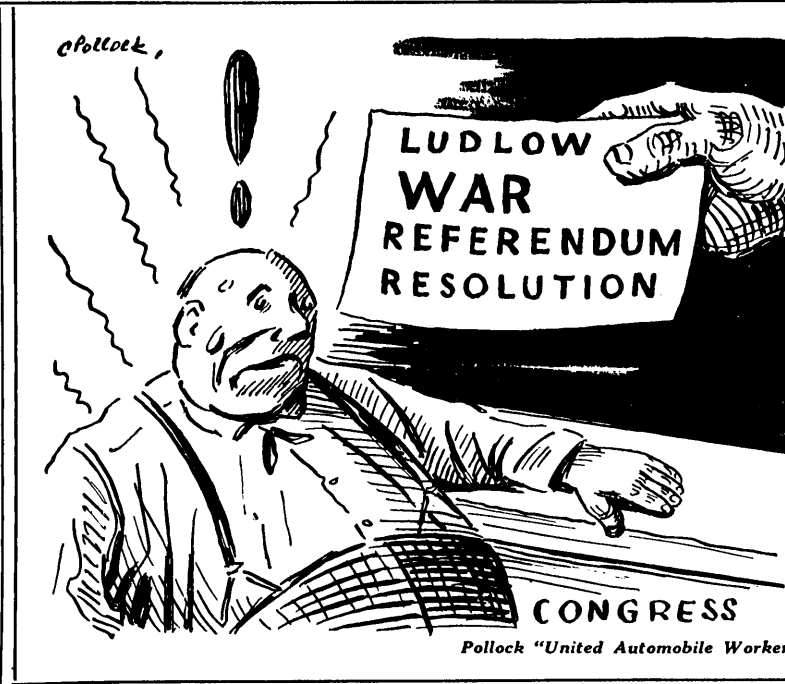
for the return of full autonomy to the union.

Nor are the ranks convinced that the danger of Stalinist domination has passed just because the C.I.O. has given its blessing to the very people who served as the spearhead for Stalinist penetration. Also such decisions as on the assessment, back wages, abolition of the paper, participation in the war-makers Congress for Peace and Democracy, all have created centers of disaffection and all have given rise to the growing conviction—rightly or wrongly—that the majority of this International Board is merely the rubber stamp for the C.I.O. leadership.

WHAT NOW?

In a situation so tense and volatile, it is difficult to say what will happen. The International Board is jittery and panicky. That the disaffected membership looks to Martin for leadership they know; that President Martin's position has become stronger they concede. And they are fearful lest continued delay will strengthen President Martin to a point where any resistance on their part will be futile. The danger now exists that this feeling of despair may give rise to some adventurist and irresponsible move on the part of the Board, which might endanger the unity of the organization.

At this very moment, there is talk to the effect that the coming meeting of the International Board in February will call for an emergency convention for the purpose of removing Martin from the presidency. That Martin does not intend to take things lying down is clear from a statement issued by him in St. Louis, in which he declares that he will place before the coming Board meeting the proposal to liquidate the Coordinating Committee because the operation of that committee has tended to violate the autonomy of the organization. If either of these two moves develops, then all the perorations about the "peace" that Lewis has brought to the U.A.W. will have proved entirely without substance. The organization will



Will Negro Be Jew of America?

Labor Best Defender of Negro Rights

By EMIL MAZEY

(These paragraphs are from an article by Emil Mazezy, president of Briggs Local 212, U.A.W., appearing in the December 24, 1938 issue of the United Automobile Worker.—Editor.)

THE entire world has raised its voice in protest over the recent persecution of the Jewish people in Germany by the Nazis. The leaders of American industrial and political life have also issued many statements condemning Hitler and have publicly proclaimed their resentment toward the persecution of the Jewish people. Many of them have raised

again be locked in battle for control, with the vast majority of the membership lined up behind President Martin.

What will the C.I.O. do? Does the C.I.O. know what is happening in the ranks? Does the C.I.O. know what the International Board is doing in its name?

the slogan: "It is good to live in a democracy like America."

NEGRO FACES SIMILAR CONDITIONS

The Negro worker in America today is facing many of the conditions recently imposed upon the Jewish people in Germany. In the "land of the brave and the home of the free," the Negro workers face discrimination and persecution by their white masters. In many sections of the nation, Negro workers are not allowed to walk on the same side of the street with white people; in many public eating places, they are not allowed to eat with white people; they are not allowed to mingle with the white people in meeting halls in many sections of the country. The Negroes have been refused the rights to sit on juries in a number of states in the southern section of this country. They generally live in slum sections and their homes are the poorest that can be found in America. Due to their limited income, because they are forced to work at the dirtiest and most menial tasks, the social life of the Negro worker is further limited and curtailed.

