

Workers! This Is Not Our War!  
It is a War for Boss Profits!  
Join Hands in Independent  
Labor Action Against the War!

# LABOR ACTION

In This Issue  
Negro Community ..... Page 2  
Migratory Worker ..... Page 3  
In the Army ..... Page 4

FEBRUARY 17, 1941

ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

THREE CENTS

## WILLKIE GOES TO BAT FOR BOSS WAR

### The GPU Claims Another Victim!

Notwithstanding the Washington Police Verdict, the Facts and Circumstances Point Clearly to Walter Krivitsky's Murder—And to Joseph Stalin as the Murderer

The police verdict in the case of Walter Krivitsky, found dead in a Washington hotel room, is suicide.

But no person the least bit acquainted with the functioning of Stalin's gunmen can accept that verdict.

Krivitsky was murdered by the GPU! How it was done is not yet clear! It may never be. But this much is known—the GPU is so vast and cynical a gang, so great are its resources, so many the instruments and the men at its disposal, that it might easily pass off a murder as a suicide.

Krivitsky, once the chief of the Red Army's intelligence in Western Europe and who for several years has been exposing the nefarious workings of the counter-revolutionary outfit in the employ of Stalin, many times warned his friends "if they ever try to prove that I took my own life, don't believe it." And we don't. Nor can any thinking individual. Krivitsky knew how the GPU operates.

The GPU is more than a few killers banded together. It is the apparatus of a state power out to get the enemies of Stalinism. That is why Krivitsky, like Trotsky, knew that the GPU would sooner or later get him.

From the moment he broke with the Stalinists, following the death of Ignace Reiss, who was murdered in Switzerland, the GPU has been out to get Krivitsky. Several attempts on his life were made in Paris. Last August he wrote in the Saturday Evening Post that "Stalin's long arm of vengeance tries to reach me even in the United States."

And it did reach him, possibly in the shape of Hans Bruesse, notorious GPU killer. Krivitsky was informed about six weeks ago that Bruesse was in the United States with instructions to get him.

But you can be sure that Bruesse wasn't the only man on the job. Somewhere in the United States, George Mink, one of the most despicable and depraved agents ever spawned by the GPU, directs operations. How many people there are under his direction, there is no way of telling. The GPU network is so large that they may even have sneaked their agents through Krivitsky's defenses as "friends." And one of these friends may have helped cloak the murder as suicide.

What decided them on the exact moment of the murder, there is no way of telling. It may have been accidental circumstances favorable to the GPU's scheme. It may have been a decision to block his investigations into the murder of Leon Trotsky by the GPU assassin, Frank Jackson, in Mexico. Albert Goldman, attorney for the murdered revolutionist, announced in a Chicago interview that he had arranged an appointment with Krivitsky to discuss information relevant to the Trotsky murder and the identity of Jackson.

However clever the murder, there are contradictions that stick out everywhere in the case like so many sore thumbs. There is first Krivitsky's own warning with respect to a "suicide." There is the testimony of his friends that his mood was not such as would cause him to take his own life.

The Washington police seem satisfied that he went to Virginia to buy a gun in order to kill himself in Washington because carrying a gun without a license in New York is a violation of the Sullivan Act. In other words, a man about to kill himself travels hundreds of miles to avoid a

(Continued on page 2)

### Lets Cat Out of the Bag

Speaking at a Chamber of Commerce dinner at Anniston, Ala., last Friday night, General William N. Haskell of the New York National Guard said:

"I don't think that the Guard will be going home at the end of the year." He later included the draftees in his prediction.

The General refused to give the basis for his comment. But we have more than a suspicion of what it is. The General knows what the Administration tries to keep a secret: that the United States may be COMPLETELY in the war before the end of the year.

It now remains for Labor to show that it understands his warning by speaking up against the war plans of the Roosevelt Administration, by demanding passage of the Ludlow War Referendum Bill.

### Backs the War Powers Bill For HIS Class Interests—We Oppose It for OUR Class!

Wendell Willkie appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this week to urge speedy passage of the bill demanded by Roosevelt—the "lend-lease," or war dictatorship bill.

Even in the heat of the presidential campaign some months back, Willkie made it clear that his foreign policy is identical with that of Roosevelt.

That foreign policy is summarized in two words: WAR ENTRY. The "lend-lease" bill is summarized by the same two words: WAR ENTRY.

For what purpose? To extend and save from German competition the American empire—or more properly, the empire of Morgan, Lamont and Rockefeller.

How? First, by secretly, behind the backs of the masses, and even of the Congress, committing the United States to an alliance with Britain—the details of which are not yet known outside the State Department.

Second, by "lending" and "leasing" all such war material as Britain needs.

Third, by military entry when the conscription army is trained and when the time is feasible.

And fourth, by giving into the hands of Roosevelt the power to decide by himself (and for Morgan-Rockefeller) what each step shall consist of and by what means the United States shall go from one step to the other.

Willkie-Roosevelt don't want to be interrupted by popular will or public discussion in the furtherance of their war plans.

That's why Willkie went to bat for Roosevelt. Returning from his unusually well-touted trip to England, which kept the war-mongering press in copy for two weeks, Willkie hardly lost a moment in appearing before the Senate as "opposition" spokesman for national unity and war dictatorship.

In his interrogation, he described the United States and the British Empire as military allies. No, he didn't put it that bluntly, but that's what it amounted to.

As war allies he proposed that the military equipment of the United States, with the exception of the human sacrifices, be immediately placed at the disposal of the British. Had it been judicious, he would have suggested the latter, too.

As a politician, Willkie has to be somewhat guarded in his public utterances. All boss politicians are. They exist not by making the truth known, but by concealing it. That's why they often leave the bolder and more explicit statements to people like university presidents, who can't be held to account.

That's why Willkie didn't go as far as President Conant of Harvard University, who also testified before the committee. But he might just as well have done so. The two spoke the same language—except that Conant didn't have to be as careful in his statements as a Willkie or a Roosevelt or a LaGuardia. Consequently, Conant blurted out what all the boss politicians know to be the case, but which most of them assiduously conceal for the time being.

Conant informed the committee very flatly that, in his opinion, the United States ought to be prepared for total war entry—expeditionary force and all. Now, we don't want to deprive President Conant of the right to hold an opinion; but in this case his opinions involve the disposition of our lives.

Roosevelt-Willkie figure that it works out better if you lead the masses into war all the while pretending otherwise. Then, once you have committed yourself to a military alliance; once a few incidents like the sinking of an American convoy ship, or the downing of an American piloted plane have occurred; once the propagandists have been able to step up their machine to full speed; and once the President has sweeping war powers in his hands so that he can act without interference—with these "details" out of the way, they figure it will be easier to finish the job of military entry.

All sorts of capitalist spokesmen have had an opportunity to speak their piece on this proposition—those who are opposed to it, those

### White Jury Railroads Okla. Negro

W. D. Lyons, a Negro farmer charged with killing a white family and setting fire to their home in Hugo, Okla., has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a jury of 12 white farmers. The only evidence adduced to connect him with the crime was the statement of a witness that Lyons was seen hunting in the vicinity.... That's good enough evidence to convict a Negro in the South.

The case is being appealed by the NAACP, who sent Attorney Thurgood Marshall to Oklahoma to defend the accused farmer.

Lyons was convicted although it is common knowledge that at the time of the murder convicts from a prison camp were running all over the countryside indulging in drinking orgies. The day after the crime was committed, a convict named Frank Wellman was arrested in connection with the murder. Later, as a result of information given by a white woman, two other convicts (both white) were arrested. She testified that one, Houston Lambert, had come to her house with his hair singed and his clothes bloody on the night of the murder.

A complete confession was obtained from Lambert which created a political scandal stretching from the warden's office in the penitentiary to the Governor. Immediately all the convicts arrested were released. They didn't want an exposure of the conditions which enabled convicts to run freely over the countryside indulging in drinking orgies. So a young Negro was arrested and condemned for the crime.

At the trial, Lyons testified that on the night he was arrested, he was mercilessly beaten by the arresting officers. When taken to the county prosecutor's office, more than 10 cops took turns beating him with blackjacks and bumping his head against a wall. After ten hours of this torture, without sleep, food or water, he was again beaten and taken to the scene of the crime, where he was forced to stand for hours in the cold without a coat. Back in jail he was again clubbed and whipped until he "confessed."

### YPSL Speaker Blasts AYC Line

Stalinist Conference Proves Big Flop

By IRVING HOWE

WASHINGTON.—Despite every Stalinist attempt to stifle it, the voice of the revolutionary Socialist youth managed to make itself heard at the American Youth Congress "Town Meeting" held here last week end. During the discussion on the war question, Milton Miller, of the Young Peoples Socialist League, got the floor and presented the point of view of working class opposition to both sides in the imperialist war.

Charging that Stalinists were actuated in their "opposition" to Roosevelt's war plans solely by the interests of the Kremlin bureaucrats now allied with Hitler, Miller demanded that they answer this question: "If your proposal for a 'Moscow-Chungking-Washington Axis' becomes a reality, will you again shift your al-

### THE WORLD AT WAR Warring Imperialists Prepare For Next Stage as Britain Severs Relations with Rumania

By MAX STERLING

The British government has severed diplomatic relations with Rumania after announcing that "Germany is building up in Rumania all the elements of an expeditionary force and that Rumanian territory is being used by Germany as a military base in furtherance of her plans for prosecuting the war." One could add to this statement that Germany also has taken over completely the entire Rumanian oil production.

That German troops in the hundreds of thousands have been in Rumania for some time is no new discovery. The British government's break with Rumania not only recognizes that Rumania is completely in the Axis camp but that something drastic is going to happen soon in the Balkans. In that event, Britain is taking the precaution of placing herself in a juridical position from which she can retaliate. That would mean in the first place, RAF bombings of the Rumanian oil fields.

The feeling that large scale movements and actions are due soon in the Balkans is reinforced by the fact that the British Minister to Bulgaria has warned that Bulgarian military targets would be bombed if a way were opened through Bulgaria for German troops to get at Greece and Turkey.

