

HAVE YOU READ

"The Fight for Socialism"?
SEE AD, PAGE FOUR

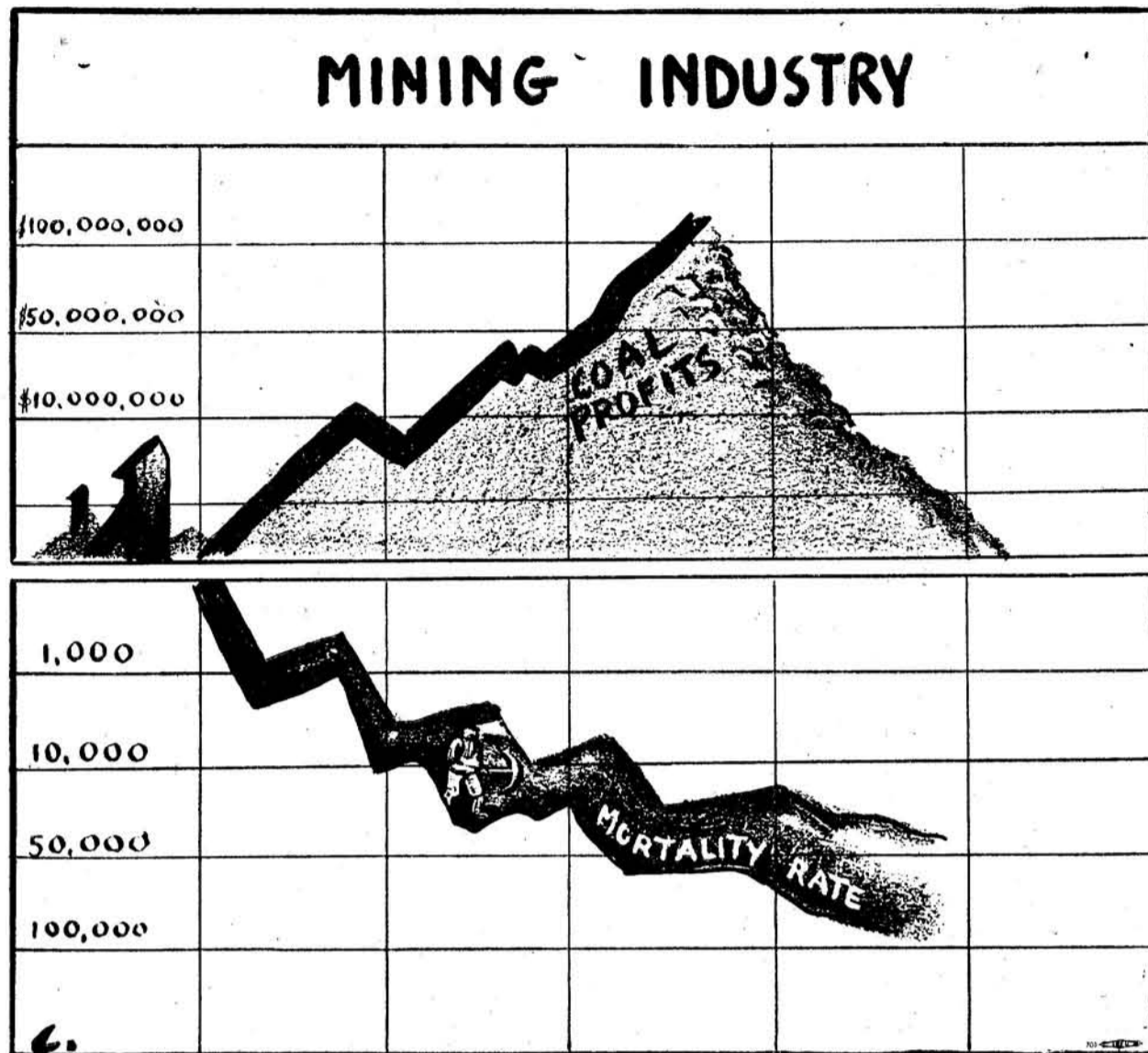
LABOR ACTION

May 20, 1946

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

Profit and Loss



HOUSING CRISIS CAN BE SOLVED!

Open Boarded-Up Mansions!

From foxhole to doghouse, that's the plight of the veteran. A Housing Action Demonstration, called by various veterans' organizations, is being held at New York's City Hall on Saturday, May 18, at 12 noon. The Workers Party asks every worker, every veteran, every one seeking a decent home in which to live, to join this demonstration and make their voices heard.

Right now, there's a need for more than 211,000 homes for veterans in New York, with no immediate solution even being attempted.

The Workers Party Veterans Committee demands an immediate federal appropriation of five billions for veterans' housing, with which enough homes could be constructed within one year to relieve the present veterans' housing shortage from its critical stage.

There are innumerable boarded-up estates and mansions, each large enough to house adequately from three to eight veterans' families. The absentee owners of these spacious homes spend little time in them, having special summer, fall, winter and spring homes, even more palatial, elsewhere. The Workers Party Veterans Committee calls upon the government to requisition, sub-divide and open these homes to veterans as a source of immediate relief in this incredible housing crisis.

The government once requisitioned hotels during the war to house military and naval installations. The Workers Party Veterans Committee demands that the government repeat this performance to provide decent temporary housing for the veterans to fill the urgent need until a five billion dollar, one-year veterans' housing program could be completed.



By MARY BELL

The housing crisis in the United States, chronic since the virtual cessation of home-building in 1925, acute during the war, now accentuated by the return of millions of veterans, has reached the boiling point.

In New York City alone, a minimum of 211,000 veterans need immediate housing. In addition to the pressing need of veterans, vast numbers of New Yorkers still live in slum buildings that were condemned in 1885! New York only mirrors the national situation, which will find three million families doubling up by the end of this year.

What is the reason for the crisis? In Europe, the chronic housing shortage that exists under capitalism was intensified in the extreme by block-busters and firebombs. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki it was settled atomically. But in the United States, untouched by the military aspects of the war, the housing crisis lies directly at the door of the chaos and greed of big business.

BUSINESS REFUSES TO BUILD
Low cost housing for human need has never been very profitable, so that even the bloodsuckers of investment capital, hungry for every drop of profit, have neglected this field. As a consequence, the building industry is what is termed by Fortune magazine—"that disorganized and warring group of organisms known euphemistically as the building industry." It has refused to build low-cost homes because this is not a lucrative field for investment.

However, since a mighty roar has swept the nation from labor and the veterans, some segments of capital have seen a possibility in the new market of low-cost homes. But just as big business would not turn a wheel to start producing the weapons for the "Arsenal of Democracy" in the late war until the government had guaranteed its profits, refunds and post-war insurance, so big capital will not move into the housing field until it has a gilt-edged guarantee from the government.

For this reason, plus the fact that this is an election year, Congress came through with a \$400 million veterans' housing subsidy program. This was originally rejected in the House, was whittled down from the \$600 million original figure, and finally passed by the Senate (its eyes glued on the votes it hopes will return it to office) and then the House. The bill calls for the construction of 2.7 million houses by the end of 1947, a figure which won't even meet the need for replacements. Even this subsidy has been decryd by private construction interests as "creeping collectivism" and "socialism."

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued on page 3)

Miners Determined to Win Demand for Welfare Fund

By MIKE STEVENS

The majority of the striking soft coal miners returned to work this week when the leaders of their union, the United Mine Workers, agreed to a twelve-day truce. About 76,000 Pennsylvania miners refused to return to work and other thousands in West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio also refused to accept the truce. In Illinois, the miners went back to the pits only after five days of insistence by the union leaders.

The truce was called after a conference between John L. Lewis, president of the union; Mr. O'Neal, the representative of the mine owners; and President Truman. The truce was called, according to the union leaders, in order to keep industry going and to negotiate a new union agreement.