The entire working class should vigorously protest the persecution of the Jewish people in Germany... But what about eliminating persecution and discrimination in America? Public officials haven't the courage to protest against recognized persecution of the Negroes in America because it is part and parcel of a social system and exploitation which fills the money bags of the industrial and financial barons who control and own America.

Why have the public officials ignored the Negro problem? Can it be that the industrialists in America are waiting to play the Negro in a similar role as the fascists in Germany are using the Jewish people today? The Nazis are persecuting the Jewish people today principally to divert the attention of the German working class from the solution of their economic and social problems. The German working class has been duped into fighting their brothers and sisters, who are equally exploited by a vicious profit system, instead of fighting their masters—the owners of Germany industry and finance. The Jewish people in Germany have been singled out principally because they are a minority and because many members of their race are leaders in labor as well as financial circles.

SAME FASCIST TRICK The trick employed by the fascists in Germany is as old as Aesop's fables. Organized workers in America have often seen the bosses attempting to divide and split our ranks on racial, political, religious and other issues. The bosses have been particularly successful in having the Negro and white worker fight each other.

The idea-fixing machinery of American capitalism, which includes our educational system, newspapers, radios, movies, etc., has done a successful job in splitting the ranks of labor in order to increase the profits of the capitalist class. Hitler is using the Jewish question to divert the attention of the

NEW YORK TAXI MEN IN GENERAL STRIKE



Paterson Progressives In Fight to Save Union

Imposed Stalinist Leaders Without Knowledge of Industry

By SILK WORKER (Concluded from last issue)

THE following week letters were received by three workers who had been at the meeting. Meyer Chanatzky, Meyer Laks and Joseph Puro were ordered to appear before the Executive Board to answer to charges of "treasonable conduct" towards the union. At the meeting of the Executive Board, they appealed for a postponement for a week to prepare a defense for the specific charges and to arrange for witnesses. In the case of Meyer Chanatzky, this was granted but the other two were tried immediately. Joseph Puro was fined \$50 and Meyer Laks was expelled from the union! The organizer was instructed that Laks be immediately removed from his job in the shop! Two weeks later, Meyer Chanatzky, the president of the union, was suspended for presiding at the meeting at which the other two had committed their "treasonable" conduct, namely, criticizing the leadership of the union.

Immediately, a storm of indignation and protest broke. Meyer Laks, a silk worker who had been active in the silk unions of Paterson for the last thirty years, was found guilty of "treason" in the union! Meyer Laks, a worker well known not only in the union but also in other sections of the labor movement, was not only found "guilty" but was also condemned to lose his means of

earning a living in the only industry he has ever worked! Resentment among the membership to this expulsion policy rose to a high pitch.

The Executive Board decision was made on the basis of a section in the local by-laws which read that "any member found guilty of saying anything or doing anything to the detriment of the union is liable to a fine or suspension." When the specification of "suspension" was called for the attention of Abramson, he first had the minutes of the Executive Board changed. However, a letter had already been sent to the employer informing him of the "expulsion" and, when faced with this, Abramson made a lame explanation that there was no difference between the two words. In the meantime, the storm of protest had been voiced by the New York Forward and pressure was being applied on the na-

tional office of the T.W.O.C. for some action on the entire situation. In Paterson, tremendous support was rallied behind the victims of this policy of "expulsion for criticism,"—so much so that Abramson and his C.P. supporters were in a very small minority at the next membership meeting.

Abramson brought to this meeting recommendations to concur in the right of the Executive Board to take such action and to change the decision to suspension for six months with the right to work in the case of Meyer Laks. During the discussion on the recommendations, an amendment was made that Laks be reinstated immediately and unconditionally. The chairman of the meeting, a Stalinist, refused to accept the amendment and only after great protest agreed to take vote on whether the amendment should be voted upon or not. This vote carried by a majority of at least 80%. When the result of the vote was seen, Abramson from the platform tried to stop the proceedings by saying it was not parliamentary law. His stooges, all gathered together in the front of the hall, started a row and, with this as an excuse, the chairman adjourned the meeting for one week.

This is no new tactic in Paterson, as the Stalinists have used it many time before and all silk workers recognized it but were only more de-

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Trade Union Notes

by George F. Miles

MAKING HAY

CONSOLIDATED Edison of New York is on the job cashing in on the Supreme Court decision validating its contract with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. To guarantee against the second part of the Supreme Court's ruling, which limits the I.B.E.W. to bargain only for its own members and leaves the field open for a test of strength thru an election at some later time, the company is providing facilities for the I.B.E.W. drive for the check-off and for new members.