Russian Maneuvers  
The play of forces and counter forces which has kept the world guessing as to what was coming and what country would do what, seems to be coming to an end. It is well known, for example, that Russia has been maneuvering in the Balkans to prevent the Balkan countries from coming under the sway of her German partner. Now the Associated Press reports that Bulgaria made a formal request to Russia regarding the latter's attitude toward the expected German demand for troop transit through Bulgaria. The special Russian envoy to Bulgaria, Soboleff, is supposed to have replied officially that Russia will not interfere with the German demand, and that the Kremlin is not ready to

come to Bulgaria's aid. Should these reports be true, then Russia would only be repeating the tactics she used before the German occupation of Rumania. The pattern is simple enough: encouragement to resistance up to the last minute, at which moment she backs out, bowing to the will of Hitler.

Another sign that something is brewing are the reports that Franco and his Foreign Minister Sener are en route to Ventimiglia on the French-Italian frontier to confer with Mussolini and his Foreign Minister Ciano. Mussolini wants to use Spain's ports, especially in North Africa, for Fascist warships. This seems to have become necessary in view of Weygand's declaration that he will repulse all efforts on the part of any power to take over French bases, particularly the Tunisian naval base at Bizerte. Weygand, in a strategic spot, is standing pat for what he can get—waiting for future developments.

### The Men Behind The War Set-Up

Who is Knudsen? What's his background? Etc., etc.

Dwight Macdonald answers these questions in next week's issue of LABOR ACTION.

Don't miss this exposé of the men who run the imperialist war machine.

Order your LABOR ACTIONS for yourself and your shop-mates now!

### You Pay More Now--For Less Meat

War Speculation  
A Bonanza to  
Food Profiteers

By SUSAN GREEN

NEW YORK CITY—Pork prices were 29 per cent higher at the beginning of this month than they were a year ago. Beef prices are up 23½ per cent, veal 16 per cent and lamb 14½ per cent.

Here is something for the working woman to worry about. War profiteering in food has begun in good earnest.

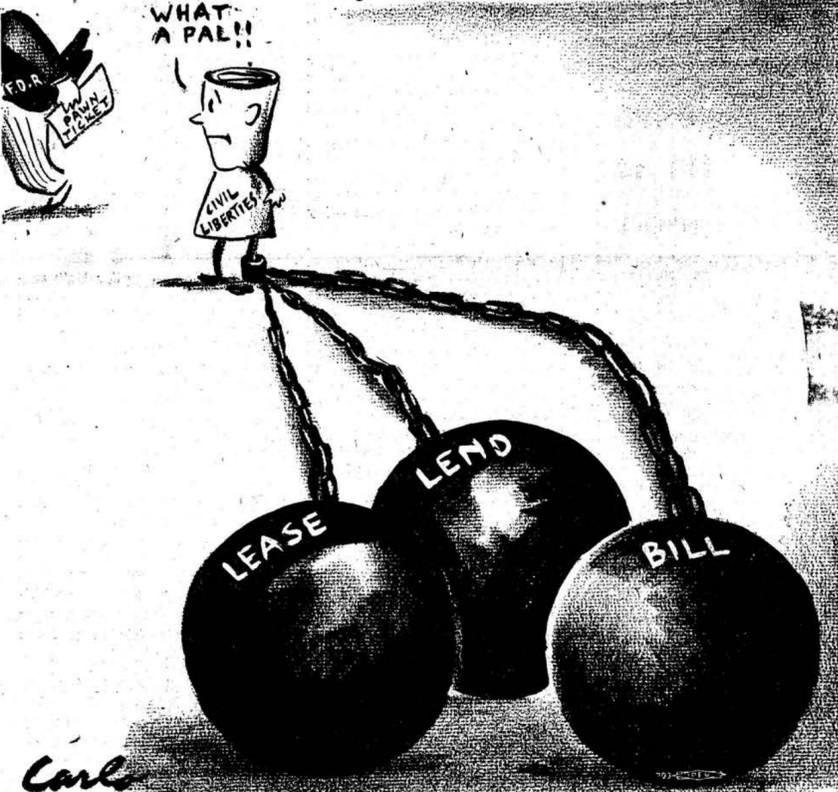
Consumer protest against the high cost of meat came to a head when the president of the Greater New York Hospital Association kicked about it to the National "Defense" Advisory Commission. He claimed that the 25 per cent rise in the cost of meat during the last year was dislocating the budgets of the affiliated hospitals.

The grumblings of housewives have become louder and louder, and consumers' organizations are up in arms. In the poorest districts meat prices have been absolutely prohibitive and already families have been limited to the cheapest cuts of meat and to meat substitutes.

As was to have been expected, the profiteers claim the increase in prices is legitimate and due to "in-

(Continued on page 3)

### In Hock -- For the Duration!



### Will Book-Burning Be Next? Police Chief Wants Printing Blacklist

Special to Labor Action

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 9.—That real vanishing American—civil liberties—was shoved a step closer to oblivion this week with the launching of a spy system that could be patterned only after the Gestapo.

On the showing end was Police Chief Charles W. Dullea of this city. His method was as simple and direct as it was vicious. He merely ordered every printing firm in San Francisco to inform on any person seeking to print or publish "any pamphlets, books or circulars which may contain any communistic, anti-religious, anti-racial or anti-American propaganda."

His avowed purpose, stated in signed letters sent by Dullea to all printers, is "suppressing the distribution and sale of such subversive literature." But when a storm of protest developed, Dullea refused to be interviewed.

Hedges on Purpose

The chief's stooge and secretary, Captain John Engler, notorious strongman of the "red squad," met all protests with a violent, if inconsistent, defense of the letter.

First, he said, the letters were issued by Captain Bernard MacDonald of the bureau of inspectors and signed by the police chief "as a matter of routine." Then he belligerently demanded: "What's wrong with the letters?"

This was followed by a more heated if still less effective outburst on the police, the government and the fifth columnists "who are trying to tear down the government."

"If we don't get them, they'll get us. Aren't you an American? Don't you believe in the government?" he shouted furiously.

More quiet, but no less uneasy, Captain MacDonald fumbled with a feeble attempt to explain the letters. "We just want information," he said. What he does with it, he snapped, is his own business.

Asked how he defined "communistic" or "anti-religious" or "subversive," MacDonald said he wasn't prepared to define any of them. It was pointed out that they would have to be defined if arrests were going to be made and MacDonald said there would be no arrests. Then he changed his mind, admitted there

(Continued on page 2)

### On Top of That The Meat You Buy Is Watered Down

Special to Labor Action

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 9.—Profiteering meat producers are hitting California workmen and their families where it hurts most—in the stomach. This was confirmed by two separate reports issued here this week.

Meats are being adulterated, loaded with water and health-injuring impurities, the state department of health declared in a warning issued to the general public today.

Laboratory tests revealed that chemicals had been added to a high percentage of the official samples of ground meat to preserve a light, bright red color after the meat had been exposed to the air, the report stated.

"These preservatives are harmful to digestion and may disguise tainted meat. Most commonly used are sodium benzoate, sodium sulphite and sodium dioxide." (All three of these are considered by authorities to be injurious.)

One sample of ground meat inspected was found loaded to the point where its meat content was almost mythical. It was found to contain "60 per cent suet, 15 per

(Continued on page 3)

cent fat, 25 per cent water, and 10 per cent protein." (Continued on page 3)

# Our Readers Take the Floor...

## ON SPEED-UP IN BREWSTER

Editor:

Ever since the first time your paper, LABOR ACTION, was distributed at the Brewster Aero. Corp. factory, I've become a regular reader of your press. My interest was aroused by your program against the war, trade union news as reported from labor's point of view; and particularly your enlightening articles on Brewster as regards its growth in such a short time, its contract with the UAW, its relation to union organization of the aviation industry, and now its attempt at speed-up.

In your last article on Brewster, you mention that George Chapline, president of Brewster, recently appeared before the Naval Affairs Committee of Congress. You omitted that part of his statement in which he says that the Brewster Corporation will soon be turning out 35 planes weekly. This means that production will be almost doubled (approximately 20 planes are now turned out weekly). We are now working five hours less per week, our schedule being cut from 51 to 46 hours. The obvious conclusion is that a speed-up is due, for if the present rate of speed is maintained, I doubt if 35 planes could be turned out, even under our old schedule of 51 hours weekly.

With reclassification coming up soon, I believe that the brothers elected to serve on the reclassification committee will remember that with the cut in hours we also received a cut in wages equal to one day's pay.

The election of good militant unionists to such a committee, brothers who would fight to the last ditch, to see that everyone who comes up for reclassification gets a bigger cut of Brewster's enormous profits, is necessary if we are to make up for the money lost by this cut in working hours.

The present system of reclassification is inadequate in that not all men are reclassified. In my opinion, there should be a system of automatic reclassification, every man to be reclassified immediately upon his completion of a certain amount of work days, the exact number of days to be decided by a joint union and company committee. In this way, every Brewster worker would be sure of being reclassified within a reasonable period. He wouldn't have to lick the boots of his lead-man or of his other bosses, in order to be reclassified.

Fraternally,  
A Brewster Worker

## SEES REASONS FOR OPTIMISM

Editor:

It looks to me as if the greatest degeneration in straight-thinking is taking place among the former "leaders" of the Socialist movement. Any one of your readers can think of a dozen men and women who formerly professed to be our comrades and who are now either in the camp of reaction or in the illusory safety of obscurity. I do not care to name them as the printing of their names may give the false impression that they still have a modicum of importance.

How shortsighted they are and how ill fitted to ever be leaders of any movement! Within sight of the harbor they deserted the ship. History is on the verge of expressing in world events everyone of the predictions of Marx. We see capitalism falling to pieces before our eyes. The pendulum of reaction has nearly reached the zenith of its swing and it will come down with ever-increasing velocity.

The present period should, for us, be a period of rejoicing. The present ruling class piles contradiction on contradiction until the last vestige of faith in their ability to solve the insoluble shall have been destroyed.