ASKS WELFARE FUND

At the first negotiating conference this week, Lewis presented the union's demand for a welfare fund. The method of payment as presented this time was for seven per cent of the soft coal industry's annual payroll. The owners refused this demand immediately. However, to give the impression that they were really in a "generous" mood they agreed to pay the miners the overtime pay they owed them since last year. This overtime pay was due to the miners who received straight pay instead of over-

time pay for four holidays they worked last year.

The owners have been trying to avoid paying this overtime, but this week they came through. The newspapers claim that this will cost the poor owners more than \$3,000,000, but this is untrue. It would be far less than \$3,000,000 even if ALL the miners had worked on these holidays, and it so happens that when the miners saw they were not getting overtime pay very few of them worked on the holidays.

The newspapers are building up this overtime figure to give the impression that the coal owners have already agreed to pay a huge sum to the miners. But the press and the mine owners aren't kidding anyone—certainly not the mine workers. The press may rage and condemn the union's demand for a welfare fund. The representatives of the capitalist parties in Congress may foam at the mouth at this terrible disaster that has befallen the country, claiming that the money will only go into Lewis' pockets. But the miners know that the only method by which they have a chance of having some security against accidents, diseases and old age is through such a fund. The miners would rather have a democratically elected committee of miners handling the fund rather than Lewis and his "official boys." But they know that it is more important for the union to fight and get such a fund now and keep the method of administering it within the union—than to depend on some commission appointed by Truman to get it for them and then hope that it may be used for the miners.

The refusal of more than 25 per cent of the soft coal miners to return to the mines even for twelve days is significant. Although they may be convinced in a few days to return in order to show that the union acts as a solid body, nevertheless their reluctance to return after six payless weeks shows a determination to fight for their demands. These demands are of the utmost importance to the miners and unless the owners agree substantially to the demands the miners will go on strike again when the truce expires, regardless of what pressure is put on them.

Vet Housing - - Too Little, Too Late

By I. BLAKE

NEW YORK—Five veterans and a sailor still on duty have found a place to live. On April 6 they drew keys to six houses on Laurel Hill Blvd., Queens, turned over to them by Borough President Burke. The houses were taken over by the city in 1938 and have been unoccupied since. Starting May 1, the six families will have to pay \$15 a month. They will also have to make repairs, paint, obtain and install plumbing fixtures. Subject to turning over thirty days notice from the city, perhaps they will be able to live in these houses for a year and a half, perhaps two years. The daily press played this up, hailing Burke as a spirited public servant who knows how to take action in an emergency.

But New York City veterans will need 211,000 housing units by December 31, 1946, according to a report submitted in March to the State Legislature by the Committee on Housing and Multiple Dwellings. Six have been found temporarily. Others, less desirable, have been found in recon-verted barracks and Quonset huts. The problem has not even been scratched.

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

Around November, President Truman began to worry about the housing shortage. Veterans without a place for themselves and their families to live began to worry a good deal earlier. It is now May. We are still worrying. But worry is not enough. One thing is clear: the gov-

ernment, local and national, has no genuine policy for handling the problem.

It's a ticklish question for them, tied up as it is with the human interest slant of no-homes for the men "who served their country so heroically during the war." Many plans and emergency measures are being offered to ease the crisis. Burke makes a lot of publicity about turning over six unused houses and suggests such a policy for relieving the emergency. O'Dwyer moves for liberal tax legislation to induce landlords to rehabilitate boarded-up buildings. But of the 77,000 vacancies in New York City as of March 1, according to the report mentioned above, most are in sub-standard buildings and practically none can be made really fit to live in.

O'Dwyer's plan isn't working and it cannot work. It's a dud. Only after the housing demand had grown desperate did national housing administrator Wyatt issue an ambitious plan calling for the construction of about three million permanent dwellings by the end of 1947, half a million to be completed by the end of 1946. But more than three million homes are needed nationally right now.

For the immediate needs, right now, no solution! The attitude of the government is clear. We've got a tough situation. Don't get impatient. Don't have a chip on your shoulder. We hope things will get better. Until they do, make the best of things. After all, this is better than being at war. You've served your country be-

YOUTH GROUPS PROTEST JIM CROW IN SKATING RINK

Saturday night, May 11, about 50 youths turned out with vigorous enthusiasm to protest the Jim-Crow practices of the Brooklyn Empire Roller Drome. The group was made up largely of the City-wide Youth (an inter-racial high school organization) and the Socialist Youth League (youth section of the Workers Party).

Several weeks prior to this, a mixed group of these youths went down to the skating rink. Although the white boys were admitted, the Negroes were rejected on the "grounds" that they did not belong to the "Figure 8" skating club. Since the white boys weren't members of the club either, they accused the management of discriminatory practices. The owners did not deny this at the time.

The white boys led by the Negro and white members of the SYL, joined the Negroes in a demonstration against the rink.

Much attention was drawn by the picket line and the shouting of such slogans as "Jim Crow Must Go." But more important still, it was a demonstration of what youth who are alert to the problems of fighting Jim-Crow can do. The campaign will be continued, uniting Negro and white youth in the struggle against discrimination.

"Peacemakers" Paint Picture of World War III-in-Making

People Are Pawns in Big Power Wrangle at Paris

By SUSAN GREEN

A socialist does not put any faith in peace treaties between imperialist governments for the simple reason that when imperialist interests so dictate, peace treaties become meaningless scraps of paper. But the mass of humanity that is not yet socialist, still puts some faith in peace treaties. They watch to see what will come out of the Paris conference of foreign ministers who met there weeks ago to arrive at preliminary agreements as a basis for peace treaties to end World War II legally—and have done nothing!

Capitalist reporters in Paris, both conservative and liberal, are of the same opinion, namely, that the peacemakers have other objectives than peace. Thus Freda Kirchwey writes in the liberal weekly "The Nation": "But the big fact behind every specific dispute is that no basis for any fundamental agreement now exists." And in the conservative "New York Times," C. L. Sulzberger is tempted

to paraphrase the famous saying of Clausewitz that war is the continuation of politics by other means, by cynically remarking that "nowadays peace is a continuation of war by other means."

And mind you this: Byrnes, Molotov, Bevin and Bidault met to consider merely the fringe questions of European peace. On the agenda are Italy, the Balkans and Finland. Germany was the main enemy, whose fragments lie scattered across the middle of Europe, and about which certainly something has to be done. But Germany was not even put on the agenda. That is how controversial the subject is and how hostile are the four powers whose armies control the four German zones like armed bastions. But even on the less important problems the foreign ministers are getting nowhere very fast.

DISPUTE OVER TRIESTE

Thus far the bone of imperialist contention has been the Italian city of

Trieste. Trieste is a fine city with good docks, a shipbuilding industry, other industries and businesses, and commercial connections to and from mid-eastern Europe. But above all, Trieste is important because it lies at the head of the Adriatic Sea, connecting with the Mediterranean and thence east and west to all parts of the world. Yugoslavia and Albania, both Russian satellites, flank one side of the Adriatic and Italy the other. The Russians, therefore, want Trieste to go to Yugoslavia, while the United States, Great Britain and France wish Trieste with seventy-five per cent of its 700,000 population Italian, to remain an Italian city under the benevolent wing of the western powers.

But there is more to the unbending attitude on both sides than that. Trieste has been chosen to test the power of the two leading imperialists, Russia and the United States. Russia fights for Trieste not merely because it is the rich plum Russia promised

to Belgrade. If Russia gets Trieste it means Russia strengthens the tentacles it has extended into western Europe and expands southward into the Mediterranean. On the other hand, Byrnes and Bevin are working to push Russia back behind the line of the Oder-Nesse Rivers, out of western Europe and away from the western Mediterranean, and they hold out to Trieste as the first step in this direction. So after fourteen sessions, a perfect stalemate was arrived at by the worthy foreign ministers, the staffs and the experts of the United States, Russia, Great Britain and France.

