

# Fascism Falls—Revolution in Italy Has Begun!

## Masses Want Peace, Bread and Freedom

The revolution has begun in Italy!

Gone and un mourned is Mussolini, inventor of the castor-oil treatment for workers, first fascist tyrant in Europe, assassin of the Ethiopian and Albanian people, jackal in the camp of the Axis.

Gone or going with him are the rest of the blackshirt scum who thought they would rule Italy and her empire forever. Carlo Scorza, secretary of the Fascist Party, is presumed to be under arrest, Virginio Gayda, Mussolini's Goebbels, is reported a suicide. The new regime of Badoglio did not dare to put a single one of the more prominent fascist cutthroats into its cabinet. Fascist insignia are disappearing so fast from walls and windows, arms and lapels, that you would think they never existed. Mussolini's pictures are being torn down everywhere; his name is being smeared over with paint as if to rub out the very memory of his rule; streets he renamed once for himself are being renamed again. The Rome radio no longer plays the fascist hymn and even assures its listeners that fascism is at an end. Mussolini's paper, *Il Popolo d'Italia*, no longer appears. Outstanding fascists are in hiding like rats; it is dangerous for even the lesser lights to appear in public.

If fascism has not yet been totally destroyed in Italy, the old Fascist Party is in any case done for, completely discredited, without serious support, and it will never return. Its collapse, under the first serious strain, is total.

The revolution has begun in Italy. But only **BEGUN**.

### The Aim of the Badoglio Regime

The regime of Marshal Badoglio and the King, which replaced Mussolini, has come into existence to prevent the revolution from getting under way and being brought to a triumphant conclusion.

The House of Savoy and the reactionary officers' corps represented by Badoglio, for all their minor differences with Mussolini, did all in their power to prop up the fascist regime for more than twenty years. The King brought Mussolini to Rome with a telegram asking him to take power in 1922. He employed his influence ever since that time to consolidate the rule of fascism. In turn, fascism strengthened his reign, and crowned him as King-Emperor.

Badoglio worked and fought for the fascists like a loyal servant. It was he who bombed and gassed out of existence the last remnants of Ethiopia's independence. He led the fascist legions to the conquest of Albania and, later, even if not very effectively, of Greece.

Now Badoglio and the King have broken with Mussolini. Why? Because of a revulsion against the hideous system of fascism? Because of a belated conversion to democracy? Preposterous!

Mussolini and his crew were dropped in order to save the monarchy and the capitalist class from the rising tide of the masses. In the same way, the capitalist class of Russia sacrificed their ruler, Czar Nicholas, in 1917. In the same way, the capitalist class and the Junkers of Germany sacrificed their ruler, Kaiser Wilhelm, in 1918.

Mussolini incarnated everything the masses of the people hated. He represented to them the regime of tyranny, or super-exploitation of the workers, for the benefit of the monopolists and bankers. He represented to them the alliance with Nazi Germany. He represented to them the war, the futile, reactionary, imperialist war, with its devastation of the country, its mounting casualties, the hunger and suffering it imposed, the hopelessness of the outcome. He represented to them the increasing subordination of Italy and her people to the interests and policies of German imperialism.

For the House of Savoy and the ruling class of Italy to stay tied to Mussolini, under these conditions, meant running the risk of being swept into oblivion along with him. Mussolini had to go, if the others were not to go too. This much Badoglio and the King understood.

The first word of the new regime to the people is classic: Maintain order! "Whoever believes he can interrupt the normal progress of events or whoever seeks to disturb internal order will be struck down without mercy. Long live Italy! Long live the King!" Thus reads Badoglio's proclamation to the Italians. To the Marshal and the King, the people are hungry dogs who must be content with the dried bone thrown to them.

### People Want Peace, Bread, Freedom

But the people are not dogs, and they are not so easily satisfied. They want peace, bread and freedom! Those are the classic war cries of the long-suffering but finally aroused masses.

They do not want to hear from Badoglio that "The war will continue." They have no stake in this wretched war, and never had one, no more than any of the other peoples have. They have had enough of their sons and fathers dying in the African wastes or the plains of Sicily in order that the King may be an Emperor and the industrialists may coin profits out of their blood. They have had enough of bombings and hunger and all the other sufferings and humiliations of imperialist war.

That is why the "Italian soldier did not fight well," as the reactionary press in this country reported so gleefully. The Italian soldier is no more a coward than the Italian worker. He fought without enthusiasm or the spirit of sacrifice because he realized more and more as the war continued that it was not his war, but the war of his exploiters and oppressors. Now he wants an end to it, and he is determined to put an end to anyone who tries to prolong it, be his name Mussolini, or Badoglio, or anyone else.

The masses want bread, and to get bread they must have freedom. The spontaneous popular glee at the fall of Mussolini was not meant as a welcome to the regime that replaced him, as Bado-

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# LABOR ACTION

AUGUST 2, 1943

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

YOUR Union and YOUR Standards Are at Stake!

## SHIPBUILDING COMPANIES IN UNION-WRECKING DRIVE

Moral: Break the Chain!



### Connally Act and Stalinists Spur Concerted Offensive On CIO Union in the East

The shipbuilding corporations are launching an offensive in an all-out drive to break the back of the CIO Shipbuilders Union on the Eastern Seaboard.

This move has definitely come to light. Contract negotiations involving hundreds of thousands of workers in Eastern yards have reached a stalemate.

The owners refuse in most cases to grant even the terms of the old contracts. They simply turn their backs on the union negotiating committees and refer all matters to the War Labor Board.

In at least two instances, Sun Shipbuilding Corp., of Chester, Pa., and the Atlantic Basin Iron Works, of Brooklyn, N. Y., the corporations have openly defied the WLB after the rulings went against them.

### Connally Act Is Boss Opportunity

The adoption of the Smith-Connally Act is looked upon by the owners as the great opportunity to rid themselves of union conditions.

They are encouraged in this view by the "no-strike" policy of the union administration, headed by President John Green and Secretary Phillip Van Gelder.

The union leadership has forbidden locals to file a thirty-day notice for a strike vote, as provided for in the Smith-Connally Act, thus assuring the owners that even this remaining weapon of labor will not be used against them.

Meanwhile the shop stewards and active union men are being daily enraged by new provocations on the part of the yard management. Yard officials are posting all sorts of petty regulations and restrictions to rub salt in the wounds of labor and further emphasize the helpless situation to which the "no-strike" leadership has brought them.

### Other Corporations Will Follow

If the corporations can use the weapon of the Smith-Connally Act to crack the strong union of the shipbuilders, it is generally understood that all other corporations will follow suit. The Shipbuilders Union is now learning the lesson of why they should have supported the miners in their fight. Instead of standing back of their miner brothers, President Green of the shipbuilders stabbed the miners in the back with a scab statement which denounced their fight.

Details from the yards follow:

### Cramp Breaks Off Negotiations

PHILADELPHIA—The Cramp Shipbuilding Corp. suddenly broke off negotiations here with the CIO Shipbuilders, Local 42, and rejected a whole series of contract clauses that had already been agreed to in the prolonged negotiations. They followed this breach of faith with the union by provocatively firing eighteen piecework counters and causing a series of departmental stoppages.

The company decided so suddenly

to break off negotiations that they did not even bother to tell the union committee in person. They merely sent a wire to union headquarters saying they rejected all clauses agreed upon except five. These latter clauses are the routine ones, such as the clauses that define the term "company" and "union" and similar ones.

The local executive board met and passed a motion to inform the WLB that it was giving thirty days' notice for a strike vote as provided by the Smith-Connally Act. It then

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## FDR's Attorney General Indicts Thirty Miners at Pittsburgh

Thirty coal miners—local union presidents, checkweighmen, committeemen, and ordinary rank and file militants of the United Mine Workers of America in Southwestern Pennsylvania—have been indicted by a federal grand jury at Pittsburgh on charges of violating the notorious Smith-Connally law.

The "crime" of these workers, according to the indictment, consists in having refused to go back to work without a contract, that is, without being granted a single one of the just demands put forward by all the miners in order to break what a secret, suppressed report of the OWI described as "the ring of slavery which holds him (the miner) in chains."

There you have the first fruit of the Smith-Connally Act, enforced by Attorney General Biddle, agent of President Roosevelt, the "friend of labor" before whom the trade union leaders continue to crawl so shamefully.

The indictment of these honest and courageous miners is a deliberate insult to the entire labor movement and working class of the country. It is an impudent and dangerous attack upon everything the labor movement stands for. It must be repulsed by a protest action of the labor movement that the strikebreakers and persecutors of labor will remember for a long time.

Every union in the country!  
Every union man in the country!

Let our thirty brothers know where you stand! They are the first. You will be next unless you act immediately and decisively!

And let the government and its prosecutors know where you stand!

Protest resolutions against the persecution, and resolutions of solidarity with its victims, adopted in unmistakable language by every labor organization in the country—that is the first step to be taken, and taken now!