The latest contradiction and the most idiotic may well be the President's appeal for all aid to those who fight the "assaults of democracy." One workingman after another shrugs his shoulders, produces a cynical smile and asks "Is the Metaxas Government of Greece one of the powers fighting the assaults of democracy? Is the Churchill Government of England, which denies democratic rights to many more hundreds of millions of slaves than Hitler does, fighting the assaults of democracy?" These workers do not wait for an answer. They know it instinctively.

Sure, the workingclass will be forced into many sacrifices before turning the tables on their oppressors. Great masses of workers are still fooled as to the real issues in the present conflict. They do not yet see that the ruling class has become

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
ON  
**American Citizenship Rights  
for Natives of India**

**SPEAKERS:**  
S. CHANDRA SEKHAR  
(Newly arrived visitor from India who will speak on Indian Nationalism)  
HAROLD JOHNSON  
(President of the Socialists, Inc.)  
MUBAREK ALI KHAN  
(Pres., India Welfare League of America)

**Irving Plaza, Sunday, Feb. 16**  
15th Street and Irving Place, 2 p.m.  
... 25c ADMISSION ...  
Auspices: INDIA WELFARE LEAGUE

nothing more than two groups of gangsters fighting over the spoils of their gangsterism. But as contradictions increase, as forced sacrifices increase, the real answer as to the cause and objective of this war will become clear to them.

It may be a strange anomaly, but it is a fact just the same, that sharecroppers and day laborers have no difficulty understanding the issues. It is the so-called intellectuals who experience difficulty in thinking through. Can it be that "economic determinism" has something to do with their twisted brains? Must the job and the income be protected at all hazards? Ah, there's the rub. They haven't the vision to foresee a new society in which their miserable, present-day economic privileges will disappear because there will be no environment for privileges. Privileges count only in a scarcity economy and the day for delivering the death blow to that economy is drawing near.

So it is time to rejoice—to rejoice and prepare for the role we must play tomorrow.

St. Louis Worker

## SCIONS OF THE RICH DEBATE WAR AIMS

To the Editor:

American workers may be interested in hearing what war plans the sons of the American bourgeoisie are making for them, as well as the cynical lies with which they cover these plans. At a graduate student debate held Jan. 14 at Harvard University, (recognized center of the student war drive), the camp for sending military aid to Britain debated the camp advocating all aid to Britain short of war, both justifying these sacrifices of American workers by their pious concern for "the democratic way of life". Not a word was spoken to explain the so-called "democratic" nature of imperialist England and imperialist America in the war; each speaker tried to prove only one thing: whether the imperialist interests of America would be sufficiently safeguarded if, a) we sent only war supplies to England, or b) if we sent our soldiers to fight for England.

In answer to a question from the floor as to why, if England is democratic, she pursues an anti-democratic course in India by bombing native populations and imprisoning Indian Nationalist leaders, one of the student debaters cynically joked that just as England had promised India her freedom in the last war, so she can now be relied upon to repeat the same promise in this war. The delighted laughter that followed this reply showed the audience's lack of principle and their undeclared imperialist sympathies.

No word was spoken of the sacrifice of American workers' lives which these college-trained imperialists are willing and anxious to waste in defending the British Empire. Nor of the death and misery that war means for the workers of all countries. In fact the question of whether the working class has any stake in this war was utterly disregarded. This was clearly seen in the most cynical question heard from the floor: whether America's interests would best be served if she waited until the English and German armies both beat each other into insensibility, to take over both countries. The answer from the platform was a confident assurance that by that time, and she then stepped into the war American imperialism would have already extended to include England's and Germany's markets, and that a war would be unnecessary after so complete a defeat of both English and German armies. This answer contains the key to the United States' real aim in this war: to become the leading imperialist power in the world, comfortably seated on the shoulders of a much meager British Empire.

Yours truly,  
William Hall

## YOUNG COMRADE WRITES ON WHAT HE READS

The following letter was received by one of our comrades from his 11-year-old nephew:

Dear Don—

I just wrote to ask you if you could possibly obtain "Ten Years—History and Principles of the Left Opposition" by Max Schachtman for me. By the way, I have just finished "Fascism and the American Scene." I am now reading "Paris on the Barriades." I think these articles are very interesting and I understand them all very well. If you could get me the book I want, I will gladly send you the money. I want this book because Max Schachtman wrote it and whatever he writes is without a doubt going to be interesting, and at the same time it will be getting something out of it. If you have any other suggestions please let me know. I also read the last few issues of LABOR ACTION. I thought the articles by Sherman Stanley, David Coolidge and Joseph Carter very good. Also the articles about the Negroes. As I can't think of anything more to say, I'll get back to my book.

R.

For Labor Action —  
Join Workers Party

## Party News

In recent weeks several branches of the Workers Party have endeavored to develop their work on a more intense scale, particularly in the dissemination of LABOR ACTION, as well as in increased public activity.

IN AKRON, the Party Branches are engaged in intense contact circulation of LABOR ACTION among the Negroes, in educational work and in trade union activities. Recently an anti-war meeting was held, with David Coolidge as speaker; and later a Lenin-Liebknecht-Luxemburg Memorial Meeting was conducted. Both units are developing their educational work, through lectures and discussion groups, attended also by many contacts. The branches dispose of sizable bundles of LABOR ACTION, The New International and The Challenge of Youth. Each branch disposes of 60 copies of the paper and expects to increase the quantity substantially very shortly. Literature is disposed of through systematic canvassing of the prospective readers, and not merely by leaving copies around haphazardly. A good number of members in both branches are union members in the AFL and CIO, and active in their respective organizations.

In NEWARK, the main activity of the members is in the trade union field and among the Negroes. The branch has a majority of Negro members. Steps have also been taken to increase appreciably the circulation of LABOR ACTION.

PHILADELPHIA is continuing with successful forums, the most recent one having had an attendance of over 75, with Max Schachtman as speaker. Factory sale and distribution of LABOR ACTION is now meeting with success.

In BALTIMORE, David Coolidge will speak under the auspices of The Emancipators at the Watch Your Step Baptist Church, 501 Gilmore Street, on Friday, Feb. 14, on The Negro and Capitalism. A similar meeting is being scheduled for Washington, D. C., on the following day.

KANSAS CITY has recruited two new members. The members there conduct a regular contact educational activity.

The COLUMBUS comrades, reorganized now into a better functioning unit, are planning a public meeting for David Coolidge, as well as other work.

WORCESTER, Mass., reports success in house-to-house canvassing with LABOR ACTION and other literature. They attribute their success to the fact that the members enjoy the contact work.

LOS ANGELES last week undertook a special distribution of literature and disposed of several hundred copies of LABOR ACTION, as well as other literature. Union and contact work is meeting with success.

The CHICAGO organization has been making special efforts in the Negro area, and the South Side and Central Branch units disposed of over 1500 copies of the special Negro number of LABOR ACTION. The Chicago organization is also giving a series of six lectures on the Negro question.

The LOCAL NEW YORK organization also disposed of an additional 1500 copies of the special Negro number of LABOR ACTION. It is also engaged in the regular distribution and sale of approximately 1500 copies of LABOR ACTION at factory gates of important industries, as well as in house to house contact work. A full report on the work of the New York organization in the recent period will appear in the next issue of LABOR ACTION.

CLEVELAND—Classes on the ABC of Marxism, being conducted by Local Cleveland of the Workers Party, are attended by 12 persons. The comrades are very much encouraged by this attendance. A series of eight classes has been planned.

## Philadelphia War Industries Face CIO Organization

PHILADELPHIA.—Charging that Philadelphia war plants are paying wages far lower than the rate in organized shops elsewhere in the nation, the CIO launched its largest organization drive in this area since 1937. Ninety organizers are going to comb the field in an intensive effort to organize the 25,000 workers employed in local war plants. Among the war production companies in this section are the Edward G. Budd Manufacturing Co., S.K.F. Industries, Bendix Aviation Corporation, Auto-Car Company and Fleetwings Inc. of Bristol.

## CHICAGO'S NEGRO COMMUNITY

# A Treasure-Haven for Landlords

Special to Labor Action

CHICAGO—The great Negro neighborhood on the South Side in Chicago is a heaven on earth to landlords and real estate agencies. Over 200,000 people crowded into this segregated area are almost completely at the mercy of these "rent hogs."

With the influx of Negroes from the South, brought here during and right after the last war by industrialists seeking cheap labor, Chicago real estate interests began to forge an iron band of restrictive covenants designed to keep the Negro in a modern ghetto.

Today, while the "black belt" is decreasing in size due to demolition of buildings without replacement, the Negro population has grown to such proportions that the density of a large area is 70,000 people per square mile as compared with 35,000 per square mile in the most crowded "white" areas.

Rent is raised at the whim of landlords, without the tenant being able

to do anything about it, because of fear that he will not be able to find another place. The level of rents of cases handled by the United Charities in the Negro areas, says a report of this agency, is from 20% to 40% higher than the rents of its white clients in similar areas. It has been pointed out by authorities that room by room, Negroes are often forced to pay the same rent for miserable, unsanitary quarters, that the "upper classes" living in swank apartment houses on Chicago's gold coast pay for luxurious apartments.

More, the tremendous overpopulation in this restricted area has resulted in an unbelievable overcrowding. It is not unusual for a whole family of 4 or 5 to live in a "kitchenette" consisting of one or two rooms at the most, with the closet serving as a kitchen.

Established policy of many landlords is to buy South Side property without any prospective of repair or upkeep. Their scheme is to collect

the highest rent possible for the disease-ridden apartments without making any repairs unless forced to do so, figuring that they will have made a profit many times over the original investment by the time the building is too dilapidated for possible human habitation.

## Action Needed

Many attempts have been made to solve this problem. A recent case attempting to break the restrictive covenants was brought into the Supreme Court, in the famous Hansberry case, but the court refused to rule on the legitimacy of restrictive covenants.

The City Council has met the demand for a more rigid enforcement of health codes relative to housing facilities by reducing the number of inspectors which was all too inadequate.

Direct action is what is required. A number of tenants in the 31st

Street area have banded together into the South Side Action Committee, which has been able to force a number of concessions from real estate owners, particularly the Harding Estate, owners of one of the biggest blocks of real estate in the Negro area.

