

## Here's a Program for Labor:

# STOP PRICE PROFITEERING!

### UAW Adopts Program to Fight Price Inflation

Special to LABOR ACTION

**DETROIT**—An appeal to the entire labor movement to fight against the disastrous effects of inflation was issued by the UAW-CIO in the form of a five-point program presented by Walter P. Reuther, International president.

Over 250 local union officers and board members adopted the program at a special conference held on July 2 in this city. The spirit and mood of the conference was reminiscent of the more militant stages in the history of the UAW and was testimony to the great resentment of the rank and file auto workers to the recent events in Washington.

The program adopted by the UAW is in reality a national program designed to meet a national problem. For that reason it can be a guide to action for the entire labor movement, the Akron rubber workers, Pittsburgh steel workers, Chicago packing house workers, the railroad brotherhoods, the AFL and scores of others. While the five-point program outlined below is militant enough, its weakness lies in the fact that the profound UAW program presented in the GM fight, which should serve as the overall guide in the present struggle of labor, is in effect subordinated to the five-point program. It should be just the reverse. Joined together in their proper relationship, the fight against inflation and price rises would be doubly effective.

#### THE FIVE POINT PROGRAM

1. A call for a nation-wide one day "Labor Holiday," that is, a 24-hour general strike, to protest the abolition of price control was issued by this conference. CIO President Philip Murray was urged to call out the entire 7,000,000 CIO membership to join in this protest walk-out, and to participate in a series of gigantic demonstrations against liquidation of OPA.

2. A demand that Murray seek to call a conference of the CIO, AFL and the railroad brotherhoods to join forces in fighting inflation and the tidal wave of anti-labor legislation

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### Working Men and Women of the United States:

The capitalist profiteers of this country, through their government in Washington, have won a partial victory over all the people.

Congress deliberately created the conditions for a run-away inflationary spiral in this country which is drastically reducing the standard of living of the overwhelming majority of the population: the workers and their families, the small, impoverished farmers, the lower middle classes, which are at the mercy of big business.

Congress did this because it stands on the side of capital against labor; for profits against the security and welfare of the people. The action of Congress was in response to the demands of the capitalist profiteers whose spokesmen were the National Association of Manufacturers, the Chamber of Commerce and the lobbies of the rich farmers, land owners, real estate interests, cotton and food manufacturers.

The Congress of the United States, composed of representatives of the Democratic and Republican Parties, by its action on price control, gave an irrefutable argument to show why the working class must have its own party, an independent Labor Party.

## Manifesto of the Workers Party

It is true that the OPA was no absolute safeguard for holding down prices. Prices did rise under the OPA. The cost of living did increase under its administration by business men. But the OPA was a partial barrier to a free and unlimited general price rise. OPA's ineffectiveness lay in the fact that this legislation was administered by a capitalist government and that labor did not set in motion independent union and consumers' committees to safeguard such legislation as did exist.

Without OPA there is not even the limited legislative barrier to the profiteers, not even a "moral" or "legal" barrier unless—the people of this nation act, and act quickly.

As long as OPA existed, the capitalist profiteers sabotaged production by refusing to produce goods. Or, they glutted the warehouses with goods and refused to permit their circulation until they won the right to gouge the people. They created artificial shortages to lift prices and increase profits. And now, with the

end of OPA, the packing houses are suddenly flooded with livestock. All varieties of foods are becoming more and more plentiful. Retail store stocks are increasing rapidly. The same thing is happening with all commodities.

The reason for this is simple: The big business black marketeers don't need a black market now. They got what they wanted from their government in Washington, from Republicans as well as Democrats, from "PAC" congressmen, as well as the outright reactionaries.

In less than a week since the ending of the OPA, prices have shot upward at a rapid rate. These price increases have taken place on those commodities which are essential for the people in order to live—food, clothing and housing.

#### Price Jumps Tremendous

In five days' time, the price index on 28 leading commodities rose from 199.8 to 216.8!

Twenty-eight foods jumped from 229.6 to 268.8!

General food points rose from 171.1 to 211.5! Wholesale food prices hit a twenty-six-year high!

Butter is selling at anywhere from eighty cents to a dollar a pound!

Milk in New York City is two cents a quart higher!

Prices on cheese have risen about five cents! Meat prices have risen as much as twenty cents a pound, with better cuts selling from a dollar to a dollar and a half a pound!

The same thing is taking place in clothing prices, where the jump will run about twenty per cent.

But even more drastic than the price rise in food and clothing is the rise in rents in the midst of the greatest housing shortage in the history of the nation. Except in New York State and the District of Columbia, where special laws are in operation, the real estate associations, landlords, big and small, have raised rents from ten to two hundred per cent!

The end of rent control gave the green light to the real estate vultures. Apartments renting at \$45 a month have jumped to \$100 and \$150. A wave of eviction notices surges all over the country. Houses, apartments, furnished rooms and tourist rooms have shot up ten, twenty, fifty, a hundred and two hundred per cent.

And this is only the beginning. The profiteers are acting cautiously. They are waiting to see the reaction of the country before deciding how far they can and will go. That is why labor, the real leader of the nation, should act swiftly and militantly to halt the drive of the capitalist profiteers. It is not they who will suffer the privations and misery of inflation. It is the working class, the small farmer, the lower mid-

dle classes, whom inflation strikes with such deadly force.

#### "Free Enterprise" at Work

This, then, is the "free enterprise" system. This is monopoly capitalism at work. This is the two-party system of big business. And now, to add grim humor to this state of affairs, the Attorney General of the United States, Tom C. Clark, announced that "a federal investigation to determine whether big business is conspiring to kill OPA was under way."

This is but another fraud to "determine" what is already known by every working man and woman in this country! But assume that such a "conspiracy" is discovered? What will this investigation propose? Fines for a few business men? It will not restore price control, it will not return to the mass of people what has already been robbed from them by the capitalist enterprisers of this country.

But the capitalist profiteers made no secret of their aims. They were against price controls. They fought against the OPA not because that office adhered strictly to price control, but because it was red tape which slowed up price increases, or permitted only gradual increases. Political demagogues in Congress made use of OPA for vote-grabbing and therefore made it difficult for the price profiteers. The capitalist profiteers made their aims clearly known through their more outspoken representatives in Congress, their big business press, the radio and every other avenue of public expression and coercion.

A federal investigation will reveal nothing new. The capitalist profiteers won the day because the government is their government.

#### We Can Stop Price Jumps

Can anything be done about it? Can the price rises be halted? Can the gouging of the people be stopped? Can the standard of living of the mass of people be raised by increasing wages and controlling prices?

Yes, there is a way, a sure way! But that way does not lie primarily or only through the resurrection of OPA or other price control legislation, important as these may be. That would mark only one tiny step forward.

It does not lie through the legislative "friends of labor" who constantly betray labor. It does not lie through the feeble, fumbling, capitalist administration of President Truman, which is playing politics with the price situation.

The way lies through the independent action of the organized labor movement, the workers of this land, the poor farmers and the exploited middle classes whom labor must lead in the great fight for security and a living wage.

The labor movement, spearheaded by the

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## Workers Party Runs Two Candidates for Congress



MAX SHACHTMAN

Acting upon a decision of the local membership, the New York City local of the Workers Party has set in motion the machinery to nominate Max Shachtman and Ernest Rice McKinney for Congress in the 15th and 22nd Congressional Districts. Independent nominating petitions are now at the printer to be ready by July 27, the first day set by the Board of Elections for soliciting signatures on such petitions.

Max Shachtman, National Chairman of the Workers Party, is already known to many workers of New York City. In 1941 and in 1945 he ran as the Workers Party candidate for Mayor of New York City on an anti-war program. In 1940 he ran for Congress from the 23rd Congressional District. In February, 1939, he helped to lead the great anti-fascist demonstration of 50,000 New York workers against the provocative meeting of the Nazi Bundists at Madison Square Garden. For twenty-six years he has been a leading member of the socialist movement and was especially active in the great campaigns to free Tom Mooney, Warren K. Billings, and Sacco and Vanzetti.

Well known as a speaker and a writer, Shachtman is the author of the recently published "Fight for Socialism," the best written book on the fundamental ideas of revolutionary socialism that has appeared in many years in this country.

Ernest Rice McKinney, the Workers Party candidate for Congress from the 22nd Congressional District, is a member of the National Committee of the Workers Party. For twenty years he has been an active revolutionary socialist and an organizer among workers. He was Vice-President of the National Unemployed League and the editor of its paper, Mass Action. In 1936 and 1937 he was an organizer for the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, CIO. He is a veteran of World War I, saw service overseas with the 325th Field Signal Battalion, mainly in France.

Ernest Rice McKinney was at one time editor of the Pittsburgh American, a weekly Negro paper. He was a columnist for the Pittsburgh Courier and a contributing editor of the Messenger, which was published by A. Phillip Randolph and Chandler Owen. McKinney was also at one time Executive Secretary of the Pittsburgh branch of the NAACP.