When Secretary Byrnes proposed to arrange for the general "peace" conference in Paris on June 15 with all twenty-one victor nations present—presumably not on the assumption that twenty-one clashing interests would get further than four, but rather that the United States can control more of the twenty-one nations than can Russia—Molotov pro-

tested with his usual vigor that preliminary agreements must be arrived at.

"WAR BY OTHER MEANS"

And sure enough, a day or so later the correspondents were sending in reports overplaying a "new attitude" on Russia's part. Lo and behold, a tentative agreement was reached about some of Italy's North African colonies. Russia, which had an eye on Tripolitania and thereby gave the British imperialists hysterics, graciously consented to a United Nations trusteeship with administration over Tripolitania in Rome. Agreement on a reparations figure of \$100,000,000 that Russia is to collect from impoverished Italy, was played up, as were also some more or less important settlements of Balkan boundaries and an understanding on handling war criminals after peace treaties have been signed. So the air was full of expectations. They were fulfilled,

for who could have expected anything but more dissension!

The next day Mr. Sulzberger wrote in the "New York Times" that while \$100,000,000 was the figure settled upon for Russian collections, Byrnes wanted it paid out of Italian property in the Balkans and by transferring Italian naval and commercial vessels, while Molotov was holding out for that huge slice of current Italian production. But the real pay-off came when Molotov, without batting an eyelash, declared that now that he had made several concessions to the western powers—meaning Tripolitania which was not Russia's anyway—he thought the western powers should give him his way on Trieste. So there was Trieste again, and still is!

The latest reports, as this article is written, are that Mr. Byrnes is bristling with another proposal regarding North Africa. Libya is to be under United Nations supervision with Rome as administrator, and special

(Continued on page 4)

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Nationalize the Mines Under Workers Control!

By PAUL NEWMAN
The city of Chicago has been hit as though by an avalanche in a coal mining pit as a result of the United Mine Workers' strike.

There is no doubt that the refusal of the miners to work at a time when the coal stockpiles in the Chicago area are low, has caused, for a time at least, a real industrial tie-up in Chicago.

Now, an industrial tie-up which throws workers out of their jobs is, of course, not a very nice thing—especially for the workers.

The demands of the miners for a short time. Next year the struggle will break out all over again. As long as the mines remain in the hands of the monopoly capitalists, so long will the miners struggle to maintain their bare existence.

The demand of the miners today should be: NATIONALIZATION OF THE MINES UNDER WORKERS CONTROL!

WORKERS PARTY
Pre-Convention Discussion . . .

The articles that appear below are DISCUSSION ARTICLES published as part of the pre-convention discussion in the Workers Party.

ry party that can in any way be characterized as working class, is the agent first and foremost of a counter-revolutionary bureaucracy in Russia.

Vet Housing - -

(Continued from page 1)
fore at war, serve it again by keeping calm. Much fooling around but not one word about taking over unoccupied luxury dwellings for emergency housing.

lles need homes. Real emergency measures must be taken. In England, discharged veterans facing such a crisis formed committees which seized unoccupied luxury houses and moved in the families of needy veterans.

Today, in the United States, mines, along with the rest of big industry, are owned by a few unbelievably rich families. It is out of the sweat, blood and death of miners that they have made enormous profits which keep them living in luxury without stretching a muscle.

Navy Yard Dumps Oldtimers, Union Plans Washington March

In recent weeks there have been wholesale layoffs of oldtimers, some with more than thirty years of service in the Navy Yard of Brooklyn. So far the shipfitters' and machinists' shops have been affected, but the rest of the shops will be hit soon.

These are the demands of the miners today should be: NATIONALIZATION OF THE MINES UNDER WORKERS CONTROL!

Communist Parties Not Working Class

One of the major differences of opinion facing the coming convention is the problem of how to characterize the international Stalinist Stalinist movement.

(3)The Stalinist parties are thoroughly and completely totalitarian in their internal structure. No matter how bureaucratized, no working class party can be checked in the same way—and here again, not even the Social-Democracy at its worst.

VETERANS MUST ACT

But veterans' experience has been quite different. When what we have isn't good enough, we've got to make it better. Demobilization was speeded up after the mass demonstrations in every theater all over the world.

The Real Estate lobbies and other pressure groups have made their own interests more important than the people as a whole for too long. It is time now for the masses of this country who have not had their needs met to make their own pressure felt for their own interests.

Both these items have thoroughly wiped out all vestiges of seniority that the old workers accumulated. The efficiency system is the primary criterion for discharge.

These are the demands of the miners today should be: NATIONALIZATION OF THE MINES UNDER WORKERS CONTROL!

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BROOKLYN: Curio Bookshop, 365 Sutter Ave.

Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor . . .

The May Day "Plot" Against MacArthur

Dear Editor:
General MacArthur's Tokyo headquarters announced last week the discovery of a plot against MacArthur's life planned for May Day.

There are terrorist fascist elements in Japan and this is probable—they are not a vital part of the labor movement. They remain as active groups precisely because of the American policy in Japan of protecting and giving power to the reactionaries.

By saying that because of the competition and rivalry involved, "Maybe two labor organizations are better for the American worker."

These statements, when studied, point to one conclusion: either Phil Murray knows what labor's objective is and the way to that objective and is wilfully confusing the workers by this fish-and-fowl statement; or Phil Murray really doesn't know.

Instead of these ideas, you inserted the phrase, "they could logically demand that Jewish rights and interests be respected."

This working class of Tokyo gave its answer to this stupid attempt at provocation on May 1, when 500,000 workers marched in a united front parade through the heart of the city.

MacArthur has returned the Emperor and the old bureaucracy to power. These forces act as rallying centers and help create and protect the milieu in which fascists can operate.

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ACWA Member on Convention Capers

Dear Editor:
Hillman bewails OPA wrecking. But his PAC still goes a-necking. With the ones who used the axe. That gang of "good Democrats."

The answer is plainly, No. Nothing proves this better than the elimination of OPA with the consequent increase in prices which nullifies whatever small increases in wages were recently obtained by the workers.

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Murray doesn't give his promised word any more; On labor organizations he is not sure
As to whether with two or one A better job for labor can be done.

CHICAGO LABOR ACTION FORUM:
"Is War With Russia Inevitable?"
Speaker: GORDON HASKELL
MAY 22 8:00 P. M.
188 West Randolph St., 29th Floor

Editor's Note: We call attention to the editorial appearing in the November 12, 1945, LABOR ACTION, "A Socialist Program for the Jews," which presented our policy on this question.

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A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

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WORKERS PARTY PROGRAM FOR ORGANIZED LABOR IN THE RECONVERSION AND POST-WAR PERIOD

FOR THE UNEMPLOYED AND VETERANS

1. Full Unemployment Insurance Full unemployment insurance beginning with \$30 a week for single men and women and graduated upward for dependencies to all workers for whom government and industry do not find jobs.

2. Less Hours—More Pay Absorption of all workers thrown into unemployment during reconversion by reduction of the work-week with no reduction in weekly take-home pay.

3. Jobs and Full Opportunities for Veterans Two years' base pay grant to all demobilized veterans, with the option of trade school and higher educational facilities at government expense, guarantee of adequate family maintenance and guarantee of decent jobs.

FOR THE POST-WAR WORLD

4. Jobs For All at a Guaranteed Annual Living Wage A job for every worker with a guaranteed minimum annual wage of \$2,500 per year. A rising standard of living, by means of government planning to insure the highest national production and income.