The thirty miners are pioneer fighters for ALL labor. They are our brothers. Let them know that we are theirs!

### ILLINOIS MINE CONTRACT UP TO WLB

The United Mine Workers of America, District No. 12, and the Illinois Coal Operators Association have signed a portal-to-portal wage agreement.

Under the terms of the agreement the mine workers are to be paid for the time they spend traveling back

and forth underground to their place of work at seventy-six cents a day. In addition, they will receive seven-and-a-half cents for each day they have worked since October 24, 1938, when the Fair Labor Standards Act went into effect. The seven-hour day is to be increased to eight, with the

eight-hour to be paid for at the rate of time and a half.

Before this agreement can go into effect it must receive the approval of the War Labor Board, and from all its past performances the WLB is expected to attempt to wreck this agreement.

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### Labor and a 'Cost-Plus' Wage

The article on a "Cost-Plus Wage," promised last week for this issue, has had to be postponed until next week because of the sensational events of such urgent importance that we are obliged to deal with in the current LABOR ACTION—the upheaval in Italy and the launching of the open shop offensive by the shipbuilding corporations.

Watch our next issue!



NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Militants Win In Local 425 Election

NEW YORK—The membership of Local 425, United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America, appeared at the election polls in large numbers July 13 and 14, and by an overwhelming majority elected candidates for the negotiation committee and the forthcoming national union convention who are absolutely opposed to any form of piecework (incentive pay) and who are for a fighting local and international union.

Stalinists Badly Beaten

The Stalinist leadership of District 4 and their party line followers in the local have thus met another defeat in their campaign of the last several years to capture this local, the only important one in their district not under their domination.

The results of the election clearly show that the membership has decisively defeated the labor-sweating, piecework plan of the National Association of Manufacturers and the Communist Party, now called the "incentive plan." But neither the membership nor the newly-elected negotiation committee can rest there.

The fight for higher wages today is more difficult than it was yesterday. Not only are the companies more greedy with their swollen profits but the Roosevelt Administration, through the War Labor Board, has put new obstacles in the path of labor.

But the coal miners have shown that by always sticking together, never giving up, labor can break the wage-starving formulas of the bosses and the War Labor Board.

Need International's Aid

Local 425 alone, of course, cannot do this. It must have the support of its own international union and of the entire CIO. Therefore, the recently elected delegates to the national convention of the UE must put up a terrific fight there to have it adopt, as the leaflet says, "such a program by the national union" as "would create favorable conditions for our own negotiations."

The issues in the election, for the first time in the history of the local, were clear cut. Members, shop stewards and executive board members,

sick and tired of the pussyfooting of the district leadership and its representative in the local, James Lustig, and equally disgusted with the lack of leadership of the local executive board, who either followed the Stalinists or other reactionaries, fought for the election of militant candidates.

Militants Issue Program

This group, composed of fifty shop stewards and executive board members, issued a leaflet to the general membership, outlining their program and calling for the election of those members who supported this program to the national convention and the negotiating committee.

The leaflet, entitled "Face the Facts," called for an "aggressive union program" against "various 'incentive' and 'bonus' plans" which are "just another name" for piecework, "opposed wage freezing, the 'fifteen per cent Little Steel formula' and called for 'sweeping away of the whole cobweb of WLB rulings'."

On wages, the leaflet calls for a revision of the existing low rates of the production workers, general helpers, porters, tool-crib attendants, etc., who get no more than eighty-five cents per hour under the existing contract.

"The wages of learners and of first and second-class men are entirely out of line with the exacting standards of work and high levels of skill prevailing in all sections of the plant. A general readjustment of their wages is imperative."

This is what the leaflet has to say about the question of wages in view of the universally recognized rise in the cost of living. More concrete wage proposals will have to be worked out by the negotiating committee in consultation with the membership.

Strengthen Steward System

An important section of the leaflet deals with strengthening the union machinery. Most important of all, it calls for the strengthening of the shop steward system as the backbone of the union, since they are directly linked to the membership.

Illinois Mine Contract Up Before WLB

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But this will not be too easy. The Illinois miners are one of the most militant sections of the union (and this is saying something when talking about the UMW). They will not permit the WLB to tear this agreement apart.

Nor will the other miners throughout the country permit it, for they know that if this portal-to-portal agreement is unacceptable to the WLB, NO agreement with any kind of a substantial wage increase is acceptable to the WLB. For in this case, it happens, the portal-to-portal agreement does not formally upset any one of the rules of Roosevelt's "anti-inflation" and "stabilization" program which the WLB is trying to carry out through its boss-sided Little Steel formula.

The seven-hour day is the regular and accepted standard for mine work. Time and one-half wages for overtime work (the eighth hour) does not disturb the basic wage rate. On the portal-to-portal pay, even the United States Federal Appeals Court has ruled that underground workers should be paid from the time they enter until the time they leave.

The portal-to-portal section of the agreement is thus nothing more than an acceptance by the mine owners that in the future they will abide by the Fair Labor Standards Act and will pay back all the money they owe the miners since the Act went into effect.

Nevertheless, the WLB will try all its devices to break this agreement. The only thing that will prevent the WLB's emasculation of the agreement is the same militancy and solidarity which the miners have displayed in the past and which forced the Illinois operators to accept this agreement.

Various governmental agencies are already preparing the ground to help the WLB wreck this and any other agreement that the UMW may negotiate. Knowing the militancy of the miners, they are also taking steps to coerce and prevent them from taking any action.

In Illinois there is a federal investigation on to prove that the UMW owned shares in a coal mine and therefore broke the Wagner Act some years back. A confidential report by the Office of War Information, revealing the miserable working and living conditions in the mining areas, has been suppressed in the hope that the working class of the United States will be in ignorance of all the facts and thus not openly and actively support the UMW in its struggle against the boss-controlled WLB.

Next week LABOR ACTION will publish sections of confidential reports made by representatives of the OWI who investigated the conditions of the miners. THESE REPORTS WERE SUPPRESSED, even though they were confirmed by reports made on the spot by OPA investigators.

Labor Legionnaires Unite in Chicago

By HARRY ALLEN

CHICAGO—Twenty American Legion Posts in Chicago have just formed the Chicago Council of Union Legionnaires. These pro-union labor Legionnaires, while remaining members of the American Legion, aim to counteract its anti-labor policy and practices. They condemn, the anti-labor fulminations of Roane Waring, national commander of the Legion and corporation boss of the Memphis, Tenn., street railways.

Recently, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, advised working men war veterans to join the American Legion today in order to combat the fascist and anti-labor elements of the Legion. This proposal is at least two decades too late. For today, Green's advice is no good. Big business controls the Legion, hook, line and sinker. The ranks have never held office in it.

Labor Must Organize Veterans

Here and there, it is true, there have been evidences of resentment and opposition to the American Legion's policy. Thus the South Fork, Pa., Post of the Legion sent an apology to John L. Lewis for Waring's speeches against the United Mine Workers Union in recent months. The commander of the American Legion Post in Minneapolis, Jack Carrier, sharply attacked Waring, declaring his speeches "sound like Hitler and Goebbels." He advised Waring to "take off your Legion cap and put on the uniform of the National Association of Manufacturers."

The Chicago Council of Union Legionnaires represents the best and most widely organized opposition to the Legion policies and leadership.

The fact that they have organized into a special group to defend labor's interests inside the Legion is to be welcomed heartily. Their action is tantamount to recognition of the Legion's anti-labor policy and leadership, and of the need to fight them both in an organized way. But if they think they can convert the hide-bound, reaction-ruled and boss-controlled Legion into an aid to labor, they will find themselves sadly mistaken. The bosses have their veterans' organization. Labor ought to have one of its own.

However, apart from the worker ex-servicemen of World War I, there are already eleven million future veterans of World War II whom the American Legion is now endeavoring to enroll in the Legion.

As a first measure, the American labor movement (CIO, AFL, independent unions) must warn all worker-soldiers to steer clear of the American Legion. Moreover, the labor movement must give serious attention to the integration of the worker ex-servicemen into the labor unions after the war. At the same time, labor must start working on the idea of forming a war veterans' organization of working men.

Oppose Legion's Anti-Labor Policy

The Chicago Council of Union Legionnaires has further declared itself in strong opposition to the open shop proposal adopted by the national executive committee at its recent sessions in Indianapolis.

The NEC also called for the adoption of the Wadsworth-Austin resolution for compulsory military service, now before Congress. Such a law, declared the NEC, "would settle any crisis [strikes] anywhere, since it would prevent any strike 'against the government.'" In avowing again its open shop policy, the Legion declares that no ex-soldier of the present war "shall be forced to join any trade union... to gain employment." Thus the American Legion consistently maintains its scabbing policy.