A bulletin, on company stationery, prominently displayed on the bulletin boards, brings the following message "To Our Employees":

"The membership of Local Union B-830 of the I.B.E.W. has asked that the management accept written authorization from individual employees for the payroll deduction of the amounts of their union dues.

"The local union stated that it intends, if such request is granted, to distribute cards to our members who, upon voluntarily signing same, will authorize the management to take their union dues out of their pay."

"The following is the form of deduction authorization which the management will honor, from such employees as sign it." (Then follows the printed blank of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.)

But here again the firm seems to have gone a little farther than intended for, in some departments, the above announcements were ordered removed by the personnel department of the firm.

The C.I.O. utility union issued a leaflet warning against the company's effort to "cheat" the workers "out of their (your) Supreme Court victory." The leaflet states that I.B.E.W. dues payments have been negligible in the past and the check-off is now resorted to in an effort to force workers into line.

Least convincing, in the leaflet, is the attack on the check-off as such. Don't the union leaders know that the check-off is in operation in the coal fields and in various sections of the textile industry? We have more than a suspicion that the C.I.O. union would not reject the check-off were it to receive such an offer from the firm.

Meanwhile, even the I.B.E.W. continues operation without a contract, the original document having expired last June. The company gave the I.B.E.W. a temporary extension until the verdict of the Supreme Court is rendered but nothing has been done to renew the contract.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL

THERE was considerable speculation at the Pittsburgh C.I.O. convention on what would happen to Director John Brophy. Would he be

German workers from fighting their real enemy. The inability of both the Republican and Democratic parties to solve the unemployment and social problems of America lays the basis for American fascism to build its ranks by attempting to divert the attention of the American working class from solving their problems to fighting a minority, perhaps the Negro, in America. Only by eternal vigilance on the part of the working class in America can we avoid the conditions imposed on the German working class.

The American Negro can avoid the fate of the Jewish people by participating actively in the labor movement, in the struggle to build a society that will not only solve our social problems but will add discrimination, persecution and inequality to the relics of the feudal past. The Negro worker can himself eliminate discrimination in America today by actively participating in the program of the C.I.O. in its effort to organize all of the mass-production workers in America. The C.I.O., at the last convention in Pittsburgh, outlined a campaign for the organization of the South which should help to eliminate discrimination and persecution of Negroes in America. The Negro workers in the automobile industry can help build a better America by joining and actively participating in the affairs of the United Automobile Workers of America. The future of the Negro worker depends on a well-educated working class that will use its economic and political power in the struggle for social and economic emancipation.

promoted to the secretaryship? Would he be bounced out of the C.I.O. office altogether, since he had drawn fire from many directions as a stooge for the Communist Party?

Apparently, even Stalin's stalwarts were uncertain, for two delegations were organized and pressure was brought to bear upon Lewis to place Brophy in the secretaryship. The ways of the Communist Party being both strange and devious, it operated thru a "left" delegation as well as a "conservative" one. The first included such "lefts" as Bridges, Curran, Rathborne, Pritchett, Merrill, and the second of lesser known, tho no less loyal boys, headed by Richard Frankenstein of the U.A.W.

When Carey was made secretary, leaving Brophy "out in the cold," non-Stalinist trade unionists cheered themselves hoarse. At last, the C.I.O. had shown where it stands on such things, it had put the C.P. in its place, it had told them where to get off, etc.

But, within the C.I.O., an altogether different story goes the round. Brophy was not made secretary because the leadership would become too top-heavy with miners—three out of four. To prove this point, there is the fact that there is still no office of the secretary of the C.I.O. and John Brophy is still director of the C.I.O. altho, look as hard as you will, you won't find that post provided for in the newly adopted constitution.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

"WE have no fundamental quarrel with industry. On the contrary, we believe that labor and employers should work together for the promotion of better business, for the reduction of unemployment and for the creation of wider domestic markets by the increase of the purchasing power of our people.

"The American Federation of Labor is committed to the principle of private enterprise. We also believe, and very firmly, in fair treatment of workers." — From William Green's Christmas Message.

Now isn't that nice—especially the last sentence!

C. O. D.

WE see that Dick Frankenstein, U.A.W. vice-president, is one of the scheduled speakers at the coming Congress for Peace and Democracy. Whether Mr. Frankenstein accepted the task in grateful part payment for his reinstatement to office in the U.A.W. or out of sympathy with the aims of this pronounced jingo outfit, was a subject for considerable speculation.