Two weeks of runaway prices have proved that Congress represents the oil-men, the cattle-men, the automobile-men, and the cotton-men; but not those who are against high prices, the workmen and the people who live on small incomes. Max Shachtman and Ernest Rice McKinney will run on the Workers Party platform, a program which calls for workers trade-union committees and housewives committees to police prices and

a workers government to nationalize the basic industries and the food and clothing industries in order to keep prices and profits down.

Behind the scenes, in the smoke-filled rooms of the Tammany politicians, and of the Republican district machine are being hatched plans to keep in Congress all those congressmen of the two capitalist parties who have so effectively sabotaged price control and rent control and forced up the prices of meat and butter and other foods in New York City.

But this conspiracy need not succeed. The workers of the 15th and the 22nd Congressional Districts will have an opportunity to vote against the Democratic and Republican Party programs, to vote for a platform which proposes the formation of a national Labor Party based on the trade unions and on the UAW General Motors program to fight high prices. The workers of the 15th and the 22nd Congressional Districts will have an opportunity to vote for revolutionary

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## UAW Leaders Talk of New Party

### Their Proposal for "Third Party" Evades Need for Independent Labor Party

Special to Labor Action

By HERB MASON

**BUFFALO**—At an educational conference of the United Automobile Workers, CIO, held here on July 1, the Reuther leadership presented its ideas on the need for independent political action and the type of organization it wants to set up.

Martin Gerber, Victor Reuther and Lewis Corey all stressed the inability of the two major political parties to solve the problems facing the American people. The unions must organize themselves politically if the gains made on the picket lines are not to be stolen by the profiteers and the politicians in Washington.

Gerber called for a conference of "all progressive groups"—labor, farmers, progressive business men, white collar workers—to organize for political action.

Victor Reuther's speech was on a

slightly higher political level: breaking out of the immediate situation, he ascribed a new role for unions in this stage of world history. "Our union," he stated, "is dedicated to build a better life for the people of this country. Either our union gives a dynamic, progressive program to the people or we will be swept aside." This reporter listened eagerly for some hint of this program from the various speakers but not one was forthcoming all evening.

Lewis Corey, former Marxist, author of two books exposing the degeneration of American capitalism, provided the climax of the evening. After a fine analysis of the inability of world capitalism to solve the problems of our age; after showing the necessity for new ideas and organizations to replace private property and monopoly capitalism; after bluntly stating that socialism or barbarism are the only alternatives, especially with the development of the

atomic bomb, Corey sees this way out:

1) Forming a "People's Party" of labor, farmers, small business men, white collar workers and technical managers;

2) Supporting the Baruch Atomic Energy Control Plan, which, he says, means world socialism, and

3) Following the path of the British Labor Party in establishing socialism at home and advocating a new foreign policy designed to end the old colonial imperialism.

It would be difficult to pack more distortions and half-truths into one speech than did our "friend of labor" from Antioch College, Lewis Corey.

#### WHAT KIND OF PARTY?

The Reuther group is preparing the ground for a new political party independent from the Democratic and Republican parties. Who will participate in this party? The an-

swer is given: Labor, farmers, intellectuals, professionals, white collar workers, technical managers and "progressive" business men.

On what political program will this new political party be based? Here we come to the great blank! Obviously all of the group who will participate in this new party have various demands, needs and interests. How can these essential needs be attained? It is the purpose of a political and economic program to say what is wanted and how it can be achieved. A party without a program is like a horse without a rider.

The character of a political program determines the character of the political party which seeks to carry it out. Essentially Reuther and his friends want to revive the New Deal under the aegis of a new party. The purpose of the New Deal was to maintain the domination of capitalism by

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## Indian Trotskyists Hit British Plan

We have received the following statement on the British deal for India from the Indian section of the Fourth International. The statement is signed by Colvin de Silva, general secretary of the Bolshevik-Leninist Party of India. This statement was published in the Bombay Free Press Journal of June 22, 1946. We print the statement as an excellent exposition of the views of our Indian comrades on the latest moves of British imperialism:

The Cabinet Mission constitutes the first stage in a gigantic political manoeuvre of British imperialism. Its aim is not any transfer of imperialism's power in India but its consolidation anew. This it seeks to achieve by negotiating a rearranged imperialist-bourgeois-feudalist alliance against the masses. And in this it is on the eve of complete success. The alliance is being cemented at Delhi behind the smoke-screen of irrelevant controversies. Congress and League are engaged not in a tussle for power but in a quarrel over commission agency rights. Whatever the arrangements, imperialism will continue to rule, although Congress and League will obligingly provide it with a much needed popular facade.

The Mission's success is not accidental. Congress is the political party of the Indian bourgeoisie and the Indian bourgeoisie have long been athirst for a settlement. For two reasons. Economic need and the revolutionary peril. The masses are again on the move in the setting of the post war crisis. The class struggle is sharpening and the anti-imperialist struggle reviving. In face of the mass resurgence the Indian bourgeoisie tremble no less than their imperialist masters. The re-cementing of their alliance, which was broken politically in 1940-44, was therefore a mutual necessity. Their economic partnership during the war is being rounded off politically today. The Simla surrender of 1945 is being formally completed in 1946. The sole victim of the settlement will be the Indian masses. The plan is to appoint local jailers for imperialism's Indian prison-house.

#### THE SO-CALLED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

The Cabinet Mission's award leaves the power question exactly where it was. We are to have a Constituent Assembly it seems. But what is this so-called Constituent Assembly?

Firstly, it is to function under the aegis of imperialism. Whoever heard of a Constituent Assembly functioning under the aegis of the very state-power which is being sought to be displaced? A genuine Constituent Assembly arises under the aegis of a new power which has already displaced the old. It presupposes freedom and is noway freedom's prerequisite; for its function is only to systematize in legal form the exercise of the power which has already been won.

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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Nation-Wide Labor Fight Against Price Profiteers

Philadelphia

By WILLIAM BROD PHILADELPHIA—Rent strikes have begun in this city. From every section come reports of the beginnings of the landlords' rent demands. This is especially true of the workers' districts. From Kensington, from South Philadelphia, from Germantown, the reports are pouring in.

During the last five years the landlords used the war as the complete excuse for not decorating or making essential repairs. In almost all cases where anything was done to keep homes in livable condition, it was done by the tenant at his own expense and most often without any lowering of rents. Properties were kept from falling apart and at high value by the care and expenses of the tenants.

Landlords have been arrogant all through the war. You either look it or left it, no improvements. And now the lid is off. Without putting a plugged nickel into repairs or recognizing the tenant's expenditures, they demand raises. They offer no reason, no excuse except that there is no ceiling on rents anymore.

FANTASTIC INCREASES The amounts being asked are fantastic. One veteran with three children, has been asked a 50 per cent increase. The only alternative is to move. And the landlord knows full well that there is no place to move. Other raises range from 25 per cent to 150 per cent.

As yet these demands are not general. The landlords are being cautious. Feelers are being put out in scattered working class districts to see how they are taken. If the workers take it and pay, raises will spread and the amounts demanded will increase. Those who pay initial increases will have to pay again and again. There is no limit once the dam is broken.

Pennsylvania's Governor Martin himself gave the landlords the green light.

light. When asked to establish rent ceilings, he declared himself helpless to act. It was up to the legislature. But the legislature is not in session nor has Governor Martin called for a special session. During the General Electric strike, Governor Martin did not need special powers or legislative authority to threaten strikers with the State militia. Nor did Mayor Samuel need special authority to permit Sheriff Meehan to ride down, trample upon, beat up and arrest strikers. Workers cannot accept their excuses of "helplessness."

The Philadelphia veterans housing projects were talked about in the city council for months. Finally 1500 homes were decided upon. Later this was scaled down to 400. 14 months after V-E day there is not a single veterans project in existence.

ACTION NEEDED What can be done? Rent raises affect the workers first and hardest. The unions have the greatest responsibility for the defense of living standards. Action must be demanded in the local unions. Every worker should demand unified union action against rent gouging. The CIO Industrial Council and AFL Central Labor Union must organize campaigns against evictions. The veterans organizations can be involved.

The first step is tenant organization. The unions can do this best. Tenants can be organized to resist rent gouging. To refuse to pay increases through rent strikes if necessary and to put pressure on Governor Martin and Mayor Samuel. It is possible to beat the landlord and their governors and mayors by organized and united action.

Chicago

CHICAGO, July 7 — With the last quack of the lame-duck price control act stifled by Congress and Truman's veto, the lid on prices is off in this city, and the sky is the ceiling.

In Chicago, despite a great deal of confusion resulting from the OPA's death, spiraling of commodity prices is quickly being felt by the ordinary consumer. But probably the most vicious and outrageous aspect of the unlimited "ceiling" is in the field of housing.

Along with the rent gouge, prices on meat, poultry, butter, eggs and grain are beginning to soar over the former OPA ceilings. Butten is up 13 to 14 cents a pound, making the price 81 cents. Milk is being sold for three to four cents more a quart. Yellow corn and white corn are now selling at \$2.10 and \$2.20 a bushel respectively. Meat has hit the all-time high of \$22 a hundred pounds, which is \$4.00 over the OPA ceiling price.