5. A Planned Rise in National Income A guaranteed \$5,000 annual income to all workers' families by means of a planned rise in the national income and a thirty-hour maximum work week.

6. For a Democratic Peace Against peacetime military conscription of American youth! For a truly democratic peace, which means no land-grabbing under any pretext; no reparations; no slave labor. Complete independence for all colonies and subject peo-

ples and the right of all people to decide democratically their own future.

7. Full Social, Political and Economic Equality for Negroes Complete democratic rights. The right to vote, to run for and hold any elective or appointive office, North or South. The right to equality in employment; to hold any job, skilled or unskilled. The right to be free from insult, segregation and Jim Crowism; anywhere and in any place, North or South.

8. Slum Clearance A \$250 billion five-year program to provide decent housing for all, extensive public works, rural electrification and modernization.

9. Nationalization of Big Business Nationalization of the banks, big industrial monopolies and transportation systems, and handing over of government-built and owned plants and facilities to private ownership.

10. Taxing the Profiteers A 100 per cent tax on all war profits above a five per cent maximum on invested capital; a \$25,000 ceiling on total individual income, and a graduated capital levy on all accumulated wealth over \$50,000 to cover war costs and provide post-war security for labor.

11. Workers' Control of Production Control of production by democratically-elected workers' committees.

12. An Independent Labor Party and a Workers' Government—For a Socialist America with Plenty for All! Make the machines that now produce only for war and capitalism produce for the needs of all the people!

One-Tenth of the Nation

Negroes Watch "Operation Dixie"

By J. R. Johnson

"Operation Dixie" is getting under way and we have not only to follow its development but to enter actively into what is potentially one of the most significant campaigns ever entered upon by the labor movement in this country.

The CIO is establishing headquarters at Birmingham, Ala. Van A. Bittner, veteran of many organizing campaigns, is director. The list of his assistants is significant in its associations. From the Rubber Workers Union is Sherman Dalrymple. From the Textile Workers Union comes George Baldanzi, vice-president. From the Amalgamated Clothing Workers comes Jack Kroll, vice-president. From the Auto Workers will come another assistant director, Rubber, textile, clothing, auto and, at the head, Van Bittner of the steel industry. The labor movement in its most significant sections is challenging the Southern system. The aim of the CIO drive is a million and a half members.

The AFL has already established headquarters in Atlanta, Ga. Their Southern representative is George L. Googe. On May 11 and 12 there will be a conference of 8,600 AFL locals in Asheville, N. C., which will formally launch the AFL drive. The goal is one million members.

If the AFL is launching its drive with a conference representing its 8,600 locals, the CIO, beginning with the UAW conference at Atlantic City has made it clear to all its members and sympathizers that the next important stage in its development is the successful carrying out of this drive.

Simultaneously the Political Action Committee has declared that it is ready to launch a drive against certain of the Southern congressmen.

NEGROES SEE SIGNIFICANCE Meanwhile, on Sunday last in Harlem, thousands of people attended a great rally at the Golden Gate Ballroom. True the Stalinists around People's Voice were its inspirers. But the Negroes who attended did so, not because they were interested in Stalinist maneuvers, but because they

for the most part felt that labor was undertaking a task of vital importance to Negroes not only in the South, but everywhere. The Negroes all over the country have made great strides toward recognizing that a victory for the CIO anywhere is a victory for the Negro people as a whole. Even Father Divine spoke and his followers (who are much more important than he is) turned out in great numbers.

"Operation Dixie" has caught the imagination of the Negro people. That in itself is political progress—the fact that their minds have been turned from the President and from Congress and telegrams to Wallace and Eleanor Roosevelt to the most powerful social force in the country—the organized labor movement.

This column, from the very beginning of this drive, has recognized its significance for the Negroes, for organized labor, and for the country as a whole. I have traced the political relation between the conflict in the Democratic Party and this drive to spread the doctrine and organization of collective bargaining in the South. I think, however, that at this stage, it is necessary to restate a few things and to say some that have not been said.

ONLY A BEGINNING

1. The present drive can only be a beginning. True, it is a beginning in a fundamental, basic sphere—the organization of Southern workers. But in relation to the problems of the South, it is only a beginning. Its political significance is that the country being where it is today, it will be impossible to organize the South on any serious scale without coming face to face with the deep-rooted racial segregation and anti-democratic practices characteristic of the area.

2. Once this is recognized, it follows that at this stage, one cannot expect the CIO and AFL drives to overturn the social organization of the South. Passing of a permanent FEPC Bill for the nation, abolition of the poll-tax, important and progressive as these measures would be, could not seriously alter the barbar-

ous social régime of the Southern states. It took a desperate civil war to abolish slavery and, if history is any guide, it will take equally conscious determination to make the South into a truly democratic community.

3. The labor leaders, both of the CIO and the AFL, are not people who are ready to risk all for the sake of liberty and justice in the South. They are ready enough to capitulate to the ruling class in the North, as soon as the struggle becomes fierce, far more so in the South, where the situation is packed with dynamite. They know, however, that it is packed with dynamite. Yet they propose these drives. They are serious and, as far as is possible within their timid, narrow conceptions of social development, they will push hard to organize the Southern workers.

4. But the Southern employers of labor and the plantation owners are not going to allow labor organizers to sow the seeds of their overthrow without fighting back. They are mobilizing in opposition already. They are not made more "democratic" by the moderation of Murray and Green. They know that this drive can set off currents of social and political opposition among the workers far beyond what is contemplated by Murray and Green and their lieutenants.

5. From this flows the task of the revolutionaries, the militant CIO workers, the Negro workers and those elements among the Negro people who are ready to sacrifice all for the emancipation of their race. We have to bring the national significance of "Operation Dixie" to the attention of the nation. We have to mobilize such political and moral support for it as to strike terror into the minds of the Southern reactionaries and stiffen the CIO leadership.

Let us remember how the CIO was built in Detroit, in Flint, in Akron and in Chicago. It will be ten times as hard in the South. But 1946 is not 1936. Organized labor can lead the nation. This is one critical sphere in the life of the American people where it can begin.

Jim-Crow in Army Life

By PHILIP BAGRIAN

Negroes found themselves in an army which practiced segregation and discrimination. Jim Crow was practiced even before entry into the Army, in as much as the Negroes were accepted on a separate Jim Crow quota for induction. There was an enormous shortage of nurses, but Negroes were not acceptable because all nurses are officers and the armed forces wanted as few Negro officers as possible. The War Department was continually clamoring for radio technicians. Air Corps weather officers, pilots, etc., but although there was no doubt of the technical abilities of Negroes, they were not wanted.

There were also numerous incidents where the Army authorities failed completely to protect Negro soldiers from white lynch mobs in the South, as in:

FORT BENNING, GA., May 2, 1941—The body of a Negro private, Felix Hall, was found hanging from a tree, arms and legs bound. Negro guards charged that Private Hall was lynched. The Bulletin of the NAACP stated that at Fort Benning "concentration camp tactics are allegedly being used against colored soldiers and torture and killings take place at the pleasure of the military police."

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., Aug. 6, 1941—Sergeant E. L. Hargraves, white military policeman, and Private Ned Turman, Negro engineer, were killed and four other soldiers wounded in a gun battle between white and Negro soldiers on a crowded bus. Cause: brutality by white MPs.

Alexandria, La., Jan. 1, 1942—Twenty-eight Negro soldiers were shot or clubbed in a race riot provoked by the attempt of a white MP to arrest a Negro soldier. Three thousand Negro soldiers were put under arrest by white MPs and city and state policemen. Basic cause of riot: lack of recreational facilities for 16,000 Negro troops stationed in nearby camps; refusal of Army authorities to allow colored MPs.

SAVANNAH, GA., June 10, 1942—Negro troops in the Army Day parade were forced to march at the tail end, behind garbage trucks.