However, the U.A.W., we are happy to say, is not among the select group of union sponsors. This group includes the chemists and technicians, maritime, wood workers, telegraphers, municipal workers, agricultural, and fur workers—all closely associated with the numerous "innocent" groups sponsored by the Communist Party.

F.D.R. Asks Two Billion

(Continued from Page 1)

income reached eighty billion dollars. The burden of expenditures in the coming period, however, is to be in the direction of armaments, and retrenchment is expected in W.P.A., public housing and other socially-useful federal projects.

The 76th Congress to which Mr. Roosevelt delivered this message, is quite different in composition and temper from any previous one under the New Deal. The Republicans are in a strong position and a Republican-conservative Democratic coalition would dominate both Houses. As the President delivered his message, there was quite a hostile demonstration from this quarter when he spoke disparagingly of a balanced budget. The Administration evidently hopes to reach a working agreement with this conservative block on the basis of a gigantic rearmament program and a "strong" foreign policy, with the domestic reform program of the New Deal sacrificed in the bargain.

REACTIONARY "REVISION"

The anti-New Deal forces in Congress are preparing to launch a campaign of "revision" and "amendment" against such central New Deal achievements as the Wagner Act, the W.P.A. and perhaps even the wage-hour act. A certain amount of compliance on the part of the Administration with these plans is expected.

A sharp conflict is expected in Congress over both armaments and foreign affairs. Throughout the country, especially in the midwestern sections, there is tremendous peace sentiment which has made itself felt in recent months in powerful pressure on Washington.

(Read the editorials on page 4, and the column "Talking It Over," by Bertram D. Wolfe on the same page.—Editor)

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Anti-War Youth Meet Plans Big Drive

By EDWARD CARROLL
Columbus, Ohio.

BLIZZARDS and freezing cold failed to stop delegates, visitors and observers, representing large masses of young people, from attending the National Youth Anti-War Congress held here for four days, beginning December 27, 1938. They traveled from every part of the country, totaling 28 states, to take part in this congress.

It was a convention distinguished by its lack of blatant showmanship—serious, realistic, yet cheerful. Sixteen hard-working commissions labored to produce reports on problems of program and organization which laid the basis for a more militant and politically advanced campaign of the Youth Committee Against War, still less than a year old.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

This widening and strengthening of political orientation was the most important of the convention achievements. In answer to continued charges of "isolationism," the Commission on Aid to Anti-War and Anti-Imperialist Movements in Other Countries declared: "The Commission heard reports of the existence of organizations similar to ours in France and England, grouped around the Trade Union Center for Action Against War and the British Socialist Anti-War Front. It recommends that the Y.C.A.W. take immediate steps to establish contact with their youth sections for permanent collaboration and joint demonstrative international action." Like aid and cooperation was proposed for illegal anti-fascist and anti-imperialist movements abroad. The report was unanimously accepted.

In this connection, the Congress branded the recent Pan-American Conference as a means of safeguarding Wall Street hegemony in Latin America. Point 4 of the official eight-point program, which referred to the now moribund "collective-security" myth, was modernized into a condemnation of the "international police-force" concept of the "Fourth New Deal." "The military forces of the United States government will never be used to defend any genuine democracy," the program reads. "If they are involved against fascist nations it will be only in the interest of imperialistic gains in foreign countries which cannot be those of the American people. . . . We reject all governmental alliances which might involve the use of the government war machine."

In like manner, the efforts of the Administration to "revise" the present Neutrality Act in the direction of greater "discretion" for the President were condemned, although the defects of the act itself were stressed.

LABOR IN ANTI-WAR STRUGGLE

One cannot here describe in detail the thorough reports and plans for future activities which came out of this convention of farm and labor, church and student youth. The realism of their deliberations is best brought out by the congress's clear recognition of the central importance of organized labor in the struggle against war. Extensive plans were laid down whereby young workers could be brought into the Youth Committee Against War thru touring speakers, mass meetings and efforts to build an individual trade-union membership.

In the course of the convention, the delegates heard a luncheon address by Homer P. Rainey, director of the National Youth Commission. Mr. Rainey described the plight of youth as a result of the depression, declaring that "what we need is a society based on human needs."

Tucker P. Smith, secretary of Labor Anti-War Council, and Rose Fessota, international vice-president of the I.L.G.W.U., also addressed a mass meeting open to the public. Both emphasized the essential role of labor in the international struggle against imperialism.

The final session of the congress heard and approved or amended, the numerous reports, and elected the new National Council.