The very day after the expiration of the Price Control Act, landlords all over the city served thousands of tenants with rent raises or eviction notices. Of the complaints of tenants which have come to light—and they number in the thousands—rent increase demands range from 10 per cent to 500 per cent. The average of increases reported to the Tenants League of America is 77 per cent.

HOUSING GOUGE Undoubtedly there are many more thousands of tenants who have been presented with higher rents. With the acute housing shortage, many tenants submit without complaint in order to even have a place to live. Particularly hard hit by greedy real estate owners are Negroes in Chicago's South Side, where, according to The Defender, rent raises are ranging consistently from 10 per cent to 300 per cent for filthy kitchenette apartments.

In the face of the demands of the landlords, the head of the Tenants League, Professor McCarey, has advised tenants to "sit tight." According to the law, says the professor, a tenant cannot be evicted for thirty days after given notice. We will tie up the landlords by bringing all these cases to court, and while the landlords are involved in court litigation, the tenant can keep his home.

But "advice" such as this is nonsense. The expense and difficulty for most tenants in having an attorney take their cases is practically prohibitive. Caught between gouging profiteers and an absolute zero in housing facilities, the way out for tenants will have to be much more drastic.

Attempts have been made by the CIO and AFL to get Republican Governor Green of Illinois to put a ceiling on rents until a new OPA is passed. Miserable two-bit politician that he is, Green answered that he has "no power to act." Why he has no power, nobody knows.

Appeals to Governor Green and Mayor Kelly for action are futile. Both sets of politicians, the Republican and the Democrat, are stooges for the very groups they are petitioned to act against.

AFL AND CIO ACTIONS In an attempt to arouse the public against the inflationary spiral, the Chicago CIO Industrial Union Council has issued a hundred thousand pamphlets urging "effective price and rent control." The AVC and AMVET have demanded state legislation for control of prices and rents. One AVC unit in Chicago passed a resolution pledging its members to "purchase nothing but absolute necessities un-

til... price and rent controls are restored and fully implemented." But measures such as these are far from adequate and will prove to be ineffective. The unions, veterans' committees and all progressive organizations must take up the challenge and ORGANIZE for price control.

Prices must be controlled by the groups which are affected by price increases, which means the masses of people. In the case of rents, neighborhood and housewives' committees should be formed to carry on demonstrations against rent raises and eviction notices, and where necessary conduct rent strikes.

Akron

By GEORGE WHITNEY AKRON, July 4—Both the CIO and the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen here have served notice on the City Council that if effective controls on prices, especially rents, are not immediately enacted they will call a buyers' strike. Paul M. Fessenden, Secretary of the CIO Council, reported on July 1 that he already had 100 complaints in his office against exorbitant rent increases. At the same time the OPA office reported they had 17 such complaints. This is some indication of who the working people of Akron are looking to for effective aid in their struggle against the skyrocketing of rents and prices.

On Monday a committee from the Council met with the Mayor of Ak-

ron and on Tuesday, representatives of the CIO Council appeared before the City Council to make known the stand of organized labor on inflation. While this is going on in Akron, Walter Reuther of the UAW has served notice on all industry that wage negotiations will be reopened whether the contracts provide for a reopening at this time or not. He is further reported to have said, "We've got to see to it that wage increases are not reflected in higher costs." This is another way of stating the General Motors strikers' demand, "A raise in wages without an increase in prices."

Whether Reuther knows what he is talking about or not, to say we have to see to it that these prices are not increased and wage raises voided thereby, means that we, the Labor Movement, must control those prices. It means that workers' and housewives' committees must be organized in the neighborhoods.

And finally, as LABOR ACTION has said previously it means that this effort must be coordinated on a nationwide scale by the labor movement with workers' control of prices and nationalization of such industries as the food industry under workers' control. Then we will see something other than this blithe dismissal of the demands of the working class by the yachting club in Washington.

San Francisco

By DEAN MILLER SAN FRANCISCO, July 7 — The growing disparity between rising prices and fixed wages was highlighted in the recent truce between San Francisco street car and bus operators and the city government in the four-day transportation tie-up here. After rejecting a 12 1/2 to 17 1/2 cent raise as inadequate and demand-

ing a 27 1/2 to 32 1/2 cent raise, the drivers have settled for amending the wage-fixing city charter in the next election so they will receive 26 1/2 and 31 1/2 cents per hour more. The first offer was their award for this year and, according to the city charter, they are not entitled to another raise until July 1, 1947. Mayor Lapham very correctly called it a strike against the city charter. He was incorrect, however, when he said that it "is foredoomed to failure because it is a strike against law and order."

Although the city's entire police force—including 124 automobiles, 88 motorcycles and 45 horses—were alerted and police protection and escort was promised to scabs, not a single car or bus ran.

The Mayor thought it very strange when the strikers asked him to use his emergency powers and grant them a raise. He had done this last year when the city bought out a private car line, but declared that his emergency powers were not for man-made emergencies such as this strike. The Mayor recently raised the carfare in S. F. from 7 to 10 cents, but this is to be used to pay the outrageous rate of four per cent interest on a city debt, but not for higher wages for the city employees.

The rank and file of both AFL and CIO transportation workers' unions showed great solidarity on the picket lines and in joint meetings. The AFL membership twice booed down their leaders, who were trying to prevent united action, and once walked out on the pick-cards and called a joint meeting of the two unions. The street car workers realize the need for one union and are fighting their bureaucratic leadership's attempts to start AFL and CIO warfare.

Even though the raise is to be retroactive, if approved by the ballot in November, the workers are wondering if it will be sufficient now that the lid is off prices and the cost of living is zooming.

UAW Fight on Inflation - -

(Continued from page 1) emerging from Congress was endorsed by this UAW gathering.

3. The basic feature of the original GM strike program, the demand for higher wages without price increases, was endorsed again, and Reuther's warning to the auto industry that all UAW contracts were subject to immediate cancellation if the inflation continues was cheered by the delegates.

Already, a delegate conference from all Chrysler locals in the country convenes on July 9 to adopt a program of re-opening wage negotiations, and the entire contract.

PROPOSE RENT STRIKES 4. Organization of rent strikes to battle skyrocketing increases was urged, and the UAW-CIO pledged that its famous flying squadrons, veterans of many picket line struggles, would be revived and extended to act in the forefront of struggles to prevent evictions.

5. Buyers strikes as a technique to keep specific prices down were approved, and the UAW-CIO called upon veterans organizations, civic groups, consumers associations, and Negro organizations to cooperate in planning joint campaigns around this fight.

These basic ideas introduced by Reuther met with no opposition at the conference. They represent a program calculated not only to put labor in the leadership of the fight against inflation, which is aimed directly at the living standards of the working class, but also to mobilize the sympathy and direct support of the small shopkeepers, the professional classes, and every other strata of so-

ciety except the Wall Street rulers of America who are the direct beneficiaries of inflation.

UAW AS SPEARHEAD The fact that a representative gathering of one of the CIO's largest and most powerful unions endorsed the call for a political strike, a 24-hour protest walkout against Congress, indicates the new stage of struggle arising in America, and once more affirms the UAW-CIO as the spearhead of the American labor movement.

The campaign to get a conference of the CIO, AFL, and the Railroad Brotherhoods initiated by Reuther, and about which Murray has been silent thus far, is winning wider support in the labor movement. The actual realization of these two proposals alone would give a powerful impetus and drive to labor's struggle against inflation.

On the vital wage question, there are few auto workers left, even Reuther's factional opponents like the Stalinists, who challenge openly the Reuther view that labor must get higher wages without price increases, that wage increases must come from profits, and not be passed on to consumers. The re-opening of the Chrysler contract is the first fresh test of the UAW leadership in carrying out the GM strike program.

In the great post-war strike wave, the GM workers alone were the torch bearers for this sound idea, and they were left stranded when the CIO, under Murray's leadership, signed contracts for wage increases which also assured the bosses of price increases and even greater profits, as in the steel industry.

The tragic cost to organized labor—

seen in the inflationary trend—for not standing by the GM program, is felt by every worker. The scuttling of the OPA was the last straw in this chain of events that threatens to break labor's back.

In the coming struggle against inflation, the UAW-CIO must not be left alone. Its program must be the guide to action to every union man, and his organization in America. It can become the rallying force for all the people against Wall Street, the war profiteers who are now the peace profiteers, and their agency, Congress and the Truman Administration. In this connection it is important to remember that the UAW-GM Program had a long range purpose. It was not confined merely to the specific GM strike, but had in mind a more or less permanent strategy. Together with the UAW-GM program, the present five-point program would make the fight of the auto workers as well as the whole labor movement that much more significant.

The fact that the five-point program lacks one essential addition in no way should keep union militants from fighting wholeheartedly and ardently for the five-point program. This addition—the drawing of the political lesson of the crisis in America—the calling for labor to break with the parties of its class enemy, and to form its own party, can be made by union militants in the course of the struggle. Out of the experiences of the struggle, and the patient teaching and advocacy by revolutionary socialists and union militants of the idea of a labor party can grow a solid movement for labor's participation in the political struggle on an independent class basis.