In fact, for nearly twenty-five years the American Legion, organized and continuously backed ever since by big business, has been the biggest single strike-breaking force in the country. Many worker ex-servicemen, duped into joining this outfit, soon became disgusted with the vicious anti-labor policy of the American Legion leadership and got out of the organization. Those who remained have been more and more aroused at the increasing insolence of the Legion's program and leadership. More and more this program and leadership have expressed themselves along fascist lines, American style.

Big Dough Comes from Corporations

If anyone in labor's ranks still has illusions concerning the American Legion, let it be noted that the National Executive Committee also adopted an "Americanism Program"; that is, an anti-labor program.

To remove any doubts about this, the NEC voted to accept \$20,000,000 from "business sources," that is, from the big corporations of America, in order to finance this "Americanism program."

N. Y. Protests Jim Crowism

LABOR ACTION sponsored a protest meeting against Jim Crow terrorism on July 23 in New York City. The meeting had the support of the Harlem unit of the Workers Party and was held at St. Luke's Hall, 125 West 130th Street.

Max Shachtman, national secretary of the Workers Party, analyzed the questions, "Who and What Are Behind the Jim Crow Pogroms Against the Negro People?" and "What Can and Should Be Done?"

Comrade Henry Pelham chaired the meeting. In his introductory speech, Pelham, sketching the background of race antagonism in the United States, said that the subjection of the Negro to chattel slavery had had the effect of widening the chasm between two kinds of slaves.

The KKK, formed to carry on the Civil War, was the forerunner of the modern vanguard of fascism, the KKK, the Committee of a Million, the "shirt" organizations.

Against this formidable array, amounting to an organized defense of private property, Shachtman first established the right of Negroes to defend themselves. Organized mobsters, receiving open or tacit support from those in authority, must be opposed with city-wide, organized self-defense. This, however, he insisted, was not enough. The urgency of finding allies is great, and the one possible effective ally—the trade union movement. The union movement is beginning to realize that the practice of Jim Crow is organized union-busting on a national scale.

Europe in Revolt

A Review of Political Events

A month ago many innocents in and out of the labor movement rejoiced about the dissolution of the Comintern. This time, they thought, Stalin had indicated clearly that he did not want to interfere any more

in the affairs of other countries. These newly-born illusions have been shattered by Stalin's latest move, the establishment of a German National Committee in Moscow a week ago.

STALIN'S OWN "GERMAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE"

Long before the dissolution of the Comintern, Stalinist Russia had already relinquished efforts to help revolutionary forces but, with or without the Comintern, Stalin will never give up agencies to serve his purposes in other countries. The forms vary but the counter-revolutionary character of the Stalinist intervention does not change. The Comintern has been dissolved; but a month later, under the guidance of Wilhelm Pieck, one of the secretaries of this very some Comintern, a new German National Committee is formed. The costumes of Stalin's valets may look different, but the same roles are always played.

Some want to make us believe that this new move is primarily designed as a propaganda maneuver to sap the morale of the German army. It is nothing of the sort. The head of the committee is an old-time Stalinist pret, Erich Weinert. He never had any political importance, his role for years being to write poems to order; illustrating the most recent turns in the party line. Three other Stalinist writers of little talent but with a staunch party allegiance and with a fine flair for the desires of the Moscow publishing houses form part of the committee. Two so-called "trade union leaders" are also included, but German comrades tell us that they are completely unknown in the German movement.

DOMINATED BY OLD CP WHEELHORSES

The same cannot be said of some of the other members of the committee. They are old Stalinist wheelhorses of the German movement. Most conspicuous among them is Walter Ulbricht, leader of the German Stalinist party in recent years.

Anyone who wants to peruse the publications of the CP of the year 1939 will find an interesting declaration of this self-same Ulbricht in the name of the German branch of Stalin's international agency. In this declaration, written shortly after the Stalin-Hitler pact, Ulbricht proclaimed that the German people and the Russian people were now bound in an indissoluble friendship in the interests of peace. He attacked violently all those who, in the German labor movement and in the world, opposed the pact, and put the blame for the war on "English imperialism." No word was said in this declaration about German imperialism and fascism, no attack against Hitler.

But these things are long forgotten now. Mr. Ulbricht just signed a declaration calling for the immediate overthrow of Hitler and for establishment of a "real national government."

The rest of the committee is made up of so-called German prisoners of war. We do not know if these prisoners really exist or if they have just been invented by the fruitless brain of the Kremlin. In any case, so that no doubt may be permitted, these representatives of the German prisoners are not workers, peasants or ordinary soldiers. Oh, no! They

are Lieut. COUNT von Eindel, and a MAJOR Karl Hetz. This committee can certainly have little appeal to German soldiers.

What then is the real meaning of this move? Stalin is putting forward his claim for the domination of Europe. He makes it clear that he is in no way interested in a socialist Germany—the manifesto carefully avoids socialist terminology—but he makes it abundantly clear that he too wants to have his say in so far as the spoils of Germany are concerned. Apparently the other Allies have in no way been consulted. The whole move is, on the contrary, calculated to tell them bluntly that Russia has its own aims in Europe, and especially in Germany.

The program which the new committee announces is a "liberal," bourgeois program. It follows in general outlines the "Rhinelead Program" of the German Stalinists, which was analyzed here a few months ago. It can have little appeal to German workers, but it is not intended to have any for them. But it appeals to those German officers who have lost faith in Hitler, to the middle classes, who want "law and order." It is in favor of "freedom of economic life, of commerce and of the trades," in favor of "the right to own acquired property lawfully."

It appeals for the establishment of a "real national government." "This government," continues the appeal, "must be strong... It must at once stop military operations, recall German troops to the borders of the Reich and open peace negotiations."

KREMLIN HAS ITS OWN AIMS IN EUROPE

Stalin serves notice both to the Allies and to the workers of Europe, and the message he sends is clear: Russia will follow its own policy in Europe; it does not consider itself bound to the Anglo-American lead; on the other hand, it will not permit revolutionary developments in Europe and especially in Germany. Its allies are the German officers' clique and remnants of the fascist ruling class, not the German workers. Stalin lays the groundwork for a possible separate peace with a Germany led by reactionary army

officers and lesser party bureaucrats. This announcement is an indication of greater friction between Stalin and the Allies, but it should also show again that Stalin will never abandon his policy of trying to use his stooges in different countries in the interests of his totalitarian domination. There is a straight line from the fake Finnish government of Kuusinen, through the fake Polish national movement, led by the wife of Stalin's assistant foreign secretary to his newest creation: the "German National Committee." Europacus.

UE Westinghouse Contract Is Unsatisfactory to Men

In its issue of July 10, the U.E. News, organ of the United Electrical and Radio Workers, makes a big splash about a new national contract negotiated with Westinghouse.

The UE is a Stalinist-controlled union and the Stalinists are the only group in the trade union movement who have openly and loudly been pushing piecework and other incentive schemes. They claim that by these speed-up plans the workers will get more money, the bosses more profits, the "war effort" more production.

We have no information of our own at present about Westinghouse, but here are the main points to be learned by reading the U.E. News:

There has been a piecework system, and it will continue. No higher rates are gained for the pieceworkers under the new contract. However, day workers—maintenance men and the like—will receive an adjustment of fifteen to thirty per cent, the exact amount to be worked out in each plant. This is because the day workers must work harder when the incentive workers speed up. What do the pieceworkers get? Here is the give-away. The company now agrees that temporary time values for any job automatically become recorded values (that is, permanent) at the end of six months, unless a recorded rate has been set before the six months are up.

Some jobs, we are told, have been subjected to rate cuts for MANY MONTHS, AND EVEN YEARS. This is the old, old story. Workers begin to earn a little more; the company think it's too much; rates are cut. The U.E. News article itself makes it clear that Westinghouse has been particularly vicious at this game. Now instead of having a year or even years to see how much workers can make on a particular job, Westinghouse will have to do its rate-cutting within six months. That's the big Stalinist victory! Of course, there are many ways for management to get around even permanent rates that prove to be too high for management's pleasure. They can break jobs into parts or combine jobs or say that "there has been a change in equipment, work specifications, in method, design or in other controlling conditions." The quoted words are from advice of the National Association of Manufacturers to employers on the subject of incentive plans.

These systems put unions on the defensive. They constantly have to be fighting the tricks of management's expert time-study men, and these tricks are endless.

To judge their leaders properly, Westinghouse workers should also notice this point: The U.E. News states that, because rates might be cut even after a job had been in operation for years, the workers would not speed up production. This means that the main purpose of the new contract's six-month provision is not so much to give some justice to the workers as to try to persuade them that they should not be afraid to speed up.

In the same issue of the U.E. News is a report of a recent convention of the British Amalgamated Engineering Union, a union which the U.E. leaders approve of. We have read a great deal about the spread of piecework in British unions during the war, so it is very instructive to notice that one point in the program of this union is that the government should guarantee "that employers shall not be permitted to cut piece rates as a result of increased output."

A pretty picture. The government takes away the right to strike. The government gets the union leaders to put over piecework on their members. Then the unions are helpless, and ask the government, which did these things precisely to benefit the bosses, to protect them from the bosses.