With the American Student Union completely stripped of all anti-war pretensions, the lines separating the pro-war from the genuine anti-war forces among the youth become clearer. American youth do not support the Stalinist A.S.U. program. They want jobs and they hate war; and that is the essence of the appeal of the Youth Committee Against War.

Armament Leads to Social Suicide

By LYMAN FRASER

YES, nations and peoples may commit social suicide. They may do so when they come to a stage in history where, for one reason or another, pressing economic and political problems are not solved in a progressive fashion.

The capitalist world is now in that stage. Many nations and peoples are being driven toward social suicide by desperate totalitarian dictatorships. They were unable to solve their problems in a progressive fashion; now fascism is destroying all progressive forces and erecting reaction into a monstrous system of oppression and destruction.

That suicidal tendency manifests itself most clearly in the increasing resort to the system of armament economics—that is, a system which makes production of armaments the primary purpose of economic activity.

WHY FASCISTS TURN TO ARMS

Fascist governments adopt the system of armament economics for two reasons: they imagine it solves the problem of increasing the utilization of economic resources and ending unemployment by an increasing production of armaments, and they hope thru war, conquest and annexation to solve their economic problems at the expense of other peoples.

And now, with definite adoption of an American system of armament economics, there are forces developing which drive our own country and our own people toward social suicide.

All sorts of ideological and political reasons are being used to justify an American system of armament economics, and they are all significant. But the underlying reason, the most pressing force, is the inability to solve our economic crisis in a progressive fashion.

The American economic crisis has become permanent. It is now nearly ten years since the breakdown of prosperity in 1929, a breakdown interrupted only by the incomplete and short-lived "prosperity" of 1936-37. During the nine years 1930-38, there was an economic loss of \$300 billion in additional goods and services that might have been produced if all our economic resources and labor had been used—an economic loss equal to more than seven times the total wages and salaries earned in 1937. All the New Deal philosophy and all the New Deal activities have been unable to solve the crisis: more than 40% of our capacity to produce goods and services is still unused and 10,000,000 employable workers are still unemployed.

It is a simple matter to solve the economic crisis in a progressive fashion. All it requires is putting to work all our economic resources and our labor regardless of profit.

PROFIT THE STUMBLING BLOCK

But that phrase "regardless of profit" is the stumbling block. Capitalism insists there can be no production without profit. But capitalist industry is becoming increasingly unprofitable: in the effort to save profits capitalism permits unused capacity to mount which in turn cuts down on profits. It is a vicious circle—and the only way to break thru the circle is to insist that work, the production of useful goods and services, is never "unprofitable" if it serves the community regardless of what happens to the money profits of the capitalist owners of industry.

In the desperate effort to save profits, capitalism resorts to the desperation of armament economics. It is desperation. For the system

End C.I.O. Receivership

(Continued from Page 1)

stated: "I shall ask the International Executive Board, at its next regular meeting, to dissolve the Coordinating Committee and restore the autonomy of our organization."

Executive Board members in opposition to Homer Martin are freely discussing their proposed plan to oust him from the presidency of the U.A.W. when the International Executive Board convenes early in February. But Martin's support among the rank-and-file membership continues to grow. Since the issue of autonomy is basic and cuts across all previous faction lines, Martin is receiving support from hitherto hostile elements. Another factor which counts in favor of Martin is the anger aroused by the dangerous ten-

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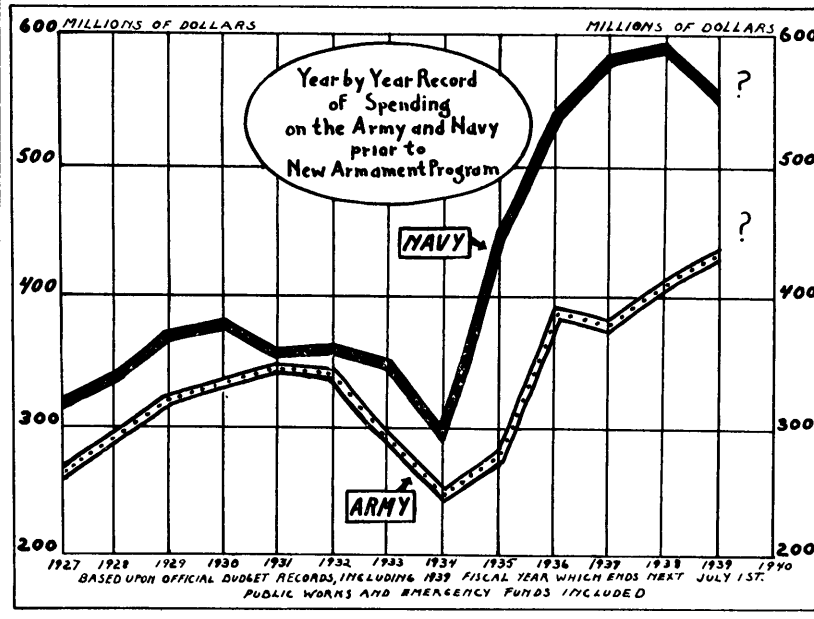
of armament economics is a confession of capitalist breakdown. It is unprofitable to build more houses for the masses of the people, but it is profitable to build more battleships. It is unprofitable to produce more automobiles with which to enjoy life, but it is profitable to produce more tanks with which to destroy life. It is unprofitable to produce more useful goods and services for the constructive purposes of peace, but it is profitable to produce more useless goods and services for the destructive purposes of war.