The Committee, by militant action, has been able to secure repairs for a number of tenants, and is at present representing some twenty tenants in a fight to check a rent increase put through by the landlord. A conference to settle the issue is scheduled in the near future. Meanwhile, a number of tenants are holding back the rent increase, pending the conference.

This is only a small sample—but a sample of the type of direct action which can be more and more effective as South Side tenants realize that their only hope, is to organize into organizations to fight the rent-hogs hold on the Negro neighborhood.

# The GPU Murdered Walter Krivitsky!

(Continued from page 1)

jail sentence after he is dead!

"That is on a par with the police statement about the hotel room being locked from the inside. But the lock on the door is a spring lock, and the police admitted that the maid opened it with a pass-key.

The three notes left by Krivitsky seem authentic on the surface. But how much examination can they bear? When Rudolph Klement, one of Trotsky's secretaries, was murdered in Paris in 1938, the GPU framed a letter in his writing. It looked authentic until close scrutiny of all the inner contradictions revealed it a forgery. That too was a "clever" job.

Strange that the man who had dedicated himself to exposing the GPU should have refrained in his suicide note from even mentioning the GPU, for if there was any reason at all for his suicide it was the constant pressure of the GPU's search. But, not a word about the GPU!

Commenting on the three notes, Krivitsky's wife said, "I am convinced that my husband was forced to write the notes he left behind. While in Paris, Brussels (who murdered Reiss) was a frequent visitor to our home. He knew a great many details of our life. I see his hand in the notes my husband was forced to write. His note to me, in particular, certainly does not sound like him. Walter had utter contempt for suicide and would

never have killed himself willingly. They forced him to write these notes, and they forced him to kill himself. He made a deal with them to save me and my boy."

Fantastic? Yes, it does sound fantastic. But so is so much else connected with the GPU. So were the "confessions" at the Moscow trials. So is the very idea, proved beyond a doubt, of a tyrant loosing his murder hounds on every outspoken opponent.

The GPU has at its disposal skilled forgers. They could have forged the writing. Or they could have forced Krivitsky to write the notes on dictation in face of some dire threat to the family to which he was so greatly devoted. The lengths to which the GPU will go really surpass our understanding and civilized belief.

One by one the GPU has struck down Stalin's enemies. Sometimes crudely and obviously. At other times, with bloody hand well sheathed. Hundreds were sent to their death during the scandalous "trials" that shocked the world. Countless others were murdered in cold blood—like Klement, whose mutilated body was found in the Seine; like Reiss, whose bullet riddled body was tossed out of a car; like Sheldon Harte, who was brutally tortured and shot in Mexico; like Leon Trotsky, who was struck down by an assassin's pickaxe.

Still countless others were murdered in ways

## Virginia State Supreme Court Will Hear Waller Appeal This Month

The fight to reverse the death sentence imposed on Odell Waller, 23-year-old Virginia sharecropper, will be brought before the Virginia State Supreme Court this month.

The Workers Defense League, in making the announcement on the appeal, urged those sympathetic to Waller's case to circulate collection sheets. These collection sheets carry a full account of the case as well as pictures of Waller and his mother. They can be obtained from the WDL headquarters at 112 East 19th Street, New York City.

Waller, who killed his thieving landlord in a dispute over crops and land that properly belonged to Waller, was tried by a jury from which his peers, the sharecroppers, were barred by the restrictive poll tax

laws of Virginia. Few sharecroppers, if any, can afford to pay the poll tax. They are consequently barred from jury participation. Any case involving a sharecropper, especially a Negro sharecropper, against a white landlord is almost automatically judged by a jury of landlords. Under the circumstances even the semblance of a fair trial is out of the question, and Waller got less than that.

The defense of Waller is therefore, at the same time, an attack against the vicious system of poll tax disfranchisement and race discrimination. Should the Virginia Supreme Court uphold the lower court, it will be necessary to carry the case right up to the U. S. Supreme Court. Waller's case is the case of 9,000,000 American sharecroppers.

## Consolidated Aircraft Uses AFL Union To Block CIO Organization March

By JACK WILSON

LOS ANGELES — The aircraft companies have only one real weapon left with which to stave off the victorious drive of the CIO in this area: the AFL machinists' union. And the companies are using it.

This last week some of the shocking collusion between the companies and the AFL against militant industrial unionism came out when the CIO filed charges against the Consolidated Aircraft Co. before the NLRB.

One foreman, under company orders, offered a worker wearing a CIO button a ten cent per hour raise if he would take off the button. When he refused to sell himself, he was laid off because of "lack of work," although that very department was hiring 45 men a week.

Other foremen have gone around offering a five cent an hour raise to men who would join the AFL and take off their CIO buttons.

The AFL machinists' union has a contract at Consolidated. It was arranged from the top without the knowledge of many workers. It was

"won" in something of the manner by which William Green hopes to get a contract from Henry Ford.

In fact, Consolidated is closely tied up with the Ford Motor Co. now.

The AFL sells itself to the aircraft manufacturer by confining its "demands" to a few score high skilled workers who are given raises, while the other workers get nothing. That's the way it worked out in Consolidated.

Now the company and the AFL union see that, unless a few more workers are given individual benefits, the CIO will take over, for the CIO has a base there. So a few more bread crumbs will be tossed around.

Only the competition of the CIO has aroused the AFL leaders from their lethargy and indifference to the plight of the industrial workers.

Unless all present signs fail, however, the workers in Consolidated are wise to what is really going on. And the CIO drive which is to be followed by a demand for an election will bring real results in the shape of a bona fide union for the entire plant workers.

Unionists, blinded by too long association in the craft-dominated AFL, will view the CIO drive in Consolidated as a raid against an established union. That's the bunk.

# Wilkie at Bat - -

(Continued from page 1)

who are for it. Most of those who spoke against it agreed with the essential aim—war entry. A few did not—the few who agree with the general idea but want a hand in running their own war show. But their opinions were nevertheless asked. Bankers, politicians, university presidents, et cetera.

And before it is finally passed, the bill will probably be revised in several of its non-essential details to get what Wilkie asked for: an almost unanimous vote in the Senate. But what about the people, the men who will be sacrificed; the women who will lose husband and son? Yes, the bosses should be heard—it is, after all, THEIR war. They, however, save for an incidental feud—do not bear the brunt of fighting and of war production. The people do. But it is NOT their war; hence they are not consulted—merely ordered.

The very lives of the people are at stake. Yet where is the bill that would give them an obvious democratic right—to decide on their own fate—the Ludlow War Referendum Bill? Tucked away somewhere in the Congressional hamper after being defeated in previous sessions by Administration pressure.

The people have every right to demand that this be made MUST legislation—that before acts committing the United States to a war footing are passed, that this simple

## The Negro's Place In Washington!

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Uline Ice Arena which has just opened in the nation's capital prominently displays a sign reading "Whites Only." Most places discriminating against Negroes in other sections of the country do so with greater subtlety by saying no more tickets are available or some such dodge. But not so in Washington. Here in the very citadel of American "democracy" they make no bones about the Negro's "place." We assume that the President and government officials are too busy aiding English democracy to bother about trifles right under their noses.

## Philadelphia Readers...

David Coolidge Will Speak Under the Auspices of the Emancipators, at 2008 West Columbia Avenue on Wednesday, February 19, 8:30 P.M. Admission Free

**DOWNTOWN GOES  
UPTOWN**

Place: CARNEGIE HALL, STUDIO 800  
Time: FEBRUARY 15, at 8 P. M.  
Fee: TWO BITS, PLUS TO FILL UP ON  
Bring: YOUR VALENTINE TO THE  
LOWER MANHATTAN PARTY.

LET THE PEOPLE  
VOTE ON WAR!

## Of Special Interest to Women

By Susan Green

Mothers have been in the habit of thinking that when they gave their kid a hunk of bread and butter, they were giving him something that would build good bone and muscle. For is not bread the staff of life?

It seems we have been very much in error. Without so much as a we-are-sorry-but-it-is-true, government sources divulge the amazing fact that it has allowed the manufacturer, and subsequent sale to the consumer, of flour and bread deprived of all the vitamins and minerals without which food is a filler, but not a builder of life.

We are assured, however, that all this will be changed. For peace time it is o.k. to fool the public. But now the government wants every mother's son to become a healthy soldier.

So the government and the bakers and flour makers of the country are taking a step forward—which will doubtless set the housewife back a few cents on each loaf. From now on flour will be made either without extracting the vital elements from the wheat, or by the injection of certain needed elements.

Yesiree! Only the best for the American boy—to be ploughed under!

Mrs. Roosevelt cooed in her column the other day that the old class distinctions are being wiped out in England.

I wonder if the dear lady was referring to the bunks installed in the underground shelters by the British government.

You may remember that the poor people were kicking up a big protest because of the difference between the way they rotted in the unspeakable shelters and the ritzy underground life of the upper classes. If they couldn't have cocktail lounges underground, at least they wanted a place to lay their heads.

So the super-democratic government ups and installs these bunks—so sort of even things out. Let me tell you about these bunks.

They are LESS THAN TWO FEET WIDE. They are TOO SHORT FOR A NORMAL ADULT. They are ARRANGED IN THREE TIERS ONE ABOVE THE OTHER. Many people, after trying the luxuries of these bunks, went back to the solid comforts of the damp floors.

Mrs. Bernard J. Thill of La Crosse, Wisconsin, mother of three children, was chosen by the National Retail Dry Goods Association as "Mrs. Typical Customer." Of 10,000 entries in 300 cities, Mrs. Thill was judged as most qualified for the title, and in addition she wrote the winning essay on shopping.

So, as the guest of the National Retail Dry Goods Association in this advertising stunt, Mrs. Thill was flown to New York from her home town, wore orchids in her coat for the first time in her life, was given the key to the city, and even had tea at the White House.

Thus she strutted and fretted across the pages of the newspapers and now is heard of no more. But she stayed in the limelight long enough to corroborate the best economists on the cost of living decently.