We put it up to you. Just how much protection do you think the WLB in this country would give you?

25 Cents Will Bring

LABOR ACTION to your home for six months. Send your subscription to LABOR ACTION, 114 West 14th Street, New York City.

Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor

Women Want Equal Pay for Equal Work

Dear Editor: It has come to pass that women will take a place in society equal to that of men, so said some great statesman (a congressman, I believe).

But as usual when these big noises come forth from the bloated mouths of the representatives of big industry, they have an axe to grind.

This axe was to get women to take the place of men in industry; yes, by all means, let these women take their place. But don't forget they are women and only kitchen lackeys. So therefore why pay them equal pay or why even treat them with the

same kind of hand you would a man? A perfect example of what has happened in the last year to women who thought that they were going to fill a man's job is North American, one of the first plants on the West Coast to hire women.

They are seventy-five to eighty per cent strong in this plant but they might just as well be in a minority or be slaves back in the Old South. They work for unbelievably low wages; they are treated by their foremen in such a way that if it were a man involved, I am sure one of the two would be up on the carpet through the grievances machinery set up by the union.

We women are standing on our rights, not just as women but as

workers. If we are filling a man's job, why not give us man's wages, man's respect?

This fight, like many others in the plants, must be fought through the unions, for there you have a united force of workers.

At North American, where you find workers joined in a union for the purpose of bettering themselves, this organization has also taken up the fight of women. In demanding higher beginners' wages, they are seeking primarily for women.

This will have to become a basic part of the union's program, for they are going to find that a larger percentage of their membership will be women.

O. A. (Los Angeles.)

Denies Jim Crow Acts In Ferndale, Mich.

Dear Editor: In your recent issue of LABOR ACTION, dated July 25, we read the article "UAW Should Organize Against Klan," by your writer, Ben Hall. We agree with him.

In the course of the article and explanation of the recent race riot, it was mentioned in two different paragraphs that gangs attacked Negro neighborhoods in the city of Ferndale. We resent these implications. They are nothing but "wildcat" information and have no truth attached to them whatsoever.

The city of Ferndale is not reactionary—its public officials are ninety per cent progressive and in favor of liberal ideals and pro-labor.

To prove our statement that we had no riot trouble here, I am enclosing a copy of a letter sent to the Ferndale City Commission commending our police department. We hope you will retract your story to the contrary.

In closing, we commend your paper for the progressive stand it has taken in behalf of labor.

Ferndale Labor Club, Jerry R. F. Foch, Exec. Sec.-Treas. Ferndale, Mich. [COPY]

July 6, 1943.

City Hall, Ferndale City Commission. Honorable Sirs:

We of the Ferndale Labor Club wish to commend our police department and the City Commission on their efficient and diplomatic pro-

cedure used in the handling of the riot situated that was fomented in Detroit, from spreading to our progressive city.

We would also like to congratulate, through the commission, other civic organizations for their cooperation and help.

For a bigger and better city next to the largest city in Michigan, we remain.

Ferndale Labor Club, Jerry R. F. Foch.

(Editor's Note: We are happy to record the agreement of the Ferndale Labor Club with our correspondent, Ben Hall, and we gladly print the letter from Brother Foch. Without being ourselves in a position to judge the question of fact, we still feel the need of stressing that the job of defending our Negro brothers, and therefore the whole labor movement, from Jim Crow terrorism must be done and can be done only by the organized power of labor. We can put ten thousand times more reliance in a trade union defense guard than we can in the "best" or the most "friendly" police force in the country.)

For L.A.'s Exposure of Stalinists in Unions

Please send LABOR ACTION for six months to the following people... Enclosed find \$1.00 in payment. Please send fifteen sub blanks to my address. Please continue to expose the Stalinists' role in all labor unions and their tie-up with big business. V. C. (Queens, N. Y.)

CALIFORNIA READERS:

Hear DAVID COOLIDGE

Labor Secretary, Workers Party Labor Editor of Labor Action

Speak On "IS THIS LABOR'S WAR?"

In San Pedro:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 8:00 P. M.

Eagle's Hall, 631 Ninth Street

Admission: 25 Cents

In Los Angeles:

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 8:00 P. M.

Embassy Auditorium, Room 201, 849 So. Grand

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



## Of Special Interest To Women

By Susan Green

Whether the working people eat or starve for the remainder of the war—which even now looks like a long one—depends on the militant action of workers, housewives and working farmers. Every word of this statement is supported by the increasing shortages of nearly all foods while the black markets expand and get more and more of the limited supplies.

The following gives a rough idea of how fast shortages are growing. The government announces that beginning July 1, there will be twenty per cent less canned vegetables for civilians than last year and forty per cent less canned fruit than before the war. Also, for the next twelve months—who knows what will happen after that?—there will be twenty per cent less butter, forty-five per cent less cheese and fifty-seven per cent less processed milk. Besides, a shortage of eggs is rapidly developing and a shortage of fish is on the agenda.

These drastic cuts in food supplies are in themselves alarming. But the situation is even more ominous because what food there is, is not made available to all alike. The black markets more and more monopolize the supply. Thus a black market is blooming out in the fish business. Even the savory onion is going to the unsavory black market. **WE MUST FACE THE FACT THAT ONLY THE WELL-TO-DO CAN AFFORD TO PAY BLACK MARKET PRICES.**

Most significant of all is that the black market is, in a way, receiving official recognition from the government. For in the latest Federal and State Market News Service, a publication of a branch of the Department of Agriculture, the poultry market is stated as extremely firm at "PREVAILING BLACK MARKET PRICES."

When the government is quoting prices according to black market dictation, it is high time for the working people to start pulling themselves out of the deepening food crisis BY THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT ACTION.

### WHERE IS THE MEAT?

Maybe you don't know it, but we housewives are supposed to be able to buy meat at ceiling prices less the roll-back for which the President was allowed subsidies by Congress. However, beef is still not only available at ceiling roll-back prices—it just isn't available.

Yet the cold fact is that the cattle-growers of the country are being paid a subsidy for the specific purpose of making beef purchasable by you and me at those much-publicized ceiling roll-back prices. In hard cash the government pays around \$1.00 for every hundred pounds of beef on the hoof—amounting to from \$8 to \$11 per head of cattle slaughtered. So where are the ceiling roll-back prices? And where—oh, where—is the meat?

Could it be that the government subsidizes the cattle raisers—while they continue to send their cattle to the black market?

### GRADING ON THE WAY OUT

The resignation of Lou R. Maxon, big-shot advertising executive, from his post on the OPA, does not mean that his vigorous campaign against grade labeling has resigned with him. For behold, OPA now issues an order that the grade labeling of women's rayon hosiery is no longer required. So watch your step in buying rayon hosiery.

More serious, however, is the end of government meat grading, now looming big on the horizon. For Price Administrator Brown is interpreting a certain rider to a certain bill to mean that meat grading is no longer required by law. The housewife will have even less than now to guide her in buying meat—provided it is there to buy—AND TOP PRICES WILL BE CHARGED EVEN FOR THE GRADE D CUT OF MEAT.

In his letter of resignation, Mr. Maxon explained his opposition to grade labeling of merchandise. It is the opposition of the advertising executive looking out for his profits. For if the government should honestly grade merchandise as to actual quality, there would be no point in trying to bamboozle consumers into believing that Swift's meat comes from redder-blooded cattle than another firm's or that Gold Stripe hosiery wears longer than "silver stripe."

There would rapidly follow the demise of the bright ladies in magazine and newspaper ads who keep their husbands' affection by stuffing them with Kellogg's Crispies rather than some other brand—and the air waves would be cleared of the silly commercials constantly offending our intelligence.

In a word, grade labeling and the billion dollar advertising business are not on speaking terms. Mr. Maxon and hundreds like him are in the seats of government to look out for their businesses—not for you and me.

Mr. Maxon and his ilk take very good care of their private interests. How much longer will we allow his kind to pretend they are looking after ours?

### MOTHERS AND SOCIALISM

Ernest Brown, Minister of Health in England, told the House of Commons recently that he is concerned about the decline in population. Did this politician for British imperialism, disguised as a labor leader, expect a war like this to be fought without a decline in population?

Another member of the House made the brilliant observation that there are more old people around. But naturally, since the young ones are on the battlefields. Someone else contributed the information that there are fewer children under fourteen years of age. Perhaps, after the first crop of war babies, women are indulging in second thoughts.

Another spokesman summed up the situation thus: Woman "has refused to produce the most valuable commodity in the world, THE EMBRYO WORKER."

Perhaps the last speaker in these quoted words unconsciously gave the real reason why women are not too anxious to bring children into this crazy world. Perhaps they are a bit tired of going through the agonies of giving birth—merely to supply the commodity labor power out of which the bosses make their profits, and the commodity soldier power with which ruling classes have for centuries settled their international conflicts over power and pelf.