That is an insanity, arising out of capitalist decline and decay, which drives toward social suicide and the stifling of progress.

The reactionary defenders of an American system of armament economics say: Look at Germany; it has at least solved the problem of unemployment.

Yes, look at Germany! The totalitarian state has crushed all democracy and civil rights. It has destroyed the labor unions, transforming workers into slaves of the state. It has trampled upon life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It has uprooted progressive forces and ideals and erected a new tower of barbarism from which reaction is let loose upon the world.

Yes, look at Germany! The totalitarian state has reduced unemployment by constantly increasing the production of munitions (but unemployment has also been "reduced" by other reactionary means, such as driving women from their jobs and placing young workers in the servitude of labor camps). It has decreased Germany's capacity to produce useful goods and services by increasing the capacity to produce munitions for the destructive pur-



IN 1934, the Army and Navy together managed to spend about a half billion dollars on military activities. Now they are spending about twice that figure. The latest news in Washington is that new world conditions make all previous estimates of defense needs obsolete. There is no doubt that the coming years will see much larger slices of government revenue going into rearmament.—United States News.

Save These Militants!

Anti-Fascist Veterans Held in Loyalist Jail

By ALBERT

Paris, France

WE have just received word from Barcelona that Karl Braeuning and Waldemar Bolze, courageous veterans of the German socialist movement, are in danger of their lives. Both were arrested in the Spring of 1937 in Barcelona. The Republican government of Loyalist Spain investigated the cases and ordered them released since the arrests were unwarranted and hence illegal. But they were both arrested again when they asked for permission to leave Spain. Their lives are now in danger because both men are seriously ill as a result of their imprisonment and it is very doubtful whether they will survive another Winter in jail.

Who are these men?

Karl Braeuning, 53 years old, is a thoroughly devoted socialist and champion of freedom. A metal worker, he has been a member of the German Metal Workers Union for 35 years and active in the workers' political movement for over 30 years. Before the World War, he belonged to the social-democracy. Because of his determined opposition

to imperialist war, he joined the Independent Socialist Party when it was formed and became a leader in the fight for the overthrow of the monarchy and the establishment of a republic in Thuringia. He was instrumental in uniting the workers in his district into the United Communist Party. He has been a leading functionary of the German Communist Opposition since its inception. His particular field of activity was his own union. In his capacity as a member of the factory council of the world-famous Zeiss Works of Jena, he organized the general strike in Thuringia against the reactionary Kapp putsch in 1920. Karl Braeuning was also active in cultural organizations, being president of the Nature Friends of Central Germany and an executive board member of the Proletarian Free-thinkers. Following Hitler's seizure of power, he remained in Germany continuing his work in the underground movement. For two years, he doggedly worked to build an underground trade-union movement until he was forced to emigrate because of the brutal persecution of his family. With the outbreak of the Spanish civil war, Karl Braeuning, then 50 years old, immediately volunteered for service in the cause of the Spanish working class.

Karl Braeuning has been and will always remain an unselfish, generous and devoted comrade and champion of socialism. His life is now in danger.

Waldemar Bolze, also 53 years of age, has been closely connected with

the Berlin labor movement. A woodworker by trade, he has served more than 30 years in both the trade union and political organizations of Germany. Before the war, during the war, and in the eventful post-war days, right up to the fascist counter-revolution, Waldemar Bolze was heart and soul in the fight for socialism. A leading functionary of the Communist Party of Germany, he was active for a time in the Organization Department of the Communist International. More recently, he was the leader of the German Communist Opposition in Berlin before he was forced to go into exile.

Like Karl Braeuning he, too, enlisted in the Loyalist forces in Spain. Now, his life is also in danger.