BEAUMONT, TEXAS, Aug. 10, 1942—Negro Private Charles J. Reo was clubbed and shot by two city policemen. No action was taken by Army authorities.

The Air Corps fought to keep Negroes out altogether as pilots. A typical example was that of Walter L. Robinson, a Negro who finished his Civilian Aeronautical Authority training course and rated thirteenth in a class of 300, who was told "There is no place for the Negro in the Air Corps." Out of 100 Negroes who took CAA courses in 1940 and 1941, ninety-one qualified for licenses, despite slanders about Negroes being incompetent to fly planes.

Even the humanitarianism of the nation's blood banks was corrupted by Jim Crow practices. Although no scientist has yet demonstrated the slightest difference between the blood of different races, the Red Cross insisted on segregating Negro blood banks from white. Many workers, both black and white, refused to donate blood to the Red Cross because of this Jim Crow policy. Unions, like Local 16 of the IUMSWA, went on record as refusing to donate blood precisely because of the policy of Jim Crow carried on by the Red Cross.

HOW THE SOLUTION WILL COME

The white Southern soldiers with their prejudices against the Negro infected the Northerners who were looking for something on which they could vent their dissatisfaction with the war and with army life. There were others like myself who spent time arguing against these prejudices, with not too much effect. But in the same manner that those soldiers who were the loudest complainers against unions returned to the ranks of militant unionism in the recent strike wave, similar changes will take place in the solidarity of workers, white and Negro, as they become conscious of their working class needs.

The Southern Negroes who came into contact with Northern, better educated, more enlightened Negroes, will return, too, but not as the docile human beings they were previously. A certain feeling of comradeship was learned in the Army, a feeling of the need for working and fighting together for a common goal. They have found out that they are equally as capable as the white man.

The CIO organizing drive in the South will bring into its fold thousands of these Negroes who will carry on the fight for democracy, against Jim Crow and against discrimination through the strong, militant trade unions. But this alone is not enough. So long as the profit system exists so long will the seeds of Jim Crow be planted in the minds of the people, because Jim Crow means bigger profits. With a working class divided against itself by Jim Crow or other forms of racial and religious intolerance, the solid front of labor against the exploiters is broken.

Only a system based on genuine equality for all mankind, a system which will not tolerate the exploitation of man by man will bring these conditions to an end—and this system is the socialist brotherhood of mankind.

DEFEND THE "31"!

Arrested in Columbia, Tennessee charged with attempted murder for the "crime" of defending themselves and the Negro Community.

Come to

The New York Workers Party Defense Meeting SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1946 8 P. M.

IMPERIAL HALL 160 W. 129th Street (near 7th Ave.) Room No. 1

SPEAKERS: DAVID COOLIDGE, Labor Secretary, Workers Party NATHAN GOULD, Chairman Veterans Committee, Workers Party PROMINENT GUEST SPEAKERS Admission 25c — Proceeds to NAACP Defense Committee

Editorials

Why Is "The Militant" Silent?

Several weeks ago LABOR ACTION printed the statement issued by a group of trade unionists, intellectuals and members of the radical movement who addressed an appeal to the court which is trying the Nazis at Nuremberg, Germany. This appeal requested the court to interrogate the defendants and check their records to see if any evidence could be produced in connection with the infamous charges made at the Moscow Trials against the great revolutionary leader, Leon Trotsky. We of LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party, confident of the complete socialist integrity of the greatest revolutionary of our time, Leon Trotsky, supported this appeal since we believed it would expose the inability of the Stalin government to produce a shred of credible evidence.

Subsequently, we printed a list of additional prominent individuals who signed the appeal. This appeal, be it noted, was reported in many leading newspapers in America it was also reported in most of the radical journals.

Thus far, one socialist newspaper has failed to print so much as a word about this matter—we refer to The Militant, organ of the Socialist Workers Party, a political group which behaves as if it had a patented monopoly on the ideas of Trotskyism. The SWP has not commented favorably or unfavorably on this statement; it has not even INFORMED its readers of the issuance of such a statement. Now it should be noted that this statement closely parallels one issued in England, which was signed by such prominent individuals as H. G. Wells and Arthur Koestler, and that the English statement was initiated in the Socialist Appeal,

organ of the English Trotskyists. It should further be noted that a number of the continental Trotskyist parties have raised a similar demand.

We submit that The Militant owes its readers, and the SWP owes its members, an explanation. Why do they, who are so ready to announce themselves as the exclusive disciples of Trotsky, refuse to print a word of or about a statement issued in behalf of Trotsky's defense against the slanders of the Stalin dictatorship? Is it because, among the signers of the statement, there appears the name of Max Shachtman, national secretary of the Workers Party? Has factional animus against another Trotskyist group, that is, the Workers Party, so blinded them that they are unable to rise to the needs of the most elementary kind of united front action in Trotsky's defense?

Or do they believe that it was incorrect for the signers in America—and their sister parties in Europe—to initiate this campaign? If so, why? Let them express their point of view, and the matter can be debated frankly and openly before the judgment of the revolutionary movement.

In any case, one thing is certain: whatever their point of view, The Militant and the SWP are pursuing a policy of silence which, in view of the importance of the matter, can only be described as shameful. They have failed to give any publicity to the statement; they have failed to comment on it or criticize it. Such behavior is unworthy of a serious revolutionary party, and its members and sympathizers owe it to themselves to request an explanation.

Housing Crisis Can Be Solved!

(Continued from page 1)

In addition, the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill, squeezed out of a reactionary, labor-baiting Congress by an angry people, provides \$143 million per year and will provide about 500,000 low-cost units a year for a few years. There will be immediately provided some 200,000 reconverted Quonset huts for the veterans who have just left them.

PRIVATE INDUSTRY WILL NOT MEET NEED!

All this is scarcely a dent. At the present pace of construction, for example, the acute crisis in New York City alone will last five years or more!

What's wrong? Why can't Congress, which appropriated \$417,260,127,310 from 1941 to 1946 for the war, begin to make a dent in a problem where human need is concerned?

Why can't a country which produced millions of guns, tanks, planes, ships and that \$2 billion queen of weapons, the atomic bomb—all for the purpose of destruction—exert itself similarly for the purpose of constructing decent homes for its citizens to live in?

Obviously, housing must be a government job. When the business of mass murder and destruction was involved, the government stepped in, told industry what to produce and what not to produce, how much to produce, how much wages could be paid, etc. Of course, industry in turn had a market guaranteed by the government as well as its profits. Thus was accomplished the miracle of production—for destruction.

LABOR ACTION AND WP PROPOSE:

LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party propose a \$250 billion five-year housing program to clear the slums and build new homes and execute other public projects. This sum is not stupendous.

If some \$400 billion were spent in six years of death and annihilation, why cannot \$250 billion be spent for the peacetime needs of the people?

We do not think that the present government, the presidential and congressional aides of big business, can realize this program. They have shown that. They have done no more than they have because it is not to the interest of the profiteers that they do more.

Therefore, the solution of the housing crisis lies elsewhere. It lies primarily in the action of the organized labor movement, since it is the working people and the majority of their veterans—allies who are hardest hit and most in need of unprofitable, low-cost houses.

The organized labor movement, which has embarked upon "Operation Dixie" to organize the South, should also undertake to champion an "Operation Housing." It is only labor, which is the organized spearhead of the little people, which can propose and fight for a real solution. For labor is unmoved by considerations of profit, investments and special interests.

In order to push a program of its own, labor must have its own representatives in Washington, supported by labor and the little people, and directly responsible to them. This means that the CIO, instead of conducting a "purge" of the Democratic Party and trying to elect better instead of worse capitalist politicians, should detach itself from all capitalist parties.