Maybe women would like to bring forth just human beings, into a sane social system that would allow people to work like human beings, producing their human needs, at peace with all the world.

Working women, these ideals for a better life can become reality under socialism—and only under socialism.

# Shipbuilding Companies Launch Drive Against CIO Union on Eastern Seaboard

(Continued from page 1)

proceeded to call a meeting of the local to endorse this action.

The day following this action by the union, the company laid off eighteen piecework counters and thereby provoked a walkout of the rest of the men doing this work, nearly one hundred walking off the job. The company claimed that the eighteen men had "slowed down" in their work.

The walkout of the piecework counters was extended when the welding crews, who do the work the piecework men check out, refused to work without counters to assure them their fair rates. Despite an open-air meeting at the gates in which the local officers asked the men to return to work, some 1,000 of the 13,000 employed in the yard were idle for a day or two out of resentment against the company's actions.

When the workers assembled for the local meeting on the strike vote their tempers were running high as a result of the kicking around from the company. The prevailing mood was for some real drastic action.

The meeting of the night shift, which took place in the afternoon, was attended by over 700 and voted unanimously to adopt the motion of the local executive board for a thirty-day strike vote notice.

The evening meeting was jammed with a vast overflow crowd of workers who filled the streets outside and listened through microphones to the proceedings in the hall, which seats from 2,000 to 3,000. Estimates on attendance went as high as 10,000.

The meeting was attended by John Green himself. The latter was not on hand when the company was kicking union men around but put in an appearance when he received word of the angry mood of the workers.

Green launched an attack upon the proposal for a thirty-day strike vote notice. He repeated several times that "we are one hundred per cent behind our Commander-in-Chief" and "I will not tolerate strikes." The workers responded by boos and heckling. When Green said, "If you adopt this proposition, I will refuse to forward the notice to the WLB," voices yelled out: "Oh, yes you will." Green sat down with the boos far outweighing the applause.

Green was frantically supported by a newcomer in the yard, "Whitey" Repps, who stooges for the Communist Party line. Repps made the typical Stalinist speech in support of "no-strike" and "more production." He ended with a motion to "have confidence in the national office and present a solid front by leaving it in their hands."

On a vote on the motion, the chairman claimed the motion carried. It was impossible to determine how the men in the street would have voted.

Kotz, an active union man from the electricians' department, then got the floor. He denounced the "no-strike" pledge and pointed out that it "bound our hands." This was given a tremendous ovation, lasting for minutes. He again brought the house down by declaring that "We made our big mistake by not standing behind the miners."

Both Green and the stooge, Repps, took the floor to denounce the speech

of Kotz. Green became furious when the men again booed him and when calls of "sell-out" were heard. He indignantly denied ever selling out workers and denounced the men as "you people who give out papers in front of union meetings." He hoped that Kotz would be a delegate to the convention of the union so he could have it out with him on the floor. He left the meeting following his speech.

Repp engaged in a slanderous attack on the men who called for militant action by making references like "I know whose flag you carry in your pocket."

The men, still angry and frustrated, voted down motions to adjourn four times. They had come with blood in their eyes. They now felt they had been tricked. They didn't want to go home.

Yet they were at a loss as to what to do. The members of the local executive board explained that "deep in their hearts" they still agreed with their motion for a strike vote but that Brother Green had convinced them it would be unwise at present.

## Sun Tries to Void NLRB Election

CHESTER, Pa.—The Sun Shipbuilding & Drydock Corp. still refuses to recognize the CIO despite the NLRB election which gave the union a majority of the votes cast. An appeal by the company union claiming an unfair election was thrown out by the NLRB. The company union is now going into the courts to force a new election.

The corporation, meanwhile, acts as high-handed as ever toward the CIO men. Not only does it refuse to recognize the CIO as the bargaining agent, as the NLRB has ordered, but it has fired CIO men for leaving their jobs to present grievances to the management. The corporation hopes to fire enough CIO men to upset the slim margin by which the CIO carried the yard.

## Atlantic Basin Works Rejects WLB Order

BROOKLYN—The Atlantic Basin Iron Works has refused to abide by the order of the War Labor Board which instructed it to sign a maintenance of membership agreement with the CIO Shipbuilders, Local 39. The company contends that the Smith-Connally Act has revoked the authority of the WLB to issue such an order.

Though the Atlantic Basin Iron Works is a comparatively small company, it has connections with the big shipbuilding corporations.

It is significant that it was represented before the WLB by Frank Devlin, attorney for the shipbuilders' association of New York Port. The association is dominated by U.S. Steel, Bethlehem Steel, and Todd Shipyard Co.

## N. Y. Ship Refuses New Contract

CAMDEN—After having a "union shop" agreement with the CIO Shipbuilders Local 1 for eight years, New York Shipbuilding Corp. has re-

fused to sign a new contract with the union containing such a clause.

Local 1 of the union, which organized the yard in the militant strikes of 1935, has long been the backbone of the shipbuilders' organization in the East. Conditions at New York Ship were always regarded among the best in the country. The militant union policy of the local forced the company to live up to the letter of the contract.

Recently, however, the Communist Party group in the local has maneuvered its way into control of the executive board. Its policy of calling the old militant union men who want action to defend the union conditions names like "fifth columnist" and "provocateur," its desperate opposition to all strike talk and its vicious denunciation of the miners' union, coupled with its "labor-management campaigns" for more production, have encouraged the company to believe that the union is in no position to put up a fight.

The communist group is so brazen in the local that it recently reprinted a Communist Party pamphlet in the name of the union educational committee!

If the corporation can exploit the Stalinist control to break the union in the yard, it would be a terrific blow to the CIO shipbuilders up and down the coast.

## Penn-Jersey Tricks Union on Tackers

CAMDEN—The Penn-Jersey Shipbuilding Corp. sprang a last-minute surprise on the union negotiating committee when, in the final reading of the contract before signing, it inserted a clause to make tackers available for general work in the yard, as the management may see fit.

Anxious to end the negotiations with a signed contract, the union's committee asked the local meeting to accept it. The motion was carried, with the few tackers present voting against, supported by the great danger in making such a far-reaching concession to the company.

Previous to the local meeting the word reached the tackers about the new clause regarding their work. They became so enraged that they refused to work. The union steward spoke to them and asked that they show their opposition by appearing at the meeting and voting against the contract until that clause was changed.

Unfortunately, the tackers, like so many other workers, did not understand the necessity of a one hundred per cent turnout at the union meeting. They depended upon the "other fellow" to do it for them. As a result only seven out of more than two hundred tackers showed up.

The lack of interest shown by this absence made it difficult to put up a strong fight on their behalf. The men could not be made to understand that more than the tackers was involved. For, once the precedent is set that skilled men can be taken from one job and put on another, the position of the union is greatly weakened.

When informed of the vote at the union meeting, the tackers once more stopped work, in what amounted to

a strike against the union. Realizing the impossibility of doing anything after the contract was signed, they resumed work with many threats to ask for a release at the end of the week.

Their too-late militant conduct availed them nothing because they failed to use the proper union procedure by attending the meeting and getting the union behind them.

## Federal Yards Demand Militant Action

KEARNEY—At an overflow meeting of Local 16, IUMSWA, the workers of the U.S. Steel Corporation's Federal Shipyards in Kearney and Port Newark demanded that the leadership take action in contract negotiations with the company.

The old agreement with the company expired thirty days previous to this meeting and it had been extended for thirty days. The negotiating committee reported to the membership that it had made absolutely no progress. The company to date has rejected all of the union's demands.

The main demands of the union are for an increase in wages, insurance plan, canteen improvements, one week vacation with pay for the workers employed by the company for one year, and two weeks with pay for those employed two years.

Ninety per cent of the swing shift in the Kearney yard left work at seven to attend the meeting. The already tremendous attendance was clamoring for a strike. The president of the local, John Dempsey, attempted to pacify the men by saying he sympathized with their demands for action but this was no time to strike, and full support must be given to the Commander-in-Chief. His speech was continually greeted with calls for a strike.

International Secretary-Treasurer Van Gelder attempted to turn back this militant tide. He attacked all those who were calling for a strike. Although Van Gelder knew that the overwhelming majority of all the workers in the yards were calling for action, he insisted that a minority was attempting to sway the membership.

The membership at the meeting, six to eight thousand strong, wanting to defend their union and refusing to continue the sham of continuing negotiations which in reality did not exist, insisted on taking a strike vote.

Van Gelder, fearing that the vote would reveal that the "minority" he was talking about was really a landslide majority, refused to permit such a motion.

A motion was eventually adopted that the union leaders be given eight more days to get the union's demands and, at the end of that time, if the demands have not been met, another meeting be called to decide upon the action to take.

The morale of the men in the yards is very high. The eight-day extension is not serving as a "cooling off" period for them. They are determined to renew the union agreement with the additional benefits that they demand and to secure for themselves a wage increase that will meet, at least in part, the terrific rise in the cost of living.