"Third Party" - -

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making some concessions to the working class even if at the expense of a few stubborn and more reactionary businessmen. This then is the purpose of all who call for a third party including all progressives and who do not present a working class program calculated to attract all sections of the laboring class and the middle classes.

"THIRD PARTY" NO GOOD Their talk about independent political action is merely a cover for those who want to set up a third party which will not seriously challenge private property and will not seriously mobilize the working class and middle class against the rule of the "300,000 stockholders" as Corey called them.

Such a party cannot solve the problems of the majority of the American people. Only an Independent Labor Party, based on the unions, with a working class program, which seeks to set up a workers government, can mobilize the whole working class movement and the middle classes in a struggle for a better society.

READ AND SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL

Seattle Meet Calls For Labor Party

SEATTLE—A demonstration of international labor solidarity was given here at a meeting sponsored by the Seattle Branch of the Workers Party and the Seattle Socialist Youth League at Independence Hall. Two Canadian speakers, representing the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation of Canada, joined Dave Morgan, member of the Seattle Branch of the Workers Party, in calling upon American labor to form a party of its own.

The two speakers from Canada—Bill Hartley, recent candidate for member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, and Bill Watts, British Columbia provincial organizer for the Cooperative Commonwealth Youth Movement—spoke of the gains Canadian labor has made by supporting an independent Labor Party. Hartley discussed trade union gains made in Saskatchewan, the province where the CCF constitutes the government, and Watts gave a description of the manner in which trade unions in Canada nominate their own candidates through the machinery of the CCF.

A lively discussion period followed, during which audience and speakers dealt mostly with just what type of new party is needed in America. The consensus of opinion was well expressed by Hartley, who felt that "What is needed is not just a third party, but a Labor Party."

Attacks on Labor's Right to Strike

Dear Editor: Most of the political columnists, the non-political columnists, brass-check artists, editorial writers ranging from extremely reactionary papers and magazines to so-called liberal sheets, have been baying like the hounds of the Baskervilles for legislation from Congress to impose restrictions on labor's right to strike.

Curiously enough, they all approach the problem from essentially the same angle. The unanimity is so universal it seems extremely unlikely that it came about by a coincidence. Their "angle" goes something like this gem I am quoting from Collier's editorial page of the July 6 issue: "The idea needs to be rooted out of American thinking (that there is an irreconcilable conflict between capital and labor) somehow and to be replaced by the far more constructive and productive idea that co-operation is essential, and that economic conflict is bad for labor, capital and consuming public alike."

All of these previously referred to

writers have also condemned the Wagner Act, demanded that legal recourse be part of contractual obligations, audits of union books, jurisdictional strikes, utilities, coal, railroad strikes, all of these things are the themes of their songs.

Those who are bold or incautious enough to offer "air-tight" methods of preventing strikes come up with Congress to impose restrictions on the same old gags which invariably lead to the same chestnut: "You have to get around a conference table after a strike to settle the details, why not do it before the strike and save all the money, inconvenience and violence which are the results of a strike?"

Then they advocate either of two plans, both of which are suicide to the living standards of the workers, arbitration of the labor board (conciliation service, umpire type of compulsory arbitration), or federal courts to have jurisdiction because everybody knows they are strictly impartial, etc.

Of course, every class-conscious worker, not to say socialist, knows that these boards and courts are NOT instruments of impartiality. So in order to offset the propaganda which reaches and appeals to the middle classes and the white collar workers, it is necessary for the press and organs of ALL workers' parties, trade unions and workers' organizations everywhere to direct a great deal of space to exposing these theories and plans for what they are, a cheat on the majority of Americans, the working class.

Yours for socialism, BUD HAYNES, Chicago.

Housewife Rebels On Price Gouge

Dear Editor: We housewives of America have for so long made the sacrifice in rationing our food supplies to aid our country during the war years. We would still gladly sacrifice each loaf of bread that we do not find on the shelves and each pound of meat that is denied us, if we could be assured that this food was reaching the starving people of Europe. But today, with the OPA on its death bed, with the black market flourishing both here and abroad, we are beginning to re-

bel. We know that the food is not reaching its announced destination. We know that our sacrifice, not only of food but of other more valuable "commodities" such as human lives, has been in vain. We know that we are the victims of scheming price racketeers and we should rebel!

We housewives should unite as a militant fighting group and see that prices are kept within reach of our pocketbooks. We must fight to maintain a decent standard of living, and we can do this! There have been isolated instances of women banding together and forcing corrupt store managers to observe existing OPA prices. We have had experience in helping our husbands fight in strikes for decent wages and working conditions and there is no reason why we cannot adopt the same tactics. It is our job to see that prices are kept at least proportionate to wages. We must form neighborhood committees to check food prices and keep the black market from getting a stranglehold on our pocketbooks.

I, as a housewife, would like to know if LABOR ACTION has any kind of a program that would help the women, "America's buying pow-

er," in the fight against skyrocketing prices. What I mean is, could you devote a small column to spur the women on to more active participation in the fight for a decent world?

H. D., San Pedro.

Chicago Action on Price Problems

Dear Editor: Climaxing a series of rallies held in protest against the abolition of OPA and price control in various parks and public squares throughout this city, several thousand people were attracted last week by a meeting held on one of the busiest streets in the world, right in the heart of Chicago's downtown "Loop" district.

Although predominantly run by such Stalinist front organizations as the AYD and Win the Peace Committee and Stalinist-dominated unions, the issues were broad enough to get the support of liberal organizations as the AVC and Independent Citizens Comm.

M. YOUNG.

With the Workers Party

- AKRON For information, write to Bill Ford, Box 221, Akron, Ohio.
BOSTON LABOR ACTION Educational Forum, Otisfield Hall, Dorchester, Mass. Wednesday—8 P. M.
BUFFALO HEADQUARTERS at 639 Main St.
CHICAGO LABOR ACTION, 1703 West Madison St., Room 3, Chicago 12. Telephone: CHEAPEAKE 5798. Office hours: 3-5:30 p.m., daily, except Sundays, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.
DETROIT HEADQUARTERS: 3773 Gratiot (at Mt. Elliott).
LOS ANGELES New office now at Cooperative Center, 4203 So. Hoover, Los Angeles. New program of classes starting soon. Sunday evening, July 21—Albert Goldman speaks on "Why We Joined the Workers Party," at Cooperative Center. Sunday, July 14—Picnic at Elysian Park. Get in touch with office for details.
NEWARK LABOR ACTION HEADQUARTERS Newark at 248 Market St. Friday, July 19, at 8:30—Robert Shaw speaks on "The Imperialist Peace Conference." Admission: 10c. Friday, July 26, at 8:30—Albert Gates, Anne Gordon, "The Fight for Jewish Freedom." Both at Labor Action Hall, 248 Market Street.
NEW YORK CITY CITY OFFICE—114 West 14th St.—open all day until 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays—open until 10 p.m.
HARLEM BRANCH 2143 Seventh Ave., 2nd floor, Wednesday, July 17, 8:30 p.m. Meeting on price situation.
DOWNTOWN BRANCH Labor Temple, 242 East 14th Street, near Second Ave., Wednesday, July 17, 8:30 p.m. Meeting on price situation.
YORKVILLE BRANCH Rand's Harlem Terrace, 210 East 104th St., Manhattan. "The Price Crisis." Thursday, July 18, 8:30 p.m. Speakers: Irving Howe, Eleanor Mason.
BEACH PARTY Sunday, July 14, we will have a city-wide beach party at Jacob Riis Park, which is New York's nicest public beach, and the only one with all kinds of sports facilities—handball, baseball, etc. This is not a money-making scheme—it is just for the purpose of having the comrades get together at least once during the summer. Directions: Flatbush Avenue to last stop, Flatbush Avenue. Take bus to Jacob Riis Park. Walk to Beach No. 1, near the water. Beach No. 1 is at the left of the beach side exit of the bath house. Let's all come out—with wives, babes, babies, friends, etc.
PHILADELPHIA HEADQUARTERS, 1105 Walnut St.
For information of other Workers Party branches and LABOR ACTION offices, write to the National Office, 114 West 14th St., New York 11, N. Y.

SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE

The Socialist Youth League, youth section of the Workers Party, has youth units in the following cities: Manhattan, N. Y.; Brooklyn, N. Y.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Baltimore, Md.; Boston, Mass.; Detroit, Mich.; Chicago, Ill.; Cleveland, Ohio; Madison, Wis.; and Seattle, Wash. If you live in any of these cities and desire to attend the youth meetings, write to the Socialist Youth League, 114 West 14th Street, New York 11, N. Y.