These two socialist militants, valiant anti-fascist fighters, are rotting in a Barcelona jail tho they are completely innocent of any crime whatsoever. The Stalinist G.P.U. in Spain has marked them out for its victims because they adhere to a revolutionary working-class position. Only the intervention of the international labor movement and of all sincere friends of the Spanish anti-fascist cause can save them as it has so far saved the P.O.U.M. leaders!

More purges and drastic supervision over all international employees are expected to result from the forthcoming decisions of the Board. Martin supporters say that the future of the U.A.W. will in great part be determined by whether the C.I.O. comes to realize its responsibility in the situation or not.

Continuing factional strife, intensified by the decisions and actions of the C.I.O. Coordinating Committee, has hit very hard the efforts to organize the Ford plants and the competitive plants.

Martin's supporters point out that recommendations by C.I.O. "investigating committees" concerning U.A.W. locals have generally been protested by the locals in question. They further say that invariably administrators have been recommended for pro-Martin locals, and that just as invariably weak and poorly managed locals, non-Martin, have escaped any recommendations of C.I.O. supervision. They further contend that the "peace" pact has turned the U.A.W. Executive Board into a body incapable of action, unable to think for itself, and forever "leaning" on the C.I.O. for support. Moreover, the immunity granted certain officers of the board has led them to refuse to carry on any constructive union work and to spend their days devising embarrassments for Homer Martin.

The next Board meeting, all signs indicate, will unleash a showdown fight of proportions hitherto unknown even in this powderkeg of unionism.

(Read the article by George F. Miles on page 2.—Editor.)

pose: of war. It has increased economic activity in general while decreasing the output of useful goods and services, thus lowering the standards of living of the masses of the German people. •

Yes, look at Germany! Only the tough-minded and tough-hearted reactionary can look at Germany and ask us to imitate its barbarism. The progressive looks at Germany and resolves uncompromisingly to avoid its reactionary "solution" of the economic crisis.

An American system of armament economics must produce the same poisonous fruit upon which the German people are compelled to feed.

Armament economics is like the use of drugs, which requires increasing doses to produce their stimulus. The armament program now being proposed for this country will produce a stimulus, which will then wear off and can be regained only by still larger production of munitions.

The reactionary interests accept armament economics because profits are protected. But, since an increasing proportion of resources and labor are used to produce useless goods in the form of armaments, the profits can be maintained only by lowering wages and mass standards of living.

And those lower standards of living are accompanied by increasing reaction, because the system of armament economics has within itself the seeds of totalitarianism. Industry and labor must be mobilized for war; democracy and civil rights must be limited to permit reaction to secure its profits without progressive opposition; labor unions must be increasingly "coordinated" into the armament program and deprived of their independence.

PROGRESSIVE ALTERNATIVES

What are the alternatives to a program that drives toward social suicide?

The immediate alternative is to insist upon government using our resources for purposes of peace. There must be a larger and transformed W.P.A., with a planned program of social-economic betterment which provides work at prevailing wages. There must be increasing appropriations for low-cost housing. There must be constructive work on the innumerable projects (including agricultural) which are useful and which would stimulate renewal of economic activity and employment.

The final alternative is socialism. For the resort to armament economics is a confession that capitalism has reached the end of its rope. There must be a new social order—the order of socialism—if humanity is not to fall back into degrading barbarism.

The Berlin labor movement. A woodworker by trade, he has served more than 30 years in both the trade union and political organizations of Germany. Before the war, during the war, and in the eventful post-war days, right up to the fascist counter-revolution, Waldemar Bolze was heart and soul in the fight for socialism. A leading functionary of the Communist Party of Germany, he was active for a time in the Organization Department of the Communist International. More recently, he was the leader of the German Communist Opposition in Berlin before he was forced to go into exile.

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Spilling the Beans

In England, there was recently published a book called "Propaganda in the Next War." Its author is Sidney Rogerson, publicity director of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., the gigantic British dye and explosives trust. Before taking his present post, Mr. Rogerson was counsel and adviser to the Federation of British Industries, a vast employing-class alliance embracing nearly 90% of British manufacturers.

Mr. Rogerson has a great deal to say about the United States in the next war. He speaks with a frankness unusual among English publicists. What he has to say deserves the closest attention of every American. We quote some of his remarks:

"It will need a definite threat to America, a threat, moreover, which will have to be brought home to every citizen before the Republic will again take arms in an external quarrel. This position will naturally be considered eased if Japan were involved. . . . At any rate, it would be a natural and obvious object of our propagandists to achieve this, just as during the great war they succeeded in embroiling the United States with Germany. . . .