She explained to reporters that her husband earns \$30 a week, and that she manages by buying the best things at the cheapest prices and BY ADDING TO THE FAMILY INCOME BY DOING COMMERCIAL ART WORK HERSELF. She didn't say how much she adds to the family income, but she was quite positive that if she lived in Chicago or New York, she would need "AT LEAST \$60 A WEEK" for her family of five.

Yes, that about tallies with what economists say is the minimum for a half-way decent standard of living. AND THEY ALSO SAY THAT 87% OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY DON'T HAVE THAT MINIMUM.

Time was when the prize argument an anti-Socialist could pull out of his hat was: "Socialism attacks our hearths and our homes." Exery shyster boss politician, every boss-paid professor, would ominously shake a finger and solemnly lie that Socialism will break up the home, socialize women, make government charges of children.

Since the great depression, however, the silence of the tomb has fallen upon these "protectors of the hearth and the home." Tens of millions of people—under capitalism—were wandering the length and breadth of the land, jobless and HOMELESS, old people dying by the waysides, young ones running off so as not to be burdens to their desperate families.

Today, with war raging throughout the world, though plenty of mud is being slung by the boss mud-slingers at the idea of Socialism, not a peep comes from them about Socialism breaking up the home. They don't dare call attention to that subject. World capitalism, which has always been pretty good at breaking up homes, has now arrived at the stage where this is the one thing it does best of all. And the less said about breaking up homes, the better the supporters of bankrupt capitalism like it.

But that does not silence us. We want every working woman of the world to know that not Socialism, but CAPITALISM BREAKS UP HOMES.

German capitalism is breaking up homes in London, and British capitalism is breaking up homes in Berlin. British and Italian and German capitalism are demolishing dwellings in the countries of the Mediterranean; and Japanese capitalism is doing the same in China.

American capitalism has started breaking up American homes by drafting the young men who will soon be ordered to go and throw bombs at people's homes in foreign lands.

British capitalism has just drafted the first 500,000 British working women to do men's work in the heavy armament industries. This, one may well say, is SOCIALIZING WOMEN. And for no better purpose than that the British capitalists, rather than the German variety, may continue their stranglehold on India and the other profit-producing colonies.

And Labor Minister Ernest Bevin that despicable lackey of the British war-makers, has just put his final seal upon the broken homes of Britain. He said that with the drafting of women the government "will have to take much greater responsibility for the care of children." Thus, THE CHILDREN BECOME GOVERNMENT CHARGES—because the home has been completely broken up.

These are the great destructive accomplishments of world capitalism. ALL OUT FOR SOCIALISM. Socialism will restore the human family to human homes and allow people to live in their homes in happiness and PEACE.

## Boston Readers . . .

DAVID COOLIDGE

will speak on

"The Negro and the Second World War"

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23 At Masonic Temple 1095 Tremont St.

The meeting is being held under the auspices of the Boston Branch of the Workers Party.

## ON TRUTH AND RUMORS

Senators Nye and Wheeler have introduced a resolution in the Senate asking the President to inquire of the belligerent nations whether they plan to use the war to acquire "territorial spoils."

The N.Y. TIMES sarcastically requests the Senators to ascertain whether there is "any truth in these repeated rumors that German troops are occupying Czechoslovakia, Poland, Norway, Belgium, France and Holland."

Well put, Gentlemen of the TIMES! And how about asking whether there is any truth in those oft-repeated rumors about BRITISH troops occupying Egypt, Libya, India, the West Indies and a lot of other choice "territorial spoils."

## Food Prices —

(Continued from page 1)

creased consumption arising out of the defense program." However, Miss Harriet Elliott, consumer member of the National "Defense" Advisory Commission, denies this. She states:

"Consumers should be reluctant to accept price increases attributed to the defense program. Army purchases of meat are not large enough to affect prices significantly."

What has actually happened is the beginning of the price speculation that always accompanies a war. Producers, processors and distributors of meat are engaging in the lucrative game known as war profiteering.

The millions of consumers who are not receiving larger incomes this year than last and are in no position to pay higher prices, are today poorer in buying power than they were a year ago. The meat packers and the profiteers in other foods are a good deal richer.

The solution suggested by Miss Elliott is really very amusing. She literally advises the consumers to evade the entire question. She says if certain cuts are too high, the housewife should buy cheaper cuts or NO MEAT AT ALL. Miss Elliott generously offers to be helpful and to "supply much valuable information on the preparation of low-cost meat dishes or of well-balanced meatless meals."

## And Next Year!

Another thing supposed to hold out promise to the gypped consumer is the usual useless "investigation." The anti-trust division of the Department of Justice has undertaken to investigate trade restraints affecting meat prices. Don't expect that empty government gesture to put pork, beef, veal or lamb into the empty pot on your stove. Ben W. Lewis, chief economist to the Consumers Division of the National "Defense" Advisory Commission, doesn't expect that miracle to happen, either.

He reveals the important fact that farmers are keeping cattle for breeding purposes in anticipation of STILL HIGHER PRICES NEXT YEAR.

## Book-Burning —

(Continued from page 1)

might be some arrests later, under "some laws." He couldn't say what laws.

## Compiling "Dossiers"

What the San Francisco police department has in mind is obvious. The letter itself is a give-away.

It appeals to all printers in the name of that convenient smoke-screen, "national defense." It urges them to "discourage the printing or publishing of any pamphlets, books or circulars" which may contain any communistic, anti-religious, anti-racial or anti-American propaganda.

Just what kind of propaganda this may be, even the author of the letter refuses to state, for if this definition is kept sufficiently obscure, all kinds of anti-war sentiment may be suppressed in this manner.

Furthermore, the letter calls on all printers to notify the department any time they are solicited to print matter of such kind, "giving us the name of the person, address and nature or contents of the printing requested."

In this way does San Francisco's police department plan to compile the "dossiers" generally associated with the Gastapo. In this way does American imperialism prepare to fight German imperialism.

## Watered Meat —

(Continued from page 1)

cent blood, 15 per cent meat and 10 per cent water."

Another report, issued by local newspapers earlier in the week, was occasioned by the increasing complaints against the skyrocketing prices of meat in the Los Angeles area. That there was ground for complaint was well borne out when investigators were forced to admit that in no case had meat prices increased less than ten per cent, while in many cases they have risen 25 and even 50 per cent within the last few months.

# From the Diary of a Migratory Worker

From time to time we have published articles on the migratory workers in California by Jimmie Little. Jimmy and his wife, now working in the Mid-West, have compiled a diary of their experiences as migratory farm-hands for the readers of LABOR ACTION. In this and the next issue we print their story, which begins about a year ago. It is, at the same time, the story of countless thousands like Ruth and Jimmie—the "Okies" of America.

## Flop House—Toledo Style

It was 11:30 p.m. when we arrived in Toledo, and at my wife's suggestion we went to the police and asked if they could help us get a place for the night. The police said sure, they would help us but we couldn't stay together. They sent my wife and baby to a shelter for women and me to the municipal lodging house. When I reached the flop house I was told it was too late to expect a bed but I could stay in a room with the other late comers on a bench or on the floor. It was terrible! About 25 men of all ages packed into a small room, light on all night, door locked behind you after you were admitted. Every one was worn out; dropping to the floor to turn restlessly and roll, doze off, get up and mill around, curse and pray for daylight to come. Continually coughing, one of the men told me he knew most of these men, with the exception of three or four like myself, as they were all residents of Toledo and forced there for weeks at a time. The larger percentage of them were factory workers whose places in the factory had been taken by machines.

"Why," I asked him, "do you see the same faces all the time? Don't they ever get work?"

"Oh, sure," he answered. "Some of them do. They disappear for a while; other faces appear; then they reappear after they are laid off again. Some over 35 or 40 years old never get work any more. They spend fifteen or twenty years at low wages learning their trade and, as the bosses say, 'getting experience,' and are then told they are too old to be efficient any longer. Some the bosses know as being favorable to unions. Their chances and others like myself, Mike O'Donnell, Sammy Goldstein and Pat O'Leary, are the chances of a snowball in hell. Mike, Pat, Sammy and I are ex-service men whom the American Legion has blackballed because we refused to act as strikebreakers in their fight with the United Automobile Workers."

At 6 a.m. the door is unlocked and we are told to prepare for breakfast, which means that we can go to the basement to wash face and hands. Afterwards we form a long line to enter the dining room. Impatiently waiting, I wonder if my wife and baby are faring any better than I, and why do these workers stand here by the hour and put up with this type of living and treatment when there are so many of them? That damned rat sitting there at the desk—just a stool pigeon—yelling, "God damnit! Keep that line straight! Hey you, you with the brown pants, you were here last week. Get out of that line, you damn bastard! Go to some other town—we can't take care of you forever." The guy behind me mumbling, "That damn drunken rat drifted in here less than a year ago from Chicago and stole his way to his damn measly job with board, room and tobacco."

Another fellow standing four or five ahead of me in the line who had managed to get a piece of change somehow the day before, and sought solace in a bottle, now impatiently yelled, "Goddam, don't this line ever move?" One of the housemen promptly pulled him from the line for using profane language and he was told to scam. He objected, so the rat swung at him with a club. When he lifted his arm to try to defend himself he was immediately overpowered by a half dozen vultures who turned him over to the police for being drunk and disorderly. "But," as one of the men remarked, "at least he won't have to worry for ten or fifteen days about where to eat or sleep and the jail is better than this place." After what seemed all morning we finally reached the dining room where we were given a small dish of corn flakes, a slice of bread and what might have been called coffee a week before.

## "If You Don't Like It, Get Out!"

After our experiences in Toledo we decided to push on, as fast as possible, and to hell with the police charities or any other type of organized charity if we could possibly do without them. So when we arrived in Chicago during the night we hunted out a small park in a suburb on the north side. First we tried lying on the ground, but it was too wet. We moved to some stone benches that were so uncomfortable, narrow and cold that 4 a.m. found us limping down the street. This seemed to be our "lucky" day because after daylight we got a ride into Dubuque, Iowa.