Los Angeles Meeting: WHY WE JOINED THE WORKERS PARTY

The Struggle for the Unification of the American Trotskyist Movement Speaker: ALBERT GOLDMAN • Attorney for Leon Trotsky • Counsel for the 18 Defendants in the Minneapolis Case and also One of the Defendants • Former Member National Committee, Socialist Workers Party SUNDAY, JULY 21, AT 8:00 P. M. at the COOPERATIVE CENTER, 4203 SOUTH HOOPER One Block West of Figueroa

Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor...

**A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR**

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July 15, 1946

**EMANUEL GARRETT, Acting Editor**  
**ALBERT GATES, Editor**  
**MARY BELL, Ass't Editor**

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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 dependents 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.

**THESE AIMS TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH**

- 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.

**THIS PROGRAM TO BE CARRIED OUT BY**

- 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!

**Chicago Negro Home Bombed For Defying 'White Covenant'**

By PAUL NEWMAN  
CHICAGO, July 7.—The home of Mrs. Grace Hardy, a Negro woman who has been living in a "restrictive covenant" neighborhood, was bombed a second time this week. This is a repetition of the incident of May 1st, when she was severely burned by bombs thrown into her home by a gang of hoodlums.

Broad united front action is planned here to protest the violence which has broken out against Negroes in the South Side, of which the bombing of the home of Mrs. Hardy is but one incident. The organizations preparing action include the NAACP, the CORE (Committee on Racial Relations), the Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination, the Urban League, the CIO Industrial Council, the Workers Party and the Socialist Workers Party.

On the night of May 1st of this year, Mrs. Hardy was burned by an incendiary bomb thrown through her window at 315 W. Garfield Blvd. This was not known until six weeks after the bombing. Then the story was carried in Chicago only by the Negro papers, such as the *Crusader* and the *Defender*. To this day, the official capitalist press, including the "liberal" *Chicago Sun*, has kept complete silence on the matter.

**TWENTY-SEVEN INCIDENTS**

The bombing of Mrs. Hardy's home is only one of twenty-seven such terrorist acts against Negroes in the last eighteen months, according to Henry McGee, president of the Chicago NAACP. In a vast majority of these cases, the police of the corrupt Kelly machine have not even attempted to apprehend the criminals. In the Hardy case, the matter received a routine report and was buried in the police files with no attempt at investigation. Despite the fact that the Hardy home has been placed under "police protection" after the expose, the house was bombed a second time this week.

These violent measures, taking place under the eyes of the police are meted out to Negroes who "dare" to cross the color line of the "black ghetto" on Chicago's south side. Behind the criminal acts appear to be the real estate associations who don't hesitate to resort to violence if their "restrictive covenants" fail to keep Negroes hemmed in the ghetto.

Already racial tension is mounting rapidly. Last week, a few days after the second bombing of the Hardy home, the *Chicago Defender* reported

that a mob of two thousand attacked the residence of Dr. Eugene Cooper, a Negro, in an attempt to force him out of a "restrictive covenant" community. The attack followed a meeting in the Park Manor Congregational Church protesting the Cooper family's residence in a white community.

It is in situations such as these that the hate-mongering fascists raise their ugly heads. They will seize upon every opportunity to create bigger

and more horrible pogroms against the Negro people. The "restrictive covenants" must be smashed, and along with them, before they get started, the fascist demagogues. This can be done only by militant and concerted action on the part of Negro organizations, the labor movement, and the working class political parties. United Front action about to be called, is a splendid step in that direction in which we of the Workers Party are glad to participate.

**The Struggle For Freedom In Palestine**

By AL FINDLEY

As a direct result of the arrest of all Jewish leaders in Palestine, the Jewish Resistance Movement (Hagana) and the Histadruth (Jewish Labor Federation) have declared complete non-cooperation with the existing government in Palestine. This passive resistance will apply to taxes, work-stoppages by civil service employees and similar acts.

Several weeks ago, the Hagana made public a secret British document, which outlined a plan to crush and disarm the Jewish resistance movement. According to the document, the British were to arrest 5,000 key men, raid and search every village and smash the Jewish Agency. The publication of this document did not deter the British. Already 3,000 people have been arrested and the events of the last few weeks have been used as an excuse to put into effect previously formulated plans. The British imperialists are showing their hypocrisy by putting the blame on "terrorists."

British troops, who after the war numbered two divisions and now total about four divisions, are continually being strengthened by the men and arms being evacuated from Egypt. There is at least one thing Arabs and Jews and neutrals agree upon—i.e., that the British have more than enough military force in Palestine to cope with large-scale fighting.

While the main body of Jewish resistance has begun the passive resistance, the terrorist Irgun Zvai Leumi, although semi-fascist, has raised the slogan of IMMEDIATE independence, the creation of a government and the raising of an army. The new Arab Higher Committee is threatening the creation of a Palestine government in exile and the raising of an Arab Legion, which will no doubt have the support of the reactionary Arab League.

**ONE-SIDED SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEM**

Both the Irgun and the Arab Higher Committee propose to form what is in effect an exclusively one-sided "national" government for Palestine. Neither group represents even a majority of the national communities they claim to act for. The Irgun is but a small fraction of the Jewish population, which is overwhelmingly enrolled in Hagana. The Arab Higher Committee is so weak that it can get support for a general strike of Arabs only by calling it on Friday—a traditional Arab day of rest.

The Irgun Zvai Leumi wants to substitute Jewish national MINORITY rule for British imperialist rule. The Hagana and the Histadruth, in typical reformist fashion, are afraid of a definitive struggle against imperialism. The Histadruth, a powerful labor movement, and in position to lead large groups of Arab workers, should take the lead in an irreconcilable fight against British imperialism. This will only be done if and when there is really a revolutionary party in Palestine to lead the workers.

A struggle for a Free Palestine can only be successful if it involves the entire population—Arab and Jewish, based on a program of complete national rights for both groups. The major demands of immediate calling of a constituent assembly based on free, universal suffrage and linked with the democratic rights of free immigration to Palestine and the guarantee of national rights to the Jews and the Arabs must be the cornerstones on which such a program can be built.

In the meantime, the world-wide struggle of the Jewish people for the opening of the doors of Palestine continues. In the United States mass demonstrations were called and a veterans' march on Washington is scheduled. In Poland a general strike has been called. In the concentration camps of the Allied armies in Germany, Austria, etc., one-day hunger strikes took place.

President Truman, spokesman of American dollar imperialism, in his desire to get an American finger in the Near East oil pool and in his desire to head off a demand for the opening of the doors of the U. S., again requests the admission of 100,000 Jews to Palestine and pledges financial and technical assistance of the U. S. in moving the 100,000.

The Workers Party wholeheartedly supports the demand for the admission of at least 100,000 Jews to Palestine. We also demand the admission of a greater number (as many as want to come) into this, the richest country of the world. Three hundred thousand Jews are homeless, most of them languish in displaced persons' and concentration camps. We cannot be silent to their sorrow and woe.

**Antoinette Konikow**

It is with deep sorrow that LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party announce the sudden death of comrade Antoinette Konikow of Boston, an honorary member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party and for fifty-eight years an active participant in the revolutionary socialist movement.



ANTOINETTE KONIKOW

Memorial services were held in Boston and attended by old friends and comrades. The ceremonies were quite simple. Representatives of the SWP and Saul Friedman, in behalf of the Workmen's Circle, spoke at the services.

Comrade Konikow's participation in the revolutionary socialist movement covered a wide span of years. In 1888, she joined the Social Democratic Party of Russia. In the United States, she was a member of the Socialist Labor Party, the Socialist Party and the Communist Party. During the many struggles which took place in those organizations, Antoinette Konikow was found on the side of the left wing, those groupings which adhered to the revolutionary principles of Marxism. She was one of the earliest members of the Trotskyist movement in the United States.

On the occasion of her fiftieth anniversary in the socialist movement, which coincided with the founding of the 4th International, comrade Konikow wrote:

"I saw the beginning of the Second International and its fall. I saw the beginning of the Third International and its fall. Now together we launch the Fourth International which will accomplish the tasks betrayed by the Second and the Third."

**Workers Party Candidates - -**

(Continued from page 1)  
socialist congressmen on November 5. The full membership and the full resources of the Workers Party in New York City will be mobilized beginning the third week in July to get the thousands of signatures necessary to file the Independent Nominating Petitions on September 2nd to place Max Schachtman and Ernest Rice McKinney on the ballot.

But the efforts of the Workers Party membership will not be enough. The support of thousands of advanced and militant workers who are not members of the party but who are sympathetic to the aims of the party and of our two candidates will also be required to get the Workers Party on the ballot. Petitions will be mailed to all subscribers to LABOR ACTION living in these two Congressional Districts to enlist their aid and cooperation in the campaign. As the campaign develops they will also be asked to help in the various other tasks of the election campaign.

In addition, the New York Local of the Workers Party has approached the New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party for united action in the election campaign. The Workers Party feels that both of these parties which represent the only revolutionary socialist point of view in the elections should support each other's candidates in spite of the fact that the parties differ on such issues as the nature of the Russian state, and the attitude of revolutionists toward the

democratic revolutions and movements in Europe. The Workers Party feels that the two should present a united face against the forces of Tammanyism, Republicanism and Stalinism in the New York elections.