Labor must strike out on its own, form an independent Labor Party which will be based upon a real program in the interests of all the working people and will undertake a housing program geared to human needs and not profits.

FOR A \$250 BILLION NATIONAL FIVE-YEAR HOUSING PROGRAM! FOR AN INDEPENDENT PARTY OF LABOR!



By IRVING HOWE

A number of odds and ends have accumulated in this corner over a period of weeks and this week's column will be devoted to clearing up a few of them. (As soon as we expand to eight pages there will be room for fuller coverage of international news.)

MORE ON STALINIST CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN EASTERN GERMANY

Some weeks ago this column reported that the Stalinist military occupation in Eastern Germany had reopened Nazi concentration camps and placed in them various anti-Stalinist radicals and Social-Democrats who opposed the "fusion" of their party with the Stalinists. This latest indication of the fact that wherever Stalinism becomes dominant it does its best to destroy independent organizations of the working class can now be further corroborated by reports from Europe. The Manchester Guardian, from which we quoted the report that Hermann Brill, a Socialist leader, had been sent to a concentration camp, now reports in its March 28 issue that Dr. Brill has been released. He was released, however, ONLY after resigning as chairman of the Thuringian section of the Social-Democratic Party, that is, only after giving up the political struggle against the fusion with the Stalinists.

The London Tribune, a left laborite weekly, reports in its April 5 issue of "increasing arrests of opponents of fusion" on charges of "insulting the Red Army." Writes the Tribune:

"By mid-February, eighty-three Social-Democrats, including thirty party officials, were held on such charges in the well known concentration camp, Sachsenhausen, near Oranienburg. One of the latest arrests is Werner Ruediger, one of the two chairmen of the Greater Berlin area organization of the party... There are now detailed reports available from all the provinces in the Russian zone showing how unwilling district and local leaders were induced to agree to immediate local fusion by similar methods. Against those opponents of fusion who are beyond the reach of the Russians a campaign of personal slander has started: Dahrendorf, the Berlin leader who was celebrated for his underground activities before the present conflict arose, is now attacked in his former paper as an employee of the Flick armament combine, while Soviet-controlled papers in the provinces—not in Berlin, where they could be answered—have published an anonymous letter accusing Dr. Schumacker, the Social-Democrat leader in the Western zones, of having belonged, while in the Nazi concentration camp, to a committee helping the Nazis to decide which prisoners should be gassed as politically incurable."

Perhaps the most revealing statement on the whole matter is quoted by Leon Dennen, who reports from Germany for the New York New Leader. Dennen quotes Otto Grotewohl, one of the Social-Democrats who favors fusion with the Stalinists: "Twelve years of concentration camps or underground existence is enough in one lifetime."

This is the "liberation" which Stalinism has brought to Eastern Germany.

THE APPARENT "DISAGREEMENTS" AMONG THE EUROPEAN STALINIST PARTIES

Rigid and inflexible though the allegiance of the various Stalinist parties is to the dictates of their Kremlin masters, they are apparently allowed a certain flexibility on some important boundary problems which are now agitating Europe. For instance, the French Stalinists support the demand raised by their government that the Ruhr be separated from Germany; the German Stalinists, in the name of national unification, urge that the Ruhr be retained within the boundary of Germany. On the future of the Ruhr depends the future organization of European economy, for the Ruhr, despite its partial

destruction by bombing, remains the industrial heart of the continent. So long as Germany retains it, she is in a position to rebuild its power and become once again a threat to France. Hence, the obvious desire of French nationalism to deprive Germany of the Ruhr—not to mention its hope to get its own fingers into that juicy industrial pie. Both Stalinist parties in Germany and France are aping the super-nationalist jingoes in their own countries; they are completely foreign to the simplest conception of socialist internationalism.

A similar situation exists with regard to Trieste. The Stalinist-dominated Tito government of Yugoslavia insists that Trieste be ceded to it and the Russian government supports the demand. But that puts the Italian Stalinists in an impossible position, for they know that they would become the most unpopular party in Italy if they ran counter to Italian nationalist feeling by urging that Trieste be abandoned to Yugoslavia. So the Italian Stalinists equivocated, stammered and hesitated. Their embarrassment was heightened when the French Stalinist party through a speech by its leader, Jacques Duclos, on April 20, said that Trieste should go to Yugoslavia for "geographical and economic reasons." He also said that "we (notice Duclos' identification with French imperialism—I. H.) have the unimpeachable right to ask for adequate reparations."

The Italian Stalinists thereupon issued an official statement two days later in which they said that they were "unanimous in hoping that a solution of the Trieste question will be found which will be different from that urged by the French Communists." They further opposed the idea of Italy paying reparations to France.

The question arises: Do these differences of position represent a serious internal divergence within European Stalinism—a divergence provoked perhaps by the development of tendencies within the Stalinist parties which become more closely identified with "their" national capitalist class than with their Russian masters? Probably not. The theory that the Stalinist parties or significant sections of them would try to break loose from Russian domination and gravitate towards "their" native capitalist class was advanced by Trotsky before the war, and was shown to be incorrect by the experiences of the war. No matter how unpopular their position was during the Hitler-Stalin pact, the Stalinist parties remained loyal to the Russian bureaucracy first and foremost, even though that meant persecution by the governments of the countries in which they functioned. There seems no reason to assume that this is not just as true today; witness, if proof be needed, the recent "turn" in Stalinist policy.

How then explain the different lines taken by the European Stalinist parties? For one thing, at present it doesn't make any decisive difference. The future of Trieste will, for the moment—one may imagine the Stalin bureaucracy calculating—be decided by what the Big Powers want and not by what the Italian Stalinists say. Therefore, in order that they may retain their mass support, let the Italian Stalinists "oppose," however weakly, the ceding of Trieste to Yugoslavia. Much the same reasoning probably permits the Stalinists to continue with different lines in Germany and France on the Ruhr problem. It is more important for Stalin to be able to manipulate mass parties in Europe, which are his strongest means of applying pressure on his erstwhile allies, than to consider the formal consistency of their programs. And so the Stalinist parties in Germany, France and Italy are permitted by their master to indulge in seemingly contradictory ultra-nationalist propaganda, but all with the common purpose of helping that master.

Starvation Stalks the World

Famine Rides on Broken Transport

By WILLIAM BARTON (Continued from last issue)

War and famine inevitably go hand in hand. The war meant actual destruction of productive farm lands, disorganization of transport services, decrease in farm machinery and draft animals, a serious lack of fertilizer (both natural and synthetic), the destruction of barriers against natural hazards (blowing up of flood-controlling dikes on China's Yellow River), manpower shortages on farms, and much else.

It will take a long time before many a formerly productive area can produce again. Some of the best land in Poland is now reputed to be "virtually desert." The policy of scorched earth has meant that important sectors will require intensive soil treatment before they can again yield anything like their former crops. Vineyards were cut up for use as airfields. The retreating Wehrmacht made a point of blowing up food-processing plants in occupied countries. Animals were stolen and sent to Germany by the tens of thousands. That many of these arrived and survived is doubtful; no one has reported any over-supply on German farms.

PRODUCES BLACK MARKET

The disruption of industry and disorganization of transport produced a typical situation wherein, did the farmer have a salable crop, there was no way by which he could cart it. The result: BLACK MARKET. All that was needed to become an "operator" was a car, a gallon of gas, and a carton of cigarettes. Highly-organized black market rings, often protected by political influence, were considered serious enough in France several months ago to have the death penalty proposed for participants. The black market is not only a re-

sult of food shortages, it is also a cause for them. Several UNRRA employees have been found guilty of channeling food in its direction. Industrial and transport rehabilitation are essential for its complete eradication, but the immediate solution to this most vicious of crimes lies in the demand for popular control of food distribution through trade union, consumer and cooperative organizations.