Through studying the road maps we realized how far apart the towns are in the West and decided to take to the railroad. After a long wait in the freight yards we caught an overnight freight to St. Paul, Minn. The ride was a little bumpy but the real unpleasant part was our arrival in St. Paul at 3 a.m. during a hail storm. I thought we would freeze to death. A little later in the morning we caught a local freight over to Minneapolis. From Minneapolis on the Milwaukee Line the riding was easy until we crossed over into South Dakota. The first time the train stopped for water in South Dakota a little man with a big gun told us we couldn't ride any further. Men? Yes! But no women were allowed to ride on the Milwaukee Line. We had to hitch hike to the next railroad division on a highway resembling a trail.

After a two day hike we arrived in Aberdeen with Ruth very sick from drinking the mineral water and not having enough to eat. We ask the Salvation Army about medical attention. After hemming and hawing for half a day and trying to force c.c.c. pills on us they gave us an order to the county doctor. His orders were to put Ruth to bed for several days and give her good food. The Sally graciously offered her some half raw beans and the floor of the chapel for a resting place. The bath room was on the opposite side of the men's dormitory and Ruth would have to go through there every time she felt sick. When I asked them if they could not possibly make some better arrangement than that they said, "If you don't like it, get out!" We went to the police station. They allowed us to stay in the empty women's cell. The following day the doctor called. Ruth, almost delirious, running a temperature of 103, was ordered to stay in bed several more days. The Commissioner of Police thought otherwise. He gave us 30 minutes to get out of town. Not having anyone to appeal to, we moved to the next town for the night.

Upon our arrival in Spokane, Wash., we discovered the railroad yards down by the river. We found this a good chance to take a bath and wash clothes. We sure did need both. We met a young couple also, going to California by freight and we decided to travel together as it was more company for all of us. They were nice kids, children of West Virginia coal miners. We all caught the S. P. & S. as far as Klamath Falls, Ore. Here we separated as they wanted to stop for a couple of days before entering California and we were in too big a hurry to get there after coming so far.

We left Klamath Falls on an evening train which put us into Oroville, Calif., early the next morning. It was beautiful riding down the Feather River from the top of the mountains into and through the orange groves surrounding Oroville. The pangs of hunger drove us from the train here. We built a fire here, made coffee in an old tin can, and ate some stale pastry, all the while hoping it would not be long before we found a job.

## And Finally—California

In Oroville, we inquired as to our prospects of getting a job in California. We were told the chances were very slim. One fellow, a native of California, said very curtly, "We didn't send for you. Why the hell can't you stay where you belong?" Another said, "There is not even farm work here in northern California at the moment. Your best bet will be to go around the Bay area and see what you can learn."

We caught the train to Stockton. There we left the train to hitch hike into the Bay area. We learned that San Francisco and Oakland were solid union towns. Many of the union men were not employed, but the chances of getting work in the farming area surrounding seemed more favorable.

While hiking south of Oakland, a family gave us a ride and asked if we would like to stay at their place over night. We were only too glad of the chance to rest a night. The next day they asked me if I would like to stay a while and look for a job.

## Picking Apricots for "Peanuts"

The apricot season opened at this time. I got a job picking apricots and my wife went to work cutting them for drying. The two of us made about \$4.00 the first week, even though the last two days of the week my wife was so sick she could hardly stand. One of the apricot pickers asked me why I did not apply to the Federal Security Administration for medical aid for Ruth. On further inquiry I learned there were many more thousands of migratory workers, like myself, in California whose average wages working in the crops was less than \$3.00 a year. The federal government was supplementing this amount by grants-in-aid to keep them from fighting for more. The average grant from the FSA ran about \$16 to \$18 per month—whenever there was no crop to be picked or the wages were less than \$5.00 a week. The FSA also ran the Agricultural Workers Medical Association through which low income

farm families might secure emergency medical and dental attention; to be repaid when and if they were able. I decided to look further into this.

Working together in the apricots, the pickers became better acquainted with one another the more they realized none was making any money. The pickers were families from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, and families of Portuguese and Mexicans. There were 48 pickers in all when we decided to go on strike for more money. All stuck solid, except six of the East Texas tribe. The boss said he would let the "cots" rot on the trees before he would raise the wages enough so we could make up to \$1.00 a day. This, with the price of "cots" the highest in ten years!

We told him we could starve just as well without making money for him picking his fruit. We asked the local Cannery Workers Union, AFL, for help in our strike—at least moral support—and were told that the union was a craft union and as picking was not a craft we could fight our own battles. We forced the owner to leave much of the fruit on the trees and learned later how he laughed at us. He had membership in the California Farmers Association. He didn't lose as much as we did. Any money lost by the growers through their refusal to raise wages was borne by the association. All the farmers who had mortgages on their places or crops held by the Bank of America were forced to join the California Association and to market through the California Packing Corp., owned and controlled by the Bank of America. We tried in vain to find a local of the United Cannery Agricultural Packing Allied Workers of America, (CIO). Many of the families drifted away to other crops.

## Luxury in the Grand "Okie" Manner

We have received authorization from the Agricultural Workers Medical Association for an operation and hospitalization for Ruth. Also received about \$15 worth of sardines, tomatoes, beans, and canned milk. These came from the FSA for my son and me to eat for the next month. They have promised to investigate my request for help to secure a room for my three and a half year old son and myself. God knows, it takes long enough to do these things.

My son and I, in rapid succession, worked in the pears, prunes and plums during Ruth's stay in the hospital. After her release from the hospital we moved into the middle of a 300 acre field of tomatoes. This crop was good. So good that we began, by dint of working from dawn till dark, seven days a week, to make about \$15 a week. Good luck seems to run in streaks. My long pending request for aid from the FSA came through the day after we got this job—\$26 check, \$16 for groceries and \$10 for rent for the next month.

This, plus the job we now have, has given us a credit standing. We set up housekeeping, in grand style, in the middle of the tomato field. A two burner gasoline stove, an army cot, a double mattress, a frying pan, a stew pan and a small put tent set us up to face the crops.

We soon discovered that we would have to have a car if we wanted to pack this stuff around. The local junk dealer furnished this in the form of an old \$40 jalopy which he let us have for a small down payment. The rest is to be paid semi-monthly, but he isn't worried about it as the junk price of this crate is only about \$7.50.

(Continued in Next Issue)

# YPSL Blasts AYC War Line

(Continued from page 1)

convention were thus able to weed out "undesirable" speakers.

Despite the more than 3,000 delegates, the conference was a failure from the Stalinist point of view. Most of the delegates were either imported YCLers from New York or local Stalinists from Washington. To make up for the absence of genuine youth organizations, the Stalinists allowed any "youth" (and there were plenty who have grown old just attending these Stalinist youth conferences) who was willing to pay a dollar registration fee to attend. They were thus spared the necessity of finding organizations to "represent."

Those few genuine youth organizations that were represented were mainly anti-Stalinist. The Stalinists were extremely anxious to placate these organizations even those which were actively pro-war and for aid to England—and as a result they became surprisingly "democratic" and

"tolerant." MacMichael, the chairman, made a plea for tolerance after a couple of sour incidents, and other Stalinist floor leaders did likewise. This factor, plus the dread of a bad press, led the Stalinists to "relax" their vigilance against opponents. Sitting near the platform, I could see the constant pressure which a number of non-Stalinist delegates were putting on the Stalinists to allow dissident points of view to be expressed.

## FDR's Boy Friday

As a result, one of the most spotlighted characters at the convention was Joe Lash, once the chief Stalinist "front man" among the Youth, and now the unofficial youth spokesman of the Roosevelt Administration. Lash made no serious attempt to organize the 150 or 175 delegates who agreed with him in favoring support of the imperialist war, but he succeeded in focusing a lot of attention on himself.

# CIO Sweeps Kansas City General Motors Plant Men Dissatisfied With the Way in Which the AFL Has Failed to Act

Special to Labor Action

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 4.—Kansas City General Motors workers, after a year in the UAW-AFL are swinging into a forward march into the CIO. The hellish speed-up and the resultant chiselling on rates are forcing the workers into action. Chevrolet Assembly, 1200 strong, where the CIO has an overwhelming majority, has petitioned for a Labor Board election to obtain sole bargaining rights. On the Fisher Body side, the CIO is slowly but surely recruiting new members as the UAW (AFL) daily reveals its inability to stop the company's chiselling and speed-up. The company has taken advantage of the AFL contract in this plant to force conditions it would never attempt in the CIO plants.

Local 93 of the UAW-AFL, Homer Martin's home local, managed to win a majority in the GM election held last April. But it has shown itself powerless to maintain the fairly good conditions obtained by the CIO as a result of its three year struggle in the plant.

Before the plant went AFL, the CIO contract specified that after the line was stepped up past 56 jobs an hour, new men were to be put on. Immediately after the Labor Board election (April, 1940), and while the AFL was in a weak position, men were laid off and the line jumped to 58 jobs an hour, with no increase in pay.

When production started on the '41 model in September, at 52 jobs an hour, still more men were off and the workers had to speed up on

their work to make as much as before.

But the real speed-up was yet to come. This winter the line averaged 57 jobs an hour, though the company claimed it was only 56. A few extra men had to be put on and the plant began to work nine hours a day. The net result for the men was that they were putting out five more jobs an hour, working more hours and making approximately the same amount of money as they were at 52—which amounted to a cut in wage rates. Several categories of workers had their wage rates cut "officially" when production was speeded up in order to prevent them from making too much dough.

Since the plant is working overtime, the company has been staggering the hours of the office employees so they could work them on Saturday without paying any overtime. They pulled this in the plant one Saturday, when that day's work made just 40 hours. In spite of the fact that the AFL took no action whatsoever, the temper of the workers was such that they haven't tried it again.

## AFL Does Nothing

What has the AFL been doing about the speed-up and stretch-out? In Fisher Body: Whereas the CIO once had a bargaining committee of eight and shop stewards for every 50 or 60 men, the AFL has only a few shop stewards for each department of hundreds of men. Where the stewards have put in feeble protests about violation of the written agreement, the company has laughed

The Stalinists tried to lump all opposition in one pro-imperialist basket. Thus, the Daily Workers, in reporting the AYC meeting, declares that support of the Lend-Lease Bill came from two sources: the Lash group and... the YPSL. This, despite the fact that the first sentence from the mouth of the YPSL speaker was an attack on the Lend-Lease Bill.