"Fortunately—in America our propaganda is on firm ground. We can be entirely sincere as our main plank will be the old democratic one. We must clearly enunciate our belief in the democratic form of government. . . . Our minor propaganda will aim at attaching the support of important sections, such as the Jews, probably by the declaration of a clear-cut policy on Palestine.

"These should not be difficult to pursue, nor to put over to the American public. We shall, as before, send over our leading literary lights and other men with names well known in the United States. . . . American newspapermen in London are of approved mettle and the impervious to any obvious propaganda, nevertheless should represent a valuable propaganda force. We shall see that they are given every facility for observing and reporting and that their messages are censored sympathetically. Similarly with their newsreel men. They should be the first to be allowed to 'shoot' pictures of air raids, that a proper volume of pictorial 'horror' will be available in one of the few great countries where 'atrocity' propaganda will still be operative."

What Wagner Act Revision Means

Anti-Union Amendments Sought

By M. PETERS

WITH the convening of Congress in a new session, the danger to the Wagner Act from the combined forces of the employers and the die-hards of the A. F. of L. is again a very serious one. Amendments to the Wagner Act which would alter its essential purpose so that it could no longer serve to aid the development of trade unionism, have a prominent place in the legislative programs of a number of Congressmen and Senators of considerable influence in Washington. The C.I.O. too has urged certain amendments to the Wagner Act at this session of Congress but these amendments would strengthen the act by extending it to employers doing government work and are therefore of a totally different kind from the others.

SPECIAL DANGER TODAY

Most of the reactionary amendments are not of recent origin. Some of them were heard and discussed in Congress in 1935, before the Wagner Act was passed. If they are of special danger today, it is because the movement behind them has grown much stronger during the past year. This movement has now been joined by President Roosevelt who, after sending a delegation to study labor relations in Sweden and England ostensibly without any idea of the Wagner Act in mind, has definitely committed himself in favor of amendment. Even the National Labor Relations Board itself has already agreed to certain changes along the lines demanded by hostile critics, changes not in the act but in its administration. Henceforward, employers will be permitted to request elections in their plants to settle disputes between competing unions. That this power of the employers may be used to force elections upon the workers before the unions are ready and thus forestall unionism, is a very serious danger, and the concession which the Board has made on this ques-

COURT DECISION IN THE EDISON CASE

Another recent development which has strengthened the opponents of the Wagner Act is the decision of the Supreme Court in the Consolidated Edison case by which the Board's invalidation of a contract between the utility concern and the A. F. of L. was reversed. This contract was arrived at thru employer coercion and its invalidation seemed to be the only way the Board could remedy the damage done and create conditions in which the workers would be able to express their real choice freely. The defeat of the Board in the Supreme Court on this question, the first defeat in the thirteen cases that have come before it, foreshadows changes for which both the A. F. of L. and the employers have been clamoring for some time.

CHARGE OF "ONE-SIDEDNESS"

The most frequently heard charge against the Wagner Act and the N.L.R.B. is that the act is "one-sided" since it is designed to help labor organize. It is therefore asserted that the act has to be "equal-

Paterson Progressives Fight to Save Union

(Continued from Page 2)

and reimbursement by the union for the time lost from the job was on the basis that that this would be a "slap in the face to the union administration." However, even with a packed meeting, he could only defeat the motion by promising that, if Laks appeared before the Executive Board, he, Abramson, would personally recommend reimbursement to Laks and lifting of the expulsion.

Laks, after appealing to the Executive Board, was reinstated to his job with \$50 compensation by the union, his expulsion remanded and changed to a six-months suspension.

PROGRESSIVES MARCHING FORWARD

As a result of these dictatorial, bureaucratic actions of the Stalinist-dominated leadership of the Paterson silk workers and because of the revolt of the rank and file of the membership, the Progressives in the union are stronger today than ever before. In the election now taking place in the Plaingoods Local, the Progressives have put forward a full slate under the slogan: "For democracy in the union—against expulsions!"

This is the picture of the Paterson organization today. The Paterson silk workers with rich, militant, progressive and democratic union traditions, find themselves bound hand and foot by a one-man rule and a totalitarian-Stalinist regime. The entire history of the Paterson workers proves that they will never submit to such a regime and that their struggle for a strong and democratic union will triumph in the end.

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YOUTH FACES THE WARMERS

Reports on the A.S.U. & Y.C.A.W. Conventions

JANUARY 11th at 8 P. M. at the RIVER HALL 131 W. 33rd St., N. Y. C.

Admission Free

Auspices: I.L.L.A. Youth Section