In a letter received last week, however, from the New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party, this request for united action in the elections was refused. The letters of the Workers Party and the Socialist Workers Party are reprinted elsewhere in this issue.

**An Exchange of Letters**

June 17, 1946

Local New York, Organizer  
Socialist Workers Party  
116 University Place  
New York City  
Dear Comrade:

Both the Socialist Workers Party and the Workers Party have in the past elections run candidates for Mayor or for Representatives to Congress, or for City Councilman. We are planning a campaign once again and we feel that it would be a tragic error for the SWP and the WP to compete for the same office.

The workers of New York have a right to vote for revolutionary socialism as a tendency in the elections—and against Stalinism, Tammanyism, Norman Thomasism, etc.

We are thinking specifically of arrangements whereby a representative or representatives of your organization can meet with a representative or representatives of our organization. At such a meeting we can discuss plans to avoid competing candidates and explore the possibility of presenting the program of revolutionary socialism as against the programs of the Stalinists, reformists and capitalist parties and related questions.

Please communicate with us at your earliest convenience.

Comradely yours,  
PAUL BERN, Organizer,  
Local New York.

July 2, 1946

Local New York, Organizer  
Workers Party  
114 West 14th Street  
Dear Comrade:

We have received your letter of June 17th, 1946. The Socialist Workers Party is entering a slate of candidates for the following positions in the 1946 New York gubernatorial elections: Governor, Lieut.-Governor, Comptroller, Attorney-General, and U. S. Senator. We trust this information will be helpful for you in determining your position in the coming elections.

We wish to inform you also that it is contrary to the policy of the SWP to enter any united fronts for propaganda purposes. This excludes the possibility of a joint election campaign.

Fraternally yours,  
GEORGE CLARKE, Organizer,  
Local New York.

**Why Nothing About Congressman May?**

Our readers may wonder why this issue of LABOR ACTION prints nothing about Congressman May, who has been exposed as connected with a war profiteering corporation, in whose behalf he used his office. The answer is: lack of space. We wanted to give as much space as possible to the price situation. But next week there will be a complete story. And once we get around to that eight-pager on August 5, the problem will be solved. So get a sub for LABOR ACTION and help insure the eight-pager.

**Editorials**

**On Philippine "Independence"**

On July 4, 1946, the independent Philippine Republic was proclaimed. This act was meant to be the living proof of the generosity of Uncle Sam, but to those who know the situation in the Philippines, it is a hollow mockery.

By every important standard the Philippines today remain under the complete domination of the United States. American capital is guaranteed by law equal treatment with native capital. Since the native capitalists do not have at their disposal the huge sources of wealth or the technical resources of the big American combines, this "equality" really means the right for the Americans to retain their dominant position in the island economy, and to keep out any foreign competition.

At the same time the sugar interests in the Philippines, both American and Filipino, are given preferential tariff arrangements so that they can compete successfully with foreign exporters of sugar located very close to the U. S. such as Cuba. This preferential treatment helps to appease the big Filipino landowners. It does not, however, sat-

isfy in any way the masses of tenants and sharecroppers on the rice plantations, who are interested only in an economic set-up that will guarantee their own bowl of rice, and who are not helped in any way by the favors extended to export industries like sugar.

We must understand, however, in dealing with Filipino independence, that the question of armed force is paramount in determining the matters of the country; and an examination of the question from this standpoint immediately cuts the ground from under the feet of all the apologists for American imperialism. The "independent" Philippines remain under American military and naval occupation permanently. In fact, the Filipinos have no air or naval arms of their own, but will train their own constabulary, to suppress the radical peasant movement of Central Luzon, the so-called "Huks."

Was there ever an "independent" country like this in the world before?

**The Death of Ta-Tu-Thau**

News of the death of the famous Indo-Chinese revolutionary, Ta-Tu-Thau, has been reported in *The Militant*. According to word received from Indo-China, this heroic leader of the Indo-Chinese Trotskyist movement died recently somewhere in Cochin-China—a province of Indo-China—while actively participating in the revolutionary struggle for his country's independence from the French.

Ta-Tu-Thau had previously been reported to have died during the war, while in confinement in a French concentration camp set up for colonial oppositionists. In his loss, the colonial revolutionary movement suffers a great defeat.

As a young student in Paris, Ta-Tu-Thau first joined the revolutionary movement. Returning to his native country, he rapidly became a popular and active revolutionist, in the cause of Indo-China's freedom from French imperialism, and the establishment of a workers' and peasants' socialist society. As editor of *La Lutte*, newspaper of the

Indo-Chinese Trotskyists, he was elected to the municipal council of Saigon, his country's leading city. He received the greatest vote of any workers' candidate, and his name was known and revered by the Indo-Chinese working class.

In 1939, as an opponent of the war, Ta-Tu-Thau was arrested by the French authorities and thrown into jail. Since that moment until the news of his death at the hands of the same imperialist gangsters, no authentic news has been received concerning his activities.

The Trotskyist movement, and its sections in various countries, have already paid a heavy price for their activities against fascism, reaction and imperialism. Along with Comrades Trotsky, Leon Lesoil, Sneeveliet, Hic and innumerable others must now be added the name of one of our movement's finest colonial leaders—Ta-Tu-Thau. In the history of Indo-China's struggle for freedom, the memory of our comrade will be honored.

**YOU WILL WANT TO READ:**

**THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM**

(The Program and Principles of the Workers Party)

By MAX SHACHTMAN

176 PP. — ATTRACTIVELY BOUND — \$1.00

Order from: **LABOR ACTION BOOK SERVICE**

114 WEST 14TH STREET

NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

**A Boss's Dictionary**

**Tolerance:**



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# Stalinism Stands Exposed as an Inciter of Anti-Semitism in Europe and the Near East

By IRVING HOWE

Striking evidence has recently come from all parts of the world that the Stalinist parties have taken a position towards the Jewish question which, if not openly anti-Semitic, is certainly a dangerous kind of flirtation with that poisonous racial doctrine. Were each of these incidents taken alone, it might be brushed off; but together they form a pattern which cannot be considered a mere accident.

Here is the evidence on which we base these charges:

(1) Reports in the daily press this past week told of the harrowing story of a new pogrom in Poland. In the town of Kielce 23 Jews were murdered and many others injured. This pogrom, reminiscent of the worst days of Polish anti-Semitism, took place in a country ruled by a Stalinist-dominated government — and one, furthermore, in which there are hundreds of thousands of Russian army troops. Now it is impossible to say exactly who inspired these pogroms.

The Warsaw government charges that they were the work of the underground armies which remain loyal to the former government-in-exile. The latter in turn hint that the pogroms were the work of agents of the Warsaw government and of the Stalinist GPU, who deliberately provoked the pogroms in order to use them as a political weapon by blaming them on their opponents.

Both charges can well be true. There are numerous anti-Semites among the followers of General Anders, who is opposed to the Warsaw government. And it is possible that the pogroms were instigated by the Stalinists—that isn't incredible when one remembers the methods they have used in the past and in out of Russia: political gangsterism, terrorism, assassination, mass imprisonments and deportations.

### WHERE IS "RED" ARMY?

But one thing is clear: Poland is ruled by the so-called "Red" army. There are hundreds of thousands of Russian troops scattered through that country. These troops, with their GPU appendages, are remarkably efficient in smashing any attempt at independent proletarian political organization. The Russians, it will be remembered, kidnapped and murdered the two famous Polish Jewish Socialist leaders, Ehrlich and Alter.

We therefore ask: If the Russians were so efficient in persecuting socialists, if they were so efficient in persecuting dissidents, why are they so lax in stamping out anti-Semitism? The N. Y. Times reports that it is unsafe for Jews to live in the smaller Polish towns and villages. Why? Where is the "Red" army? Why can



it not afford protection to the few remaining Jews of Poland?

This much is certain. If the "Red" army were as vigilant in its attitude towards anti-Semitism as in its pursuit of dissident revolutionists, anti-Semitism could not exist in Poland. And that is a damning indictment of Stalinism!

(2) We ask you to read most carefully the statement of the leading French Stalinist journalist, Pierre Herve, printed in a box adjoining this article. This man writes a daily column in the French Stalinist paper, L'Humanité. He is a responsible spokesman for French Stalinism. If you read through the mass of verbiage in this statement, you see clearly the vicious anti-Semitism of this Stalinist leader. For what does it mean to insinuate that 80 per cent of the Trotskyist leaders are Jews? (What difference does it make what percentage are Jews? It's the policy that counts.) To say that is to indulge in the same kind of anti-Semitism which the American reactionaries indulge in when they accuse the Communists of being Jews.

We repeat: Pierre Herve is a leading responsible spokesman for French Stalinism. What he writes is no mere

quirk. How can the Stalinists explain this? What have they to say?