The small but articulate bloc of delegates who supported the anti-imperialist war point of view of the YPSL kept hammering away all through the conference. A large number of the current issue of the Challenge of Youth, YPSL paper, which carried articles on both the Youth Congress and the Lash group, were sold to the delegates. The few unaffiliated delegates bought our papers almost without exception, although the Stalinists tried to cajole them into not reading it. Numerous discussions were held with non-Stalinist delegates and future contact with them was arranged.

Disgust with the AFL has risen to such a point that the real militants, who led the strike in '37 and are known throughout the plant as fighting union men, refuse to accept any offices or serve on any committees, though some of them still wear their AFL buttons.

The workers collectively on the Fisher Body side have no bargaining power. The company deals with them as individuals. The result is that the CIO members who absolutely refuse to be sped up are left more or less alone by the company. The AFL members, on the contrary, are daily pushed past the point of endurance, and react as individuals—some will take more, others less.

On the Chevrolet side, where the overwhelming majority of the workers are CIO, conditions are better. Although the union is not recognized and has no bargaining power as such, direct action tactics have been effective in forcing the company to take it easy. When every tenth or seventh truck goes down the line with a gearshift missing, or the wrong option on, the company is soon forced to conclude that some poor devil is doing all the work he will stand.

Since the Fisher Body workers seem to be advancing a little more slowly than those on the Chevy side, the CIO has decided to ask for an election for the Chevy side alone. But it is not winning an election that will swing the majority on the Fisher side. Only concrete evidence that the CIO means business and is going to get results for its members will do that job.

# Editorials

## OUR PROGRAM AGAINST THE WAR

1. Not a man, not a cent for Wall Street's war. All war funds to be unempoyed.
2. For a rising scale of wages to meet increasing cost of living. Thirty-Thirty—\$30 weekly minimum wage—30-hour weekly maximum for all workers.
3. Expropriate the Sixty Families. For Government ownership and workers control of all war industries—aviation, steel, chemicals, railroads, public utilities, etc.
4. Against both imperialist war camps. For the Third Camp of World Labor and the Colonial Peoples.
5. Let the people vote on war. For the right of youth to vote at the age of 18.
6. Abolish secret diplomacy. Open the files of the State Department.
7. Withdraw all armed forces from territory outside the United States. Free the colonies. Hands off Latin America.
8. Against compulsory military training and conscription.
9. For the defense of civil liberties and workers' rights. Stop the persecution of aliens. Against the M-Day Plans and war-time dictatorship.
10. For full social, economic and political equality for Negroes. End discrimination against Negroes in industry and trade unions.
11. For an independent Labor Party.
12. For Workers' Defense Guards against Fascist and vigilante attacks.
13. No confidence in the Roosevelt government. For a workers' government and a people's army.
14. For Peace through Socialism. For the Socialist United States of the Americas, for the Socialist United States of Europe, and for the World Socialist Federation.

frowned on any attempt to communicate uncensored with the outside world.

Above all, the men need the right to select committees of their own choosing to act in their own interests; committees which can champion their grievances; committees which could, for example, make a public issue of housing and food.

The soldiers cannot by themselves force these concessions. But their problem is the problem of all labor which, sooner or later, directly or indirectly, will be involved in the draft. It is up to the unions to make this a union issue, to demand better pay, better conditions, and democratic expression for the workers who are forced to join the Army.

## Race Prejudice Strikes at All

How long, fellow-workers, shall we endure the persecution of our Negro brothers?

How long shall we tolerate the lynching, the framing, the torture of a people because they were born with black skins?

Out in Oklahoma, a member state of this great "democracy," a Negro farmer has been railroaded to life imprisonment by a jury of white farmers for no other reason than the color of his skin.

Not a shred of tangible evidence connected W. D. Lyons with the murder of a white family. Every available fact pointed, in fact, in other directions. No matter in the South!

W. D. Lyons is black. That's enough cause to beat him mercilessly! Enough cause to haul him before a prejudiced jury! Enough cause to railroad him to jail!

A similar story can be told for almost every day of the week. There is Odell Waller, facing a death sentence, convicted for the murder of his crooked landlord without the slightest attempt to investigate the circumstances leading to the murder. And, like Lyons, convicted by a jury from which his peers were excluded by the tyranny of race discrimination.

There are thousands of others who daily feel the whip of capitalist-inspired race prejudice. Cases that break into the papers, cases that do not.

Occasionally, very occasionally, a Negro manages to break through the chain of deliberate frame-up. The kept press, on such occasions, puffs itself full in commendation of a "democracy," that gives every man his chance at a free trial. Such a case made the papers recently when a Negro, obviously framed by a white society woman who tried to jail him for rape, was acquitted. Prosecutor and judge, knowing well the facts of the case, tried their damndest to convict Spell, the Negro involved, but the facts were too plain for a Connecticut jury to ignore.

But for every Spell acquitted for a crime he did not commit, there are hundreds of Lyonses and Wallers who are not acquitted.

This isn't merely the problem of the Negro. It is just as much the problem of every man and woman, whatever his color, who slaves in the factories of capitalism. Black and white MUST stand together. **Black and white must, in common action, resist the efforts of the capitalist courts and agents to divide worker from worker with the artificial barrier of color.**

The bosses want to keep the Negro in his "place." We too want to keep the Negro in his "place." But we differ as to what that "place" is. The boss thinks it's at the gutter of fierce and inhuman exploitation. We think it's in the ranks of the working class—in our unions and organizations, by our side.

Hurl the solidarity of white and black into the depraved face of boss oppression. Show the bosses that the white worker will no longer tolerate the persecution of members of his class.

Flood the Oklahoma Governor with your protests! Help the Waller appeal! DEMAND A FAIR TRIAL FOR LYONS, FOR ANY NEGRO WHO RUNS AFOUL OF THE MOST VICIOUS OF ALL PREJUDICES: RACE PREJUDICE.

### LABOR ACTION

114 W. 14th Street

New York City

Dear Friends:

I am interested in learning more about the Workers Party and its fight against the bosses' war plans.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

## FROM OUR WEST COAST CORRESPONDENT

# What's for the Army Officer Ain't for the Buck Private

If life in the Army camps consisted only of learning the science of military training, there would be much to say for it. But it can not be divorced from the politics behind the present compulsory military training laws. Creating cannon-fodder for Wall Street's wars is the aim of these laws.

Since it is primarily the youth of America who will be the backbone of the U. S. Army and Navy, profound changes are occurring in the country, above all, among the younger generation. He who has the youth has the future! A profound truth. Emphasized by the facts of today.

Liddel Hart is correct in stating that it takes only three months to train a soldier properly for modern combat. But conscription lasts one year, at least. War will prolong this service indefinitely. It is important to understand what the U. S. Army has in mind for the other nine months.

A good soldier is one who obeys automatically, acts automatically, and fights automatically. This concept is called discipline. The ideal of the U. S. Army is the Nazi military machine. The young Nazis who fought like devils, laughed at death, and stormed the strongest positions, they are the ideal soldiers—by military standards.

Inculcating their fanaticism is the primary aim of the one year training period in the U. S. Army now. You toughen up the recruits by exercise and drill. You teach them discipline in the process. But mechanical knowledge of the use of arms is not sufficient. It's the spirit that counts. The Army might march on its stomach, but it fights with its heart and mind! Morale is the question of the day.

### Fight?—For Whom?

Revolutionists and Wall Street agree on one thing: The youth should know how to fight. The whole question is For Whom? For What! The revolutionary movement is unable to give this training directly to the youth in vast numbers. Its own forces are too small. The U. S. Army is going to do that job. But the Army wants to accomplish another task at the same time: convince the youth to stay on its side as the main prop of capitalism.

In its multifarious athletic activities, its citizenship classes, its movies, its drill, its dress parades, and its discipline, the Army tries to mold the youth into an "ideal" soldier. Into a soldier ready to die willingly for the preservation of Wall Street's system of plunder. Since all the propaganda agencies, the whole force of the government and the "weight" of public opinion presses on the youth, superficial observers conclude that the Army will succeed.

We think otherwise. Facts are stubborn things. They determine our ideas. That is why we think otherwise.

The scandal of Winthrop Rockefeller's enlistment, his sudden removal from the hard life of Ft. Dix to quarters more suitable for a gentleman and a sportsman, does more to offset the whole army training program than a thousand soap-box speeches.

"I wanna be a Captain like Roosevelt," is replaced by "I wanna be a Buck Private like Rockefeller."

We're sure the California Army camps are no different in this respect than others. At least we judge so from reading various reports.

The first lesson one learns at Army camp is that men are not created free and equal. There are two classes, the officers and the men. And the officers live in a different world. After the first few exciting days at the camp the contrast is emphasized by the difference in quarters. Even the formerly unemployed, happy at first at the thought of three squares a day, begin to realize that the officers' mess is something different, and better.

Food, clothing and shelter. In these fundamentals of existence, the Army teaches by the bitter school of experience that there are two classes and always will be as long as the present army lasts.

The brief period of adjustment to army life ends anywhere from a month to three, depending on the assimilability and quickness of the conscriptee. Then comes another painful shock. Restless in their spare time, the conscriptees seek a social life, above all the company of women.

Walking past the officers' quarters on the way to a nearby town, the buck private sees the nice looking company of the officers, hears the music of an orchestra and the tinkle of cocktail glasses. This is not for him.

He walks into a town like Monterey, looking for a good time. These towns near army camps have experienced a fantastic boom. Prices are sky-high everywhere. A glass of beer for two bits, sandwiches upped 100%. Everywhere, like bloodsuckers, small merchants squeeze the pennies from the under-paid soldiers.

In a series of five articles in the Los Angeles News, all the details of this tragic story of cheating, and swindling, and double-crossing, and kicking around the rank and file

was unfolded. This was true at every army camp in California. It must be shocking if it gets into the press, because the army has exerted much pressure for "discretion in reporting," i.e., in clamping down a censorship.