# The Frame-Up Against Kelly Postal

By James T. Farrell

Chairman of the Civil Rights Defense Committee

Today Kelly Postal, secretary-treasurer of Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544-CIO, is in the State Penitentiary at Stillwater, Minn., serving a five-year prison term. He is the victim of one of the most vicious frame-ups and campaigns of persecution in American labor history.

For ten years Kelly Postal has been a leader of the Minneapolis Teamsters. He helped organize them during three severe strikes in 1934. He fought with them on dozens of picket lines. Postal was first chosen secretary-treasurer of Local 544 in 1938 and has been democratically re-elected each year since.

In June, 1941, a long-standing conflict over questions of trade union democracy between Local 544 and AFL Teamsters International President Daniel J. Tobin came to a head. Local 544's membership decided by a virtually unanimous vote to disaffiliate from the AFL and join the CIO. As one of the most militant leaders in the struggle to maintain the democratic rights of his union, Postal incurred the enmity of Tobin.

### TOBIN'S MOVES AGAINST POSTAL

Tobin made his first move against Kelly Postal personally when Postal was indicted together with twenty-eight Socialist Workers Party leaders and 544-CIO members in the famous Minneapolis labor case of 1941. This prosecution was initiated by the Department of Justice after Tobin's explicit appeal to President Roosevelt. Postal, however, was one of the five defendants completely cleared by the jury at the close of this trial.

Having failed to obtain a federal conviction, Tobin then pressed the Hennepin County attorney to bring charges of "embezzlement" against Postal. Postal was never accused of misusing these funds personally. As secretary-treasurer of the local union he merely obeyed the unanimous vote of the union membership at a regular meeting to take 544's funds with them out of the AFL and into the CIO. These funds belonged to the local union, since all per capita taxes had been paid to the international.

Postal was indicted, together with Miles Dunne, president of Local 544-CIO, and Moe Hork, organizer. The bulk of the indictments, however, were heaped upon him.

### POSTAL CLEARED IN FIRST TRIAL

In Postal's first trial for embezzlement in January, 1942, Presiding Judge Hall directed the jury to discharge the case, thus clearing Postal on the first count in the indictment against him. Judge Hall declared, after presentation of the testimony, that no criminal intent had been established by the state prosecutors.

Tobin then put pressure upon the County Attorney to try Postal for a second time on another indictment based on the same facts, differing only in the amount of money Postal allegedly embezzled. Although evidence and witnesses were substantially the same, this time Postal was found "guilty."

On June 18, 1943, Postal's conviction was upheld by the Minnesota Supreme Court and he entered the State Prison.

### THE ISSUES IN POSTAL'S CASE

The frame-up for which this union leader is now serving five years in prison is as foul and flimsy as the frame-ups against Tom Mooney and Sacco-Vanzetti. Postal is no more guilty of "embezzlement" than any other officers of the CIO who took their union funds along with them when they left the AFL. There is no basis in law or in fact for his conviction. He has been prosecuted and jailed solely because of his devotion to democratic unionism.

Bound up with the act of injustice against Kelly Postal himself are issues of vital importance to the entire trade union movement. In confirming his conviction, the Minnesota Supreme Court has set an extremely dangerous legal precedent which can be used to deprive other unions of democratic control over their own funds.

This union-freezing decision can be used to prohibit a union from quitting one international and joining another. It could enable a few individuals of employers' agents to prevent the majority of a union's membership from changing their affiliation as a united body. If a fountain-pen or typewriter was taken into the new union affiliation, each individual member could be found "guilty" of embezzling union property, even though they themselves had originally paid for these things.

The importance of the issues involved in Postal's case has been widely recognized by the trade union movement. Scores of unions already have contributed to his defense or passed resolutions condemning his conviction.

Postal's conviction is part of the present reactionary campaign to deprive the unions of their democratic rights and to punish any leader who stands up and fights for them. That is why Postal deserves moral and material support from every labor organization and friend of civil liberties.

(LABOR ACTION is one hundred per cent behind the fight to free Kelly Postal. Contributions to help in the fight should be sent to the Civil Rights Defense Committee, 160 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.)

# ALP Trade Unions Confer in New York

By J. M.

The recent New York conference of the CIO unions affiliated with the American Labor Party saw not even a pretense made of drawing in the rank and file trade unionists in formulating the platform of the ALP in the coming election.

There were two hundred delegates, representing sixteen international unions. The meeting was chaired by Charles Kerrigan, director of Region 9A of the UAW.

### Committees Are Appointed

The first speaker was Dean Alfange, who made a long attack on the Stalinists. After Alfange spoke, two committees were APPOINTED, a resolutions committee chaired by Jack Altman and a credentials committee chaired by Sam Baron. The two committees left the conference to prepare their reports. While they were gone, the second speaker was introduced, Thomas De Lorenzo, president of Local 365, UAW, who

spoke of the crying need for political action by the workers.

Before he had finished, the committees returned to the conference with their reports. One would expect the credentials committee to spend no more than fifteen or twenty minutes preparing their report. But to have an important committee such as the resolutions committee return in twenty minutes with a MIMOGRAPHED document, which took fifteen minutes to read, was a little too much to stomach.

Actions of this kind are not calculated to raise the enthusiasm of the trade unionists in support of the Right Wing, which was the purpose of the conference. This is shown by the desultory discussion which took place and the number of delegates who abstained from voting.

As to the platform itself, it differed in no important respect from the position of the Stalinists. The

platform appealed for support for the Right Wing on the ground that they were better and more consistent supporters of Roosevelt and the war than the Stalinists, who, as the resolution pointed out, had called the war imperialistic prior to the invasion of Russia.

At the opening of the meeting the

agenda was not read, so that when the end of the agenda was reached, which was the appointment of a campaign committee, the chair very bureaucratically announced the adjournment of the meeting. This action was in keeping with the entire spirit of handing things down from above.

## The ALP Conference

One more conference like the gathering of trade union delegates called by the Rose-Antonini wing of the American Labor Party, and the Stalinist wing will have easy sailing in its drive.

The response of the unions to the conference call was good, better than the ALP leaders had a right to expect. The unions which are not gripped in the vise of Stalinist control are rightly perturbed about the prospect of the Kremlin stooges taking over the whole ALP. Whether they realize it thoroughly or partly, they know that Stalinist control means the annihilation of the ALP as a base for developing a truly independent working class party. Haven't the Hague-Stalinists made it clear to everyone that they intend to exert all their strength to prevent the formation of a distinct party of labor?

In the face of this clear-cut objective of the well organized Stalinist drive for control of the ALP, how does the Rose-Antonini-Counts clique react? How do they plan to mobilize the labor movement and its ranks against the menace of Stalinism?

By drawing up a program which is almost word for word the same as that of the Stalinists!

All-out for the war and to hell with labor's interests and labor's demands! All-out behind the President, whose answer to the workers' self-defense fight is to conscript them into the Army! All-out behind the new Hillmanite political committee of the CIO Executive Board, which is strongly against the formation of a national Labor Party!

How are the workers to tell the difference between the two programs? Are they to choose Counts and Rose for their blue eyes instead of Browder and Marcantonio with their brown eyes?

New York labor must be mobilized against the Stalinist threat to pervert its movement to the interests of the Kremlin bureaucracy and its foreign policy. But the Right Wing bureaucrats cannot and will not do the job. It can only be done by a thoroughgoing break with all the capitalist parties and with capitalist politics—Roosevelt's included. It can only be done by adopting a clear-cut, militant program of struggle against the capitalist reaction and for bold demands of labor to meet the crucial issues of the day.

**BRONX MEETING**  
**ALL LABOR MUST FIGHT**  
**JIM CROW TERROR**  
**Hear: MAX SHACHTMAN**  
 Labor Journalist, Nat'l Sec'y Workers Party  
**Hear: HENRY PELHAM**  
 Well Known Negro Speaker  
**Friday, August 6 — 8:15 P.M.**  
**St. Augustine's Ch., 165th St. & Prospect Ave.**  
**Auspices: Labor Action — Admission: Free**

**ANNOUNCEMENT!**  
**A Pamphlet on Socialism**  
**PLENTY FOR ALL**  
**By Ernest Lund**  
**WILL BE OFF THE PRESS ON**  
**AUGUST 15**  
**Published by the**  
**Workers Party of the U. S.**  
**114 West 14th Street**  
**New York 11, N. Y.**



# Revolution Has Begun!

(Continued from page 1)

glio is already finding out. The people will not silently trade one tyrant for another.