### ANTI-SEMITISM IN UKRAINE

(3) In an article in the Sunday Times, July 7, Brooks Atkinson, recently returned from Moscow, reports the presence of widespread anti-Semitism in the Ukraine. Let us grant that this anti-Semitism is not stimulated by the Stalin government. But if Atkinson's report is true, then what is one to say of the widespread Stalinist ballyhoo that they have effectively eliminated anti-Semitism from Russia? Surely the fact that there's a law against anti-Semitism in Russia is not important; there's a law granting free speech in Russia, and everyone knows how little of that there is! The Stalinist bureaucracy has not succeeded in eliminating anti-Semitism from among those whom it rules, despite its 20-year rule.

(4) In its July 8 issue, LABOR ACTION reported that at a session of the Refugee Committee of the United Nations a motion was introduced by the Lebanese delegate that would PREVENT Jewish immigration to Palestine. The Ukrainian delegate spoke for the motion and the entire bloc of Stalinist-dominated countries—Russia, Poland, Ukraine, White Russia, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia—voted for the motion.

What explanation do the Stalinists have for their scandalous behavior at the Refugee Committee of the United Nations?

The above are damning facts. But think of them against the background

## August 11 Ready Next Week

The August issue of The New Internationalist, to appear on sale in mid-July, offers an unusual group of articles on subjects dealing not only with the most pressing problems of the day, but of broader interest on the cultural and political issues of our times.

Featured will be another of James T. Farrell's articles. This time on The Problem of Public Sensibility, a review of the film Open City, which has aroused so much interest in New York.

Robert Stiller writes on The Politics of Psychoanalysis, dealing with the political implications of Freud's theories.

Introducing a new contributor, The New Internationalist publishes A. Rudzinski's Problems of the Polish Revolution. The writer is an old revolutionist from Poland who served in prison for his struggle against the government of the "Colonels" before the war. This is the first in a series of two articles. The September issue will

### The Voice of French Stalinism

"...I consider the assertion of Jewish particularism as nefarious. "...It is normal that, as a result of their situation, the Jews should be more receptive than others to the cosmopolitan which seems to be becoming the offensive ideal of a certain overseas mercantilism. To the extent that Jewish particularism detaches the French Jews from the interests of the Frenchmen taken as a whole and renders them more receptive to propaganda which might threaten our independence, I consider this a dangerous fact."

**"IS IT SACRILEGE TO ASK FOR WHAT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REASONS SUCH AND SUCH A PARTY HAS IN ITS LEADERSHIP A LARGER PROPORTION OF JEWS THAN THIS OR THAT OTHER PARTY?"**

**IS IT SACRILEGE TO ASK WHY 80 PER CENT OR MORE OF ALL TROTSKYIST AGITATORS ARE JEWS?"**

(Extract from an article by Pierre Herve, daily contributor of L'Humanité, published in the paper Fraternité, February 21, 1936.)

of previous Stalinist behavior on the Jewish question.

Remember the Stalinist refusal only a few years back to admit Jewish refugees from Hitler Germany.

Remember the references of Lombardo Toledano, Mexican Stalinist leader, to Leon Trotsky as the "Jew Trotsky."

Remember the fact that at the infamous Moscow Trials all defendants who were Jewish and who for reasons of revolutionary security had decades ago adopted pseudonyms, were then called by their original Jewish-sounding names.

Stalinist workers reading this article may recoil with indignation and say: "We are not anti-Semites; we hate anti-Semitism." That is true of course. The masses of workers who follow Stalinism are opposed to anti-Semitism.

But the above facts, all of them irrefutable, indicate that Stalinism is not above using or flirting with anti-Semitism when it is convenient for it. Every Stalinist worker owes it to himself to inquire about these matters, to insist upon an explanation from his leadership. These matters are too grave to be ignored.

feature his study of the role of Stalinist imperialism in Poland today.

Palestine is discussed in a polemical exchange between Albert Gates

and Leon Shields. Dealing with this urgent issue in the world today, the writers occupy themselves with the question of Self Determination and a Bi-National State.

### Supreme Court's New Chief Justice

Brother Fred Vinson has been nominated by that little man in the White House for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. When he was Director of Economic Stabilization in 1943, he overruled a wage increase that had been agreed on with the railroad workers by a Presidential Emergency Board. Now if a bill in any way favorable to labor should manage to slip through Congress, there's another judge who's a-sittin' up there on the Supreme Court bench to make sure that the mistake is "rectified."

Also included in the August New Internationalist is the continuation of Henry Judd's The Germanies; editorials on Truman's role in the railroad strike and its effect on labor's political policy; an analysis of the elections in France and the evaluation of the negotiations over the independence of India.

As can be seen from the list of these articles, The New Internationalist should be read this month and every other month for analyses of the world. No other magazine fulfills the same function of giving a Marxist analysis to domestic and current news. It is indispensable.

## Indian Trotskyists Hit British Plan - -

(Continued from page 1)

Secondly, this Constitution-making body does not even base itself on the masses. It is being set up over their heads. It is an assembly of the exploiting few with the exploited majority carefully shut out. Thirdly, this assembly has not even the right of making a Constitution. It can only draft a Constitution for the British Parliament's consideration. Imperialism has the last word.

Finally, and above all, imperialism holds its own in any event. The crux of the question lies in the adumbrated treaty. Its terms are unknown, but they are to be prepared by the British Government. Everything is subject to the acceptance of this treaty. And the treaty will be the instrument for safeguarding imperialism's essential interests.

What we shall have therefore is neither a Constituent Assembly nor even a constitution-making body. What is being set up is merely a constitution-drafting agency of British imperialism, working to imperialism's mandate and subject to imperialism's self-interested decisions. It is not even a fake Constituent Assembly for a fake transfer of power. It is a carefully designed instrument for negotiating the permanent framework of a long term imperialist-bourgeois-feudalist alliance.

Pending the long-term arrangement, an interim instrument is being fashioned. The viceroy's Executive Council is being re-constituted so as to provide imperialism with a popular facade. The viceroy's councillors may change, but the viceroy's powers remain intact. That is the stark truth which controversies about party and proportions are designed effectively to veil.

What then is the task before us in this situation? Plainly the defence of the mass movement against the developing offensive of the new imperialist-bourgeois-feudalist line-up. Hence it is that our party has put forward the following inter-related slogans:—

- DOWN WITH THE CABINET MISSION!**
- DOWN WITH THE COLLABORATIONIST PARTIES!**
- DOWN WITH THE FAKE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY!**
- ON WITH THE STRUGGLE FOR INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE!**

These are the central agitational slogans of the anti-imperialist struggle in its present phase.

## A-Bomb Test at Bikini Prelude to New War

By HENRY JUDD

The Bomb has been dropped; the Great Experiment is over, or at least, first part of the performance. No tidal waves or earthquakes occurred, and the world's climate seems to be about the same as before. In the ranks of the politicians, military and naval brass hats and assorted scientists a certain disappointment may be detected. The results SEEM to have been below expectations.

What about the Bikini experiment? What did it prove, if anything? The first thing it proved is that our Government, along with its military experts, is more than ever anxious to keep concealed the truth about atomic warfare. Despite the terrific ballyhoo built up around the Bikini event, who among us except those really in the know, is aware of what actually happened, exactly how effective the Bomb was? The entire matter has been kept in secrecy except for those items the Navy and War Departments publish.

Every official and brass hat involved has extracted from the experiment just what he wanted to extract, and no more. All of them, therefore, are blind or hypocritical so far as the real

meaning of Bikini is concerned. The brass hat General who represented the Army at Bikini is more than satisfied with the results. He would be. The Army wants more and better atomic Bombs in its preparations for the next war. It is hot for atomic warfare.

### WHAT THE ADMIRAL SAW

The Navy Admiral who ran the works—a pompous gentleman named Blandy—blandly informed his vast radio audience that the experiment had "proven" that the day of airplane carriers and navies was not over! This a few moments after one lone bomb had sunk, capsized and badly damaged a good many strongly-built battleships of various types!

The scientists present exhibited the usual confusion that prevails among these distinguished gentlemen, particularly on the subject of their invention. All agreed that their Bomb was an awe-inspiring weapon and that people had better keep out of its way.

As for the politicians and foreign representatives present (at a safe distance), all were "disappointed" at the "show." The death-filled cloud of gamma rays wasn't big enough; the noise not loud enough; the flash-colors not glamorous enough. The Russian representative thought it looked like just another big bomb (and Russia has plenty of those). Not a one seemed a bit concerned about what was going on, insofar as it might affect the masses of people in a future war. They were exclusively concerned with (a) self-interest and entertainment derived from the spectacle; (b) the possible military-strategic value of the Bomb.

### BOMB A TERRIFIC WEAPON

But let nobody kid himself. The Bomb dropped at Bikini was no fraud or fake, in its terrifying powers. Dropped on cities like Hiroshima or Nagasaki, it would have spread the same toll of death and destruction over huge areas as did the two previous Bombs.

Consider just one fact admitted by a scientist present at Bikini: Every sailor on board any of the ships at Bikini would be dead—either from fire, blast result, or explosion; or would be dying from exposure to the gamma rays. The fleet, in a word, would have been put out of action completely—by one Bomb! What more need be said?