Here is a typical story of "social life" of the conscriptees, taken from the News investigation.

"A large number of soldiers find their way to 'Cannery Row,' Monterey's brothel center. Here in a stinking ramshackle building between two malodorous fish packing plants, they purchase sex relations.

"They do it with a feeling of security because the rumor persists, 'It's safe, because these girls are inspected every week by army doctors. A girl's card must be in order or she'll be kicked out.

"In the first place, if this were the case, the medical officer would be violating orders direct from the War Department.

"However, one hears persistent rumors of army medical officers examining girls throughout the coun-

try. If this is the case they are only instilling a feeling of false confidence in their enlisted men. For example:

"Recently on a soldiers' pay day Monterey's three houses took care of a vast throng of young men. Each house had about ten girls and each girl entertained 50 or more men throughout the night.

"Now if one of the first men to visit a girl had been infected, you may see how readily the disease could spread like wildfire even if a girl had had a thousand examinations the very day before the rush."

Nice world of today and tomorrow the army life has to offer a young man. Not to mention the fate of the girls caught in an economic trap that sends them into the oldest profession whose last outpost is white slavery near an army camp.

These conditions will not improve. Rather they will become much worse. Bitter experience, aided by careful political education conducted by the movement, will swing the youth into OUR camp.

JACK WILSON.

## Good and Welfare

by Lefty

EASY LESSONS IN REPORTING FOR THE BOURGEOIS PRESS: HOW TO TELL NEWS.

If millions of working people in Europe are starving this winter, are putting newspapers inside their coats to keep warm, and are lining their shoes with cardboard—that isn't news.

BUT: IF KING CHRISTIAN of Denmark puts newspapers inside the overcoat of his uniform in order to take his fashionable daily horseback ride—THAT'S NEWS!

WHENEVER THINGS AREN'T going so good I can invariably cheer myself up by thinking of the things I have escaped—like being married to Dorothy Thompson, for instance.

Dorothy's hysterical ravings reached a new pitch in a recent issue of Life magazine. In an article of drool dedicated to Winston Churchill, she revealed the following information, which, what with one thing and another, seems to have been overlooked by the world press:

"The plutocratic England which you attack is, today a socialist state—a socialist state created without class war, created out of love and led by an aristocrat for whom England builds no eagle's nests or palaces out of the taxes of her people, a man who cares nothing for money, or ever has, but only for Britain, and for the coming world that a free and socialist British society will surely help to build if ever it is built.

So bankrupt has the hideous British regime become that in order to gain support for dying British capitalism the label of socialism has to be ostentatiously pinned on it.

And what is this "socialism"? It is the slavery of 400,000,000 Indian people, the slaughter of an imperialist war to preserve the capitalist slavemasters' rule, the super-exploitation of the war-driven labor at home, the curbing of the working-class press—all under the leadership of Winston Churchill, a mortal enemy of Leon Trotsky, the great revolutionist whom Churchill cynically characterized as an "empty skin."

Personally, we prefer the harmless visions that William Blake, the poet, used to have. He limited his visions to seeing full-fledged angels walking busily down the highroad.

### WHO SAYS THAT CAPITALISM CAN'T PLAN?

We see by the press that the Army has ordered 4,500,000 special tags for identifying the dead and wounded in the coming war.

### THOUGHTS MEN LIVE BY:

"An Idealist is anyone who helps another to make a profit."—Henry Ford.

### READ:

"The Defenders," by Franz Hoellering. It's the story of the events leading up to the attack on the Vienna co-operative apartments by Dollfuss in 1934, and the defense action by the social-democratic schutzbund. A panoramic view of the bitter crisis is given through focusing on representative individuals from all strata of the dying social structure. The book is obviously the product of a political as well as personal understanding of events.

CONTRASTING THE NEW gas masks being manufactured with those of the last World War, an Army officer recently told the gaping press: "It would almost be a pleasure to die in one."

The pleasure's all yours, mister.

## Dear Mary:

I wonder if you folks read "Native Son." It's the story of a Negro boy who committed a crime and the persecution that he went through. The story gives a pretty good idea of the friendlessness of the Negro race and the conditions under which they live.

There has been a case around here this last month which illustrates even better the conditions under which Negroes seek justice. A Negro was accused by a white woman of having assaulted her, and he was brought to trial. The jury considered the case for about a week and the newspapers carried the story. It was obvious from the story that the white woman, who was a society woman, had been guilty of an act which her class condemned her for and that she was attempting to throw the blame on the Negro and thus crawl out from under. The jury deliberated for 13 hours and finally found the Negro not guilty.

The prosecuting attorney said in his last speech to the jury "a conviction against the accused should be brought back lest 'shame and disgrace' fall upon this woman." To him it didn't matter if an innocent black man was found guilty, and given twenty years in jail. The only thing that mattered was that the name of the white woman should be cleared.

Following the acquittal, the Negro was held in jail for 48 hours while the prosecution attempted to find a basis for an appeal. They were not successful. At the same time, the woman left for a two weeks' vacation in Florida, having left a statement of her great sorrow at being unsuccessful in her attempt to protect all womanhood from such crimes.

And all this happened in the North, where Negroes have less persecution to contend with than in the South. To think of that aristocratic white woman willing to send an innocent man to jail for 20 years in order to maintain her class standards! It's enough to make my blood boil to think of the injustices, and this is only one of many, that are done in order that the whites may maintain their supremacy over a minority race. A case like this says—you are guilty because you are black, innocent or guilty; you take the blame, because we cannot afford to admit you are our equals.

And oh yes, I see by the papers that they have installed time clocks in the Office of Production Management in Washington, the Knudsen-Hillman office. And Knudsen has refused to punch a time clock. He says he stopped doing that years ago and won't begin again. So they've given some one the job of punching the clock for him, "to save him time and embarrassment."

How's tricks with you and Joe? How's his embarrassment these days punching the time clock? Bet he'll get a laugh out of that one.

Take care and let's hear from you. Love to the kids and yourselves. Sally.

## THE NEGRO'S FIGHT

# Has the Negro A Stake in The World War?

By JACK MANN

The following letter by a well known Harlem labor attorney was sent to the New York Post in answer to a communication by E. Phillip Randolph urging "all-out" aid to England.

To the Editor:

Negroes, we are told by the Harlem Section of the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies, have a tremendous stake in this war. We are not disposed to quarrel with this estimate. Fundamentally the war is being fought by two groups of imperialist nations over which shall have the right to exploit the people of Africa and Asia. The City is particularly anxious that Wall Street come to its aid so that Great Britain, after the victory over Hitler, will be strong enough to rule India and the African continent while at the same time holding a strong position in Latin America and China.

In the West Indies and in Africa, the colonial rulers have run the entire gamut of measures to prevent an outbreak of their slaves. In Kenya the Crown seizes the natives' cattle; their only medium of exchange. In the Belgian Congo laborers who work from dawn to dark are paid the meager sum of ten cents a day. In Nigeria, native sailors are forbidden to form unions. There's no doubt that we are more vitally concerned by the course of this war perhaps than any other people. We seek the opportunity and the means whereby to break our chains.

Pickens, Crosswaith, Randolph et al. had their counterparts in the first World War. Emmet Scott, DuBois and Kelly Miller played the earlier roles. It is a far cry from the Randolph of the old Masses and the Messenger to the Randolph of today. Of course war "is a great destroyer of illusions." At least Randolph and Crosswaith have behind them "an international tradition." Pickens merely continues to be the stooge for the wealthy supporters of the NAACP that he has been for the last 25 years.

Not that these men aren't sincere. When trade union leaders get comfortable salaries and begin to rely exclusively on their past it is natural that they should take the path of least resistance. The war is a challenge to this group of leaders as it is a challenge to the leading groups of all sections of our American society. So it is hardly surprising to find Crosswaith comparing the civil liberties under Great Britain with the civil liberties under Hitler. He says, "let good enough alone." He means, "I'm safe, why worry?" We would wish to leave these gentlemen alone with their comforting rationalizations were it not for the circumstance that they are relied upon to mislead the Negro.

As the war continues, the gap between democracy in words and exploitation in practice creates more and more difficulties in the ruling class. There is no ethnic group as suspicious of the current plea to save democracy as the American Negro. Already, as Joseph Bibb stated last Saturday in the Afro-American, he is plowed under, denied the right to work, the right to decent shelter and in many areas the right to vote or to any legal security.

England holds up the bogey of Nazi domination and to end it demands a free hand to further enslave her subject populations. Unfortunately, however, for Crosswaith, Pickens and their ilk, the overwhelming majority of Negroes have no stake in our capitalist society. These leaders merely reveal that they cannot be entrusted with the task of achieving true democracy for the millions of under-privileged they presume to speak for. Out of their own ranks these masses will push forward the leadership that will carry on the fight to throw off imperialist domination, be it Nazi, British, American, Russian or Japanese.

Yours,

Conrad Lynn.

Feb. 6, 1941.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

Here are some statistics to indicate the extent of disfranchisement of Negroes and "poor-whites" in the South. In the recent election, Illinois polled a percentage of 53.4 of its population vote. Others ranged from this figure down through the 50's and the 40's. South Carolina turned out only 5.2 per cent; Mississippi, 8 per cent; Georgia, 10 per cent; Arkansas, 10.3 per cent; Alabama, 10.4 per cent; Virginia, 12.9 per cent; Louisiana, 15.7 per cent; Texas, 16.2 per cent; Tennessee, 17.9 per cent; North Carolina, 23.3 per cent, and Florida, the highest, 25.7 per cent.

It is the representatives from these Southern States in Congress and the Senate who have succeeded in preventing passage of the anti-lynching and anti-poll tax bills. Through their control of the most powerful committees in the Congress and Senate they are in a position to block any legislation which seeks in any way to alleviate the conditions of the Negro.

How about an "all-out" aid campaign to help the Negro in the South break the shackles which keep him enslaved? We are certain that Mr. Randolph and company will meet with a much greater response from Negroes if they would propose some concrete actions to help liberate the most oppressed section of the working class in the South.

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