Large-scale industrial reconstruction and revitalization may be too big a problem to be discussed here, but transportation is immediately relevant to current food shortages. The difficulties are still so great that small surpluses in one part of a country can't get to another sector (Yugoslavia, Italy). And what good are shipments of food when they can't get much further than the ports, which is often the case? There are enough railroads and highways; the great shortcoming is in vehicles and fuel. A year ago the Western armies were being supplied and maintained by a mass of trains, trucks, jeeps, ducks, boats and airplanes that can only be described in the Hollywood term—colossal. And there were rarely any serious fuel shortages.

WHY IS THERE NO FUEL?

Oil tankers no longer cover the horizon at sea. It does not "pay" to send them to run stalled trucks and motor boats in Europe and Asia. But coal for locomotives remains the principal fuel source. The press and politicians have made much of the effect of the coal strike on planned shipments to stricken areas. Bunk! Both Europe and Asia have tremendous coal sources only very partially utilized.

But how can Manchurian coal be dug when the Russian army has taken most of the machinery and kept the

population in a constant state of terror? How can the Eastern German fields (Silesia) be worked when most of the skilled workers were driven out as the area was incorporated into Poland? And how can the Ruhr and Saar deposits be extracted at anything near capacity when they are in the British and French occupation zones of Germany while the food for the working miners must come from the American and Russian zones? It is hardly the struggling miners who are responsible for fuel deficiencies. That lack could be seriously alleviated right now by the imperialist powers.

As for the miles of vehicles that carried and supplied gigantic armies—they remain just where they were a year ago. A few have been turned over to needy countries, but most of them, over a billion's worth, remain

idle. Billions were wasted on the war, but this urgently necessary material will continue rusting until a better price (or a gilt-edged political guarantee) appears.

Better transportation is essential for alleviating crucial food needs, but is not enough. Throughout Europe and Asia nature has further supplemented the destructive crimes against humanity of capitalist war, with a series of damaging floods, droughts and insect plagues. Sustenance for almost a billion people must come from a few favored places. And for a large proportion of these, this will be true for some time. The supply must come principally from the United States, Canada, Argentina, Australia and several bumper crop "islands" (Burma, Siam, Ethiopia).

(To be continued)

A Socialist Point of View

Conflict and Policy in Germany

By HERBERT MASON

Germany has been decisively defeated. The working class has suffered heavily both under Hitler and in the course of the war. Today, in the third phase of their miserable existence since Hitler took power, they are engaged in a life and death struggle with hunger. But, though weak and disorganized, the German people and economy are today the object of severe struggle between the four occupying powers. Their destinies are linked with that of Germany and vice versa.

BASES OF CONFLICT

What are the aims of each foreign power in Germany?

(1) Russia desires a weakened Germany in the immediate future with agriculture as the main economic base. She desires to control Germany politically through her foreign arm, the German Communist Party, or by amalgamation of the Communist Party with the German Social Democratic Party. The latter she presses for today in Germany as everywhere else where the Social Democratic Parties have any strength. Either a weak, decentralized system of capitalism or a copy of her own system of bureaucratic collectivism, is possible of attainment: this is to Russia's liking and need. She wants Germany in her orbit as a bulwark against western imperialist capitalist nations.

(2) England has one main aim in Germany which will serve two purposes. She wants German capitalism restored as a fairly strong economy under the control of the Social Democracy. Germany was England's best customer before the war and Britain is in desperate need of markets now, since the United States and Russia have invaded her pre-war areas of control. She wants a capitalist Germany posed against the expansionist tendencies of Russia and Russian ideology. The old balance of power game is on.

(3) France wants a weak, decentralized Germany for her own self-protection, since she has so often been overrun by the latter.

(4) The United States wants Germany restored on a capitalist basis, not so much for trading purposes but rather as a field for investments, for the protection of old investments and as a bulwark against the encroachments of Russia.

These conflicting aims are the bases for three conflicts going on over Germany today. The first is the question of control of the Ruhr district of Germany. France desires control of the Ruhr while Britain and the U. S. refuse to detach it from Germany. This struggle has been going on since Hitler's defeat.

The second struggle is for political control of Germany. Britain and the U. S. are backing the Social Democratic party, which stands for continuation of capitalist economy, struggle against Russian imperialism and, most

important, against genuine revolutionary struggles of the working class. Russia is backing the Communist Party and its attempt to amalgamate with the Social Democratic Party and to control it. This is the main political struggle in Germany today. It is no accident that the Labor Party in England recently invited Dr. Karl Schumacker to visit England for discussions. He is the leader of the Social Democrats in the British zone of occupation. The jailing of two Communist leaders by the American authorities is evidence of their political preference.

The third struggle concerns the amount of steel Germany is to be allowed to produce annually. Since this is an index of industrial strength and war potential, it is of the greatest importance. Under the Potsdam Agreement among the four powers, a small percentage of Germany's pre-war steel production was sanctioned. For the last two months Britain has been carrying on a strenuous fight to raise this quota. France is adamantly opposed to such a policy.

As revolutionary socialists, we are concerned mainly with the relation of the German working class to these battles. What policies must the international proletariat and the German proletariat follow if the German working class is to be put back on the path of their struggle for socialism?

FIRST: Germany must be unified again. That means a fight against all the foreign oppressors and the withdrawal of all their troops.

SECOND: All working class organizations must have full freedom to organize and complete democratic rights.

THIRD: Germany must be rebuilt industrially on the basis of nationalization of industry under workers' control. Organization of its production under the conquerors, who will attempt to integrate German economy in accord with their own needs and suppress and destroy that which is in conflict with them, will lead only to the impoverishment of Germany and, with it, contribute to the lowering of the standard of all Europe.

FOURTH: The forced amalgamation of the Communist and Social Democratic Parties must be combated. The Stalinists are the foes of the working class and their merger with the Social Democracy, which are democratic if not socialist workers' parties, will further stifle the struggle for democratic rights and socialism.

FIFTH: All ties between the German proletariat and the international working class must be strengthened against their common oppressors: Russia and the United States. In the first instance, this means propagandizing for, on the part of the revolutionary parties, a Socialist United States of Europe, which is the ultimate solution for the partitioned and impoverished continent.

Price Control Must Be Tied To Slogan "Open the Books"

The five thousand persons who gathered, despite threatening thunder showers at Lewisohn Stadium in New York last Sunday to protest the rising cost of living were told that the way to save price control and the way to stop the price rises was to write to Congress to save the OPA. This is the same feeble story being told to workers and housewives all over the country who are anxious to stop the inflationary rises.

PRESS LINE COLLAPSES

Congress from the very beginning has tried to keep the price controlling agency as weak as possible. With every succeeding piece of legislation it removed more and more of the body of the organization until there was nothing left but an empty shell. The final blow was dealt in the House of Representatives when it extended the Price Control Act for nine months but added nine amendments that remove even that shell.

Truman has played a two-faced role. On the one hand, he appoints a fact-finding board so that he may have "impartial" information. The fact-finders find that industrialists can afford to raise wages by 25 per cent without raising prices. Truman thereupon throws the facts into the waste basket and comes up with a wage-price policy that allows the industrialists to take away the wage increases with price increases.

Prices continued to rise throughout the war. They have taken an additional spurt upward in the past few months. OPA has played up publicity holding the line; at the same time it has quietly approved increases in price ceilings. As reported by the Kiplinger Washington Agency:

"OPA is talking out of both sides of its mouth simultaneously. Out of one side OPA is saying that the price line will be held. This is the theme of all loud publicity, but it's only half true. Out of the other side OPA is telling its staff to raise prices and to hurry, make it snappy, get a lot of raises out within the next thirty days. But keep the price raises quiet—play down publicity on them—play up the publicity about holding the line—the breast-beating theme. Make the public believe that the price line is being held—while the retreat to a new higher line is actually under way."