The political significance of Bikini is tremendous. How else can it be understood except as a threat and warning to the one great rival of American imperialism still remaining—Stalin's Russian imperialism. The Bikini experiment was an experiment for war, both politically and militarily, and as such it must be understood.

### Philly Party Holds Picnic

The Philadelphia Local of the Workers Party opened its summer program of activity Sunday, June 30, with a gala picnic at which some seventy members and friends were in attendance.

The day was spent in swimming, singing, playing ball, eating and exchanging experiences with the many friends of the organization who were present—some of whom had come from nearby Reading and Baltimore. The day was concluded by a brief talk by Jim Fenwick, organizer of the Philadelphia Local, who explained the aims of the Workers Party, taking as his point of departure the Bikini atom bomb tests, which were being conducted as the picnic was in progress.

## Manifesto of the Workers Party on Price Control - -

(Continued from page 1)

militant United Automobile Workers Union, is moving into action against the chaos on the home front. But it is moving far too slowly, too confusedly and too one-sidedly.

### THE UAW PROGRAM

In recent conferences, the UAW has adopted a five-point program to fight against price increases. This program calls for:

1. Establishment of flying squadrons to halt evictions.
2. A buyers' strike against marked-up goods.
3. Demonstrations of workers, veterans, consumer organizations against price increases.
4. A national protest labor holiday.
5. A united labor conference of all unions to work out a plan of action to restore price control.

This program is a good, fighting program as far as it goes. It can serve as a program for the whole labor movement and the trade union organizations should put the whole force of the working class in a fight to achieve this program. But the program does not go far enough. Its main weakness is that it does not touch the heart of the problem: control and policing of prices at their source, in the factories where goods are produced. It is there that price rises originate as a rule, and from there they are passed on through the middlemen, the retailers and other distributors to the people.

Here is what can and should be done in this war between the people and the capitalist profiteers:

### LABOR CONTROL OF PRICES

1. Set up committees of workers in the shops, the mills, the mines, in organized as well as unorganized enterprises to control and police prices at their source. This should be done in every great field of production, steel, auto, rubber, packing house, food processing, etc. Here is the source for the rise in prices. It is not the small storekeeper, the grocer, the butcher and egg store, the little dry goods store who initiate price increases. They are as much the victim of big business as the worker. They are merely the final expression of the price rise. It is big capital, the monopolistic businesses, which are the source of the increase of prices and the ones which reap the big profits.

How can such control be achieved? There is a way and this was clearly shown in the GM strike. The program of the UAW in that strike, which has been referred to as the "GM program," offered such a way. That program called for wage increases with no increase in prices. It sought to write this demand into a contract with the company and to establish price control through the worker in the plant and the union, to supervise such price control in the same way that all other elements of the union contract are supervised.

This kind of program has to be the program of all unions in order to control and police prices at their source. Let the unions set up popular price committees in all factories!

These popular price control committees can and should encompass all other democratic popular organizations, housewives, tenants, consumer and small farmer organizations which can control and police prices at their stations of distribution.

No program, no matter how radical and militant it is, can solve the problem if it evades the paramount problem of the control of prices at their source.

### WAGE RAISES ESSENTIAL

2. In the struggle for an adjustment of wages to meet the price inflation engineered by the capitalist profiteers, the unions should include an escalator clause in all contracts which will guarantee an automatic and retroactive wage increase to meet any rise in the cost of living. Many unions, confronted with the economic peril which faces their members, have again raised the demand for an annual wage as a subsidiary demand to an automatic wage increase to meet the rising cost of living. The struggle for wages must be pressed with special vigor and on a national scale.

### CONSUMERS INTO ACTION

3. The labor movement should take the lead in organizing and mobilizing consumers' committees on price and rent control to join the fight of shop committees and thus fortify the labor front in the struggle against the profiteers. The organization of these committees would give strength to the proposal of the UAW for a buyers' strike and for work stoppages and would give the whole struggle against runaway prices a more rounded character. It would give more effectiveness to the struggle of the people to halt the rise in living costs and lift the wages of the workers to a new and higher level.

The organization of committees of workers in the shops and consumers, tenants, cooperatives and small farmers' committees can be done quickly and they can be mobilized swiftly for action. In this respect they are a thousand times more effective than a hundred campaigns for the restoration of OPA which takes time, and the thoroughly ineffective "telegram campaign" to congressmen. But even if it were possible to restore the OPA, experience has shown that it is no bar to price increases. Legislation is not enough. Legislation must be accompanied by mass action of the organized labor movement.

### SMASH THE RENT GOUGERS

4. Labor should take the lead in organizing the fight against runaway rents and evictions. The proposal of the UAW for the establishment of "flying squadrons" to picket houses where rents are raised, to put back evicted tenants, should be adopted by the whole labor movement. Mass action of the people is the only guarantee of an effective struggle against rent gougers and those real estate associations and landlords who are throwing the people into the streets.

### NATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

5. But all these measures can be effective only if they are part of a single national program and applied on a

nation-wide scale. The control and policing of prices is a national problem. To meet it a national program and mobilization of the people of the whole country is needed. The struggle for price control and security for the people cannot be achieved on a city, county or state scale.

Even the UAW program, when properly balanced and made complete, could not be effective despite the fact that this great organization exists in many cities and important industrial areas of the country. It needs to be given a truly national character.

Thus the demand of the UAW for a national labor conference of all labor, CIO, AFL, Railway Brotherhoods and independent unions is indispensable for beginning to meet the problem. Every militant and progressive worker must fight for this kind of conference, for the adoption of a militant program of action, otherwise the people will pay dearly for the present campaign of the capitalist profiteers and their political agents in Washington.

### NATIONALIZE THE INDUSTRIES

6. The above program represents a means of mobilizing the American working class in the general struggle for security and a living wage. But it is only part of the struggle. The machinery of industry and government is in the hands of the capitalists. This machinery for exploiting and cheating the people must be abolished. In order to begin, the fight against capital must be broadened. To get security for the workers, for all the people, it is necessary to nationalize the great industries of the country so that they will produce for the needs of the people rather than the profits of a handful of monopolistic capitalist profiteers.

What do the workers of this country need and want? Security and a living wage! A year-around job and a guaranteed annual wage! Goods necessary to the very existence of the people at prices which they are able to pay! A standard of living commensurate with the tremendous productive possibilities of America's vast industries.

That cannot and will not be achieved so long as the capitalist profiteers maintain a stranglehold on the great productive forces of the country. Industry should be nationalized and production carried on under the control of the workers through their unions. Then, and only then, would labor and all who work in order to live, begin to obtain those things necessary in order to live.

The war has shown what can be done in the way of production. The war demonstrated that it is possible to produce enough for all the people at prices which they are able to pay. Yes, the government proved that it could be done. It supplied the capital for the war industries. It built new industries. It supplied the raw material for production. It handed out all contracts. It set up all kinds of control and, in effect, regimented the economy.

The government did this for war, for destruction, for profits.

This same government made many promises to the workers and the people at large. It promised that, for

the great sacrifices which labor made in the war, at the expense of its own well-being and in the interests of excessive war profits for big business, labor would enjoy a higher standard of living after the war, reduced hours of work, higher wages and an abundance of goods.

The working men and women of this country got none of these. The organized workers had to fight bitterly for every wage increase won—wage increases which have long ago been eaten up by the tremendous rise in the cost of living. The unorganized workers, the workers in the South, the white collar workers and the agricultural laborers still receive substandard wages. The minimum wage bill which would raise minimum wages to 65 cents an hour is still kicked around in Congress by the same representatives who did not hesitate for a single moment to pass a bill returning taxes to profit-mad industrialists but who did prevent a decent housing bill and the FEPC from passing.

No, this government of the capitalists will not nationalize industry, will not assist the people by demanding and planning production on a scale to meet their needs at prices at which they can buy.

This is a government of strike-breakers and profiteers, a government of high prices, scarcity production—a government against the very interests of the people as a whole. But it was a government the capitalist could come to for relief. And that is what the profiteers got: relief from their government.

### WE HAVE TO FIGHT

To achieve the program outlined above, the workers need a party of their own, an independent Labor Party to fight for a program of the people against their exploiters.

Enough reliance upon capitalist politicians of the Republican and Democratic Parties, the parties of big business, the steel, auto and meat barons, the parties of the landlords and food profiteers, of the Southern bourgeois and lynchers!

Enough reliance on the PAC-endorsed "progressives" of the Republican and Democratic Parties who betray labor after each election!

Labor must take the lead in establishing a nationwide independent Labor Party as the first step in a break with the parties of the profiteers!

Labor must fight for the nationalization of industry under the control of the workers through their union and shop committees!

Labor must lead the fight for the establishment of a government of, for and by the workers, for a workers' government which can put into effect a program in the interests of the workers, of all the people, against the capitalist profiteers, a government which can and will respond to the needs and demands of the working class.

This is the sure way out of the catastrophe which faces the people of the United States.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORKERS PARTY.