**The masses want a revolutionary change, not a change of the palace guard. They want their own government.**

## THE WORKERS ARE IN ACTION

The people are in the streets. Known fascists are being beaten up by the workers, who are just starting to take their revenge and to inflict just retribution upon their traducers. It is the workers who are tearing down the insignia and symbols of fascism. It is the workers who are assaulting the newspaper offices and party buildings of the fascists. It is the workers who sacked Mussolini's Il Popolo d'Italia, in partial payment for the hundreds of working class papers and buildings burned and destroyed by the blackshirt brigands. It is the workers who are going out on strike already, and elsewhere threatening to strike, in favor of peace and of a thorough housecleaning of the fascists and all other reactionaries. It is the workers who are already raising the red flag of socialism, especially in the North, where industry is concentrated, where labor is strong and the traditions of the revolutionary movement still alive.

The revolution is under way. Badoglio and his baker's dozen of political zeros have no support among the masses and lean only upon the disintegrating army. Badoglio is only a man of an hour.

The real imperialist rulers in England and the United States know this, even if the liberal blowhards do not.

"We do not know what is going to happen in Italy," said Churchill in the House of Commons. "It would be a grave mistake when Italian affairs are in this flexible, fluid and formative condition, for the rescuing powers of Britain and the United States so to act as to break down the whole structure and expression of the Italian state. We certainly do not seek to reduce Italian life to a condition of chaos and anarchy, and find ourselves without any authority with whom to deal."

## CHURCHILL FEARS THE REVOLUTION

What is "chaos and anarchy"? Why, that is how Churchill described the great Russian Revolution of 1917, which he tried to "draw in blood with the expenditure of millions of pounds sterling! Churchill fears the revolution of the masses.

**Roosevelt is of one mind with him. He rebuked the OWI for a broadcast which dared call Badoglio a fascist and the King a moron. He does not want to offend the bed-mates of Mussolini, with whom he may want to deal, provided they can master the revolutionary storm and reconcile themselves to playing the role of a Darlan or a Petain.**

What other role is left to the Italian ruling class? Hitler needed Italy only as a supplier of cannon-fodder, as policeman in the Balkans, and as buffer for Germany to the South. Anglo-American imperialism needs Italy only as a stepping stone for its assault on Germany, which means frustrating the peace yearnings of the Italian people by converting their tired land into an airdrome for the Allies, a bombing ground for the Nazis, a bloody battlefield between the two.

## A KERENSKY COMING?

Will Badoglio-Savoy be replaced with an Italian variety of Kerensky, some "democrat" or "democrats" who speak for the masses? That is possible. It would indeed be surprising if, after all that has happened in these last twenty-five years in Italy and elsewhere, the workers would TOMORROW establish their own socialist rule. That is the logical conclusion of the revolution that has begun, but the point is that it has only begun.

The social democrats, the bourgeois democrats, and the Stalinists have already put in appearance. The best that these impotent servants of imperialism can urge upon the Italian people is "unconditional surrender" to the Allies, and a clean-up of fascism, whose triumph they proved so completely incapable of preventing, in Italy or elsewhere.

But these demagogues have one advantage over Badoglio and others of his kidney. They are not tarred with the same brush. They are not so utterly discredited in the eyes of the people. They speak more glibly and confidently in the language of "democracy." And they are dealing, to a certain extent, with a new generation that has grown up without directly experiencing the

policies with which these gentlemen cursed the Italian labor movement.

It is therefore possible that they will succeed, for a time, in canalizing the revolutionary stream of the masses into their safe, respectable, "democratic" pool, where the foreign imperialists and the native capitalists would be more or less content to have it stagnate, at least for the time being.

**But not even these politicians can have a lasting success. The longings of the masses for peace, bread and freedom cannot be satisfied by them! Such demands can be realized only by the masses themselves once they have taken over Italy, all of it, and set up a democratic workers' republic, free of fascism, free of imperialism, imperialist alliances and the plague of imperialist war.**

Have the workers of Italy the strength or the opportunity to attain such an audacious, world-shaking goal?

## THE REVOLUTIONARY TRADITION

They have! In the North of Italy in particular, in the great industrial centers of Milan and Turin, the tradition of the socialist revolutionary movement, of the struggles of 1919 and 1921, is still alive among the older workers, those who were in their twenties when the great Communist Party (not its present caricature) was born, when the workers took over the factories and protected them with machine guns, when the ruling class trembled with terror at the prospect of a Bolshevik revolution. This tradition is easily communicated to the younger generation.

**In the midst of turbulent events, a new revolutionary leadership—an internationalist, Marxian party—can be swiftly formed and tempered. It is indispensable to a durable victory. The elements for it already exist.**

The revolutionary rise in Italy could not and would not be confined and isolated. Already, the collapse of fascism has had tremendous repercussions throughout Europe—throughout the world! This monster, which seemed so powerful, so durable, so invincible, broke in two at the first serious blow. Workers and peasants throughout Europe see this, and are learning from it to be courageous and confident. Tomorrow they can topple their own ruling classes with equal ease—this is what they are beginning to feel. They see also that in the camp of their enemies, in the camp of imperialism, there is uneasiness, confusion, uncertainty and even panic.

**A real triumph in Italy would immediately have revolutionary allies throughout the Balkans, in France, and, not least of all, in Germany.**

## WE HAVE A JOB HERE!

Our job? We have one, we American workers. We must make the Italian workers feel our unreserved solidarity from the very start. But we have an even more specific and concrete task.

There cannot be the slightest possible doubt that Anglo-American imperialism will try with might and main to prevent the Italian workers coming to power. It would not be the first time that orders came from Washington and London to crush a proletarian revolution. Remember the American and British troops in Red Russia in 1918!

Whatever the American worker may think about the "war for democracy," whatever illusions he may have about it, whatever disagreements he may have with our position toward it, we are supremely confident that he is of one mind and one determination with us: **NO AMERICAN FORCES MUST BE USED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO PREVENT THE ITALIAN PEOPLE FROM COMING INTO THEIR OWN!**

There is not a single American worker worthy of belonging to his class who wants to see the American Army, or the Amgot, or the Lehman foreign relief setup used as a counter-revolutionary instrument! There is not a single American worker who wants to have anything to do with crushing the Italian working class or thwarting its legitimate aspirations. Even if he is not yet a revolutionary socialist, the American worker does not want to see a socialist revolution suppressed by force or blackjacked with the threat of withholding food.

All eyes on Italy! The revolution has begun there! Our most passionate wishes for a socialist success, for peace and freedom, go to our courageous Italian comrades!

## The Liberal Messiah in Detroit

# Labor Wants Action—Wallace Gives It Soothing Syrup

By W. F. CLAYTON

The brush-off Vice-President Wallace has received from President Roosevelt has scared all the liberals and the labor fakers who profess to see in Roosevelt the hope of the world. They saw Roosevelt deal with Darlan, then with Giraud; they see the people of China being kicked around; they were and are still quaking at the prospect of Roosevelt making a deal with an Italian Darlan. Churchill they have given up as hopeless. That cock-sure Englishman says: "We shall hold our own." Nobody can pretend that this is any kind of "new order."

## Hopeless Liberals

The situation abroad is pretty hopeless for the liberals. And now comes a terrible blow. Wallace gets the worse of it in a quarrel with Jones, that No. 1 reactionary and staunch friend and buddy of Roosevelt. When it is known, therefore, that Wallace will speak in Detroit, the liberals start a-whooping it up: "Wallace must be supported!" "Wallace is the hope of the future." "Wallace will carry on for the New Deal."

The Negro "leaders," sunk in gloom because their dear President has not made one public pronouncement about the race riots, begin to pass the word, doubtless passed to them, that the Detroit speech is going to be real hot on the race question.

Anyway, Wallace, the last hope of liberalism, goes off to Detroit. R. J. Thomas, leader of one million workers organized in the UAW, hails Wallace as the "architect and crusader for a new world" and 20,000 people get ready to hear the words of the new Messiah.

Whatever this Wallace is, he knows which side of his bread the butter is on. The first thing he says is that to the lowliest peon in Latin America, Roosevelt is "the symbol of his dearest aspirations in the peace to come." But why then does Roosevelt do the things he does? Roosevelt is busy with the war effort. That's all.

Why he was too busy to kick out Jones and leave Wallace, instead of doing the opposite—this architect offers no explanation. The truth is of course that Roosevelt made Wallace and can break him or make him again, and all this shouting about "Wallace! Wallace! Wallace to save the New Deal!" is just plain bunk.

As soon as Wallace opened that way anyone who has the slightest understanding of politics would know that Wallace was making no kind of fight at all. For the man who has been stamping on democracy at home and abroad is Roosevelt. Roosevelt is the head of the government. And Wallace makes it quite clear that he is not fighting Roosevelt. Isn't it comic?

## A Pussyfooting Labor Leader

# Murray and Incentive Pay

By WALTER WEISS

William Green has been president of the AFL so long that the workers have become hardened to any stupidity or treachery on his part. It is important for them to realize that Philip Murray, in a period of less than three years as president of the CIO, has in many ways equaled and in some way even surpassed Green's rotten record.