That is why, every week when you go to the grocery store, there is another item that has gone up in price

one cent, two cents or three cents. These increases seem small indeed when thought of singly. But when an article costing 15 cents goes up to 17 cents, then your dollar buys only as much as 88 cents bought before. That is what is happening now.

The prospects are even worse. Milk may go up 4 cents a quart; cheese may rise 15 cents a pound; bread may cost 15 cents instead of 12 cents a loaf. These rises would take 25 cents out of every dollar in your pay envelope.

The NAM would have us believe that these price increases are the fault of organized labor demanding higher wages. And, according to F. H. La Guardia, the NAM has spent \$700,000 on full-page advertisements to sell this idea to the public.

CAN BE CONTROLLED!

But we need not be fooled by these advertisements. The General Motors strikers have already proved how false they are. Before the strike, the union showed that the company could: (1) give a 30 per cent increase in wages to its workers, (2) decrease the price of cars from the 1942 level, and (3) still make 50 per cent more in profit than in the pre-war years 1936-39.

The company on the other hand stated that it could not give a raise in wages without getting a price increase. The strikers answered militantly, "Open your books, and we'll prove it." The company refused to meet this challenge.

The control of prices is intimately tied to the demand by labor that industry open its books. Workers' committees organized at the point of production in the factories inspecting the books of the corporations are in the best position to know what is going on. They are in the best position, acting in coordination throughout an industry, to separate the capitalist desire for profits from the need of the people for goods, and arrive at figures that would be fair prices. And the consumers themselves, organized into neighborhood committees of workers and housewives, are in the best position to enforce those price ceilings and fight the black market. Only through these workers' committees and consumers' committees can the rise in prices be checked and converted into the decline in prices that our productive machinery today allows.

Big Power Wrangle - -

(Continued from page 1) autonomy is to be given to Cyrenaica to avoid Italian administration of that province. Now it is Britain whose imperialist feathers are ruffled. It had its hand ready to grab off Cyrenaica for itself because Tobruk and Benghazi are strategic points, the latter being within single engine fighter range of the British island of Malta. On this issue Molotov has jumped on to Byrnes' bandwagon planning to have some fun with Bevin. However, this does not look at all funny to the masses of the world, hoping for peace.

STOP WAR-MAKERS NOW! What will happen when the ministers tackle the question of the Balkans? The issues there will be very hot indeed. What about the industrial equipment that Russia bundled off to the motherland? What about the special trade agreements made under the mouths of Russian guns? What about the Russian armies of occupation?

Then, as stated above, there is Germany. Molotov has firmly refused Byrnes' offer for a twenty-five year agreement to keep Germany without the means for waging war. Molotov thereby revealed the real issue, which is how to utilize Germany TO WAGE THE NEXT WAR. In a debate in the House of Commons a Laborite Member of Parliament described Germany and Austria as "battlegrounds in which former allies are maneuvering for position." Along the same lines, columnist Walter Lippman, back from a trip to Europe, wrote: "The most important conclusion I have to report is, I am sure, indisputable. It is true that all European governments, all parties, and all leading men are acting as if there would be another world war."

That is why Mr. Sulzberger was absolutely correct in remarking that "nowadays peace is a continuation of war by other means." That is why the liberal Miss Kirchwey is also right when she reported: "Peace is not going to be made in a room. If peace is made at all, it will be by people fighting their way out of a desolation of suffering and ruin toward new forms of social and political control." But being only a liberal, Miss Kirchwey doesn't go the whole hog. What the suffering masses must do is overthrow the war-making imperialist powers and establish their own workers' governments.

At the same time the fight against World War III has to begin right now. All measures in preparation for that annihilating conflict must be combated by the people who will be devastated by atom bombs. Conscriptation must be fought; peacetime military training, military appropriations,

manufacture of atom bombs, all war measures that must be stopped. The working people have but to take a look at the foreign ministers in Paris to be convinced that only the working people of the world can bring peace by uniting against the war-makers.

EIGHTY ATTEND SAN FRANCISCO MAY DAY MEETING

SAN FRANCISCO — Over eighty members and friends of the Workers Party branch in this city attended a May Day celebration which combined brief speeches, a satirical play and a social evening. The speeches dealt with the significance of the labor holiday, its past history and with the present situation of the working class. Socialism as the means of saving humanity from atomic destruction was clearly put forward by the speaker of the evening. Afterwards, a satirical skit on the Paris Peace Conference was presented by members of the Workers Party. The celebration was very lively and considered a complete success.

Louisville May Day

LOUISVILLE—A group of members and friends of the Louisville branch of the Workers Party celebrated May Day last week. This celebration of the workers' holiday south of the Mason-Dixon line had as its main feature a talk by one of the members of the branch on the Historical Significance of May Day. An open discussion of the current situation on the labor front followed.

A Boss's Dictionary

Layoff:



Three Weeks Left And \$3,300 to Go!

By NATHAN GOULD, National Organizer, Workers Party

For the first time since the start of our campaign to raise \$15,000 for an eight-page LABOR ACTION, Hibbing's heretofore uncontested lead is seriously threatened. Boston, breaking into a vigorous sprint, fulfilled its quota last week and this week contributed \$38, to follow close on Hibbing's 180 per cent lead. With Hibbing, Boston and Newark already over-subscribing their quotas, Youngstown joined the 100 per centers this week, making it the sixth branch to fulfill its quota.

With just a little less than three weeks to go before the drive is officially closed, we have \$3,293.72 to raise to reach our goal. This means that we must average \$1,100 per week for the next three weeks. This last week was slightly slower than usual. Only \$800 was contributed, bringing total receipts to date to \$11,706.28.

The schedule this week called for 82 per cent fulfillment by each branch. There are eleven such branches now on schedule. Chicago's \$115 contribution for the week moved that branch forward to 82 per cent. San Francisco made a spectacular advance, nosing New York out for seventh place. San Francisco's \$11.24 contribution for the week brings that city up to 92 per cent of fulfillment and next in line for the 100 per center group.

St. Louis came through with its first contribution in the drive, \$40, with a pledge that St. Louis will come across 100 per cent. A similar promise from Akron was received with an enclosed money order for \$95 putting Akron in the front part of the race.

The Detroit Branch kept pace with its former efforts and seems to be getting the better of its difficulties. A contribution of \$126 from that branch this week brings its total to date up to \$751.

The Los Angeles Branch keeps moving forward. A \$71 contribution from that branch this week advanced the branch 11 per cent and right into the 60 per cent category. Seventeenth last week, Los Angeles moved up to fifteenth place and seems to be riding on a new momentum that will put it across.

We want publicly to thank the many readers of LABOR ACTION who have responded to our appeal for the Fund Drive by sending contributions ranging from \$1.00 to \$10. These contributions have come from Muscatine, Iowa, from Chicago, Detroit, Hartford, Conn., Oregon, New York, Mumford, N. Y., and many others. We have written each contributor, thanking him for his contribution. These \$1.00, \$5.00 and \$10 contributions from our readers help to meet our objective.

We thank our readers publicly. If you have not yet sent your contribution, do so now.

Three weeks left, \$3,293.72 to go. The schedule next week calls for 88 per cent fulfillment. Let's go!

Table with columns: Branch, Quota, This Week, Total, Per Cent. Lists contributions from various branches like Hibbing, Boston, Newark, etc.

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE AN EIGHT-PAGE PAPER! The thousands of dollars required to make this advance must come from our readers. We appeal to every reader to send us a contribution to make the expansion possible. Fill out the blank below and send it to us at once. Make all checks and money orders payable to LABOR ACTION, 114 West 14th Street, New York 11, N. Y.

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