At present we are going to confine ourselves to Murray's record on the incentive pay (piecework) campaign which the bosses have been pushing for the last few months. Here is an elementary economic issue on which a great many new unionists and even non-unionized workers need no instruction to understand where their interests lie.

Soon after the war broke out, the big shots of the business world and their stooges in the upper ranks of the armed forces started to clamor for an end to overtime pay and for piecework, both these measures, they said, being necessary to increase production. Donald Nelson of Sears-Roebuck and the WPB, Chairman Vinson of the House Naval Affairs Committee, Admiral Land of the Maritime Commission—all of them came out for incentive wages. Secretary of the Navy Knox stated that privately he too was for incentive pay, but officially he opposed it because of labor's attitude.

Big Boss Roosevelt in April of 1942 said that in normal times he had opposed piecework and that he still opposed it in wartime. (Of course, he no longer opposes it now, in 1943.) Thereafter Administration officials pretty much kept their mouths closed on this subject until the "hold-the-line" order was about ready to emerge.

## Murray for Incentive Pay

During this period of silence, who should come out for incentive pay

## The Issues Today

After that, anybody could write the speech. Baloney from start to finish, and pretty thin stuff, too. For, after all, what are the issues before the public today?

1. Rising prices and stationary wages.
2. Inflation.
3. The race riots.
4. The European situation, particularly France. Are we fighting for a fascist like Giraud?
5. The Atlantic Charter. What are the oppressed peoples going to get out of the war?
6. What kind of a post-war America will we have?

What does Wallace offer the workers on these things? Zero. Yes, my friends, just zero.

Take No. 1—wages and prices today—there is not a word in the speech about that. About No. 2—the steadily growing inflation—not a word. About No. 3—the race riots—maybe we'll get something. "We cannot fight to crush Nazi brutality abroad and condone race riots at home. Those who fan the fires of racial clashes for the purpose of making political capital here at home are taking the first step toward Nazism."

That is all, that is the great pronouncement on the race riots. At least it is more than the President has said. That is one consolation for Walter White and A. Philip Randolph. No. 4—about France. Nothing, not a word. For Wallace, Giraud does not exist.

## Wallace's "Clarion Call"

Wallace is the man who is to help build the "new society" everywhere. He is the man who is to lead the American crusade for the century of the common man, the great dispenser of bottles of milk to all who need it, in Asia, in Africa, in Australasia. So Wallace gives out the following "clarion call":

"The Atlantic Charter... is a charter of faith that must be worked out to endure, and the American people intend that it shall work and that it shall endure."

Frantic cheering by the American liberals, but equally frantic lack of cheering by the hundreds of millions who can no longer live on faith.

And now the post-war America. Wallace uses a few phrases about "power-crazed, money-mad imperialists." But, he says, the employers have done their share in helping to win the war. Therefore, "whatever choice they consciously or unconsciously make, I believe they want to do their part in keeping this nation on solid ground when peace comes." Leave it to the bosses. Consciously or unconsciously, they will fix things.

All through, Wallace is certain that

the American soldiers are fighting for free enterprise and full employment. He ends: "Nothing will prevail against the common man's peace in a common man's world as he fights both for free enterprise and full employment."

## Wallace—A Safe Man

Free enterprise! That is what he was concerned about. To make the capitalists feel that Wallace is a safe man. Words and blah (or silence) about the struggle for the great needs and aspirations of the people. Clear-cut assurance for the capitalists that the ruinous system which has landed us in the mess we are in is safe, as far as Wallace is concerned.

This is the great Sir Galahad, the Savior of the World, the New Lincoln, the "architect of the new society," the self-exposed faker and self-confessed Roosevelt stooge. This is a bubble that bursts as soon as you look at it.

There are only two things we want to say.

First, to the labor movement: We want to know exactly what Thomas expects from Wallace, the great architect?

If Thomas had joined with Lewis when the miners struck, the "rising prices and stationary wages" would be different today. Lewis' 500,000 workers and Thomas' million could do something. What, exactly, does Wallace propose to the workers? And why should they listen to all the froth? Why?

Secondly, we ask the Negroes: The President has said nothing about your urgent problem. Now evaluate exactly what Wallace has said. How has he helped you in the struggle? Isn't the answer clear? He has said nothing, offered nothing. The situation is still the same. Labor must fight its own battles. The Negroes must fight theirs. Why don't they have a meeting of their own? Why don't they tell Thomas: This is what we want and this is how we propose to get it?

Why doesn't Thomas say: "I am a labor leader. I shall be an architect. Let us form a party, a party of labor, to fight for labor and the rights and defense of the Negroes and all the oppressed and exploited?" Why don't you do it, Thomas? Where Wallace got 20,000 to listen, you will get 20,000,000. They are just waiting. In fact, that is their mistake. The people shouldn't wait. They should start shouting now: "You, Thomas, you are a leader of labor. You be the architect. Let Wallace lead the bureaucrats in Washington."

And if Thomas and his kind do not—and they have shown no signs of doing so—then the workers will and must go ahead WITHOUT the Thomases and AGAINST them.

# Negro People Are Still In Danger

By W. F. Carlton

From all parts of the country comes news of the dangerous racial tension. It is necessary only to list a few to recognize their full significance.

From Beaumont, Texas, comes the news that white citizens have asked for the removal of the police, because it was the lack of police control which caused the riots and no effort was made to bring them under control after they had begun.

## SHOOTINGS IN THE CAMPS

A Negro soldier writes to the People's Voice from Fort Bliss that ammunition has been taken away from the Negro soldiers, but that the whites are allowed to keep theirs.

A Negro soldier has been killed with a dum-dum bullet. This type of bullet, because of its devastating effect where it hits, has been banned from regular warfare. The medical staff is refusing aid to colored soldiers.

In Greenville, N. C., there was a wave of popular resentment against the killing of an ex-soldier by two state highway patrolmen. Letters poured in to the Governor's office, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners and the Greenville Board of Aldermen.

All over the Negro press you see stories and headlines like this: "Soldier En Route to Louisiana Camp Threatened with Lynching by Southern White Military Policemen"; "ICC Regrets Negro Corporal Was Barred from Diner of Train" and again, "Acquit Coast Guardsman of Killing Negro Worker."

## COP THREATENS NEW "DETROIT"

The California Eagle front pages the statement of a California cop to a colored woman reporter. "You n...s don't know your place any more." And he concluded with the threat of "showing Central Avenue how to keep order in the Detroit, Michigan, style."

Now, before the recent outbursts in Mobile, Beaumont and Detroit, incidents like these filled the press. People talked about them but nobody did anything. They culminated in the shameful and bloody business in Detroit.

Now everything is different. Everyone realizes the danger. The result is that incidents of the kind we have given as examples become potent forces in kindling still greater tensions. A white cop will pass a rude remark to a colored woman any day in the week. But this time he refers to Detroit. The woman goes to a committee, which accuses the police of instigating the zoo-suit riots. In this atmosphere anything can happen at any time.

For the most dangerous aspect of the whole business is that white soldiers and colored soldiers are continually in conflict, then colored soldiers get into conflict with the local white populations in the South, and the colored soldiers are mercilessly Jim Crowed by the Federal Government, the Army and the Navy. It is becoming obvious to all that the police, who are also armed, are hostile to the Negro people.

## STAGE SET FOR NEW CONFLICTS

The stage is set for a real battle in which white soldiers, colored soldiers, police and civilians will engage in some of the bloodiest fighting American soil has seen for years. In New York, in Newark, in Chicago, in Buffalo, in Philadelphia, the situation is such that authorities and "race" leaders are holding meetings and calling upon the people to take pledges to preserve the peace and similar nonsense.

The Negro civilian population is in danger and the Negro civilian population must defend itself when it is attacked. But they must learn that defense is first and foremost a political question. They must organize themselves for defense of their heads and all their legitimate rights.

Then, IMMEDIATELY, they must go to the labor movement and place the whole case before them. The large majority of the working class and many others in this country, whatever the prejudices they have, do not want to see Negroes assaulted and beaten up or shot either by hoodlums or police. They, like the Negroes, expect the government to protect its citizens. But the government does not do so. The Negroes themselves must therefore go to the only powerfully organized force in the country that can protect them—the labor movement.

## ALLIANCE WITH UNIONS ESSENTIAL

It is true that some reactionary workers are hostile to Negroes. The large majority are not. The Negroes can use particularly those Negro workers who are already in unions to present the case for the Negro community in the unions. In nine cases out of ten they will get a good reception and help.

Finally, the labor movement must realize its own interest in this question. The bosses will use race riots to bust up the unions. By coming to the defense of the Negroes, they defend the unions.

The Negroes are in danger. They form a substantial part of the nation. The government does not protect them. Labor must undertake this. Labor must begin to recognize its own responsibilities as the future leader of the nation. It begins to assume those responsibilities when it takes upon itself the defense of all sections of the oppressed against boss tyranny. Every class-conscious worker, Negro and white, will bear this in mind as he carefully plans the defense of the Negro people.

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