

THE

CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

For Peace
Through
Socialism

We Won't
Die For
Boss Profits

JUNE 1, 1941

Monthly Organ of the Young People's Socialist League (Youth Section, Workers Party)

Price 2 Cents

F.D.R. SHOUTS WAR, BUT THE PEOPLE STILL WANT PEACE!

Youth Demands the Right to Vote on War; Let Us Determine Our Own Destiny!

President Roosevelt has cast the die which may determine the fate of an entire generation of American youth. In his speech of May 27, he made clear, for all who have eyes, that the Washington Administration is headed toward entering the European war on the side of British imperialism.

By declaring a state of "unlimited emergency," the President took the last pre-war step that could be taken without an open declaration of war. The President made clear that the burning wish of the overwhelming majority of the people to keep American youth out of the war will NOT be heeded by the Administration. Instead—as could be seen by the references to Greenland and Dakar—FDR has embarked on the ambitious project of attempting to rescue the tottering British Empire, even if that means sending American troops to every corner of the earth, as well as grabbing off something for American imperialism itself.

As a matter of fact, America is in the war in everything but name. According to the vague references in FDR's speech, American ships are already acting as scouting forces for the British navy; and new plans are being "perfected."

Roosevelt has tried to whitewash his drive to sacrifice American youth at the altar of imperialist profits by shouting about saving "democracy." He spent a large portion of his speech in describing—accurately and vividly—the horrors of Hitlerism.

But to speak of the war of Britain and America as being for "democracy" is so much eyewash. Great Britain is itself the largest imperialist power in the world, exploiting and domineering sections of the world in what can hardly be described as a "democratic" way. If Britain were really fighting for democracy, instead of its real motive: protection of its imperialist profits, then it would free its colonies, like India and the British-held sections of Africa, to prove that its banner is really that of freedom.

But nothing of the kind is true. Britain itself is largely responsible for the rise of the monster of Hitlerism. Hitlerism arose, in part, on the basis of a desperate reaction in Germany against the terrible conditions imposed on Germany after the last war by the Versailles treaty. The First Imperialist World War, which Britain won, laid the basis for both the rise of fascism and the appearance of the Second World War. It is the rotten, decaying system of capitalism, of which Britain was a main bulwark, that was the real source of both fascism and the war—and to smash either fascism or war you have to hit at their root, capitalism.

The fact that Britain and America are embarked on a "business war"—as Woodrow Wilson belatedly labeled the last one—can be seen by the failure of either to enunciate their war aims. They are asking the flower of their countries to sacrifice themselves in the war, and yet they refuse to tell them why they are fighting, what sort of world we can expect after the war. They cannot give any attractive war aims because they are fighting for the same old rotten status quo, the same old rotten capitalist system which has never given youth a chance and which offers them nothing but war and post-war misery.

President Roosevelt knows very well that the American people are against going into the war. Yet he proceeds step by step toward war entry. If this war is really democratic, WHY DOES'T FDR HEED THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE?

If this war is really democratic, WHY NOT DECIDE THE ISSUE OF WAR OR PEACE IN THE MOST DEMOCRATIC WAY—BY HOLDING A POPULAR WAR REFERENDUM IN WHICH EVERY CITIZEN CAN INDICATE HIS CHOICE!

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AYC Holds A Snooty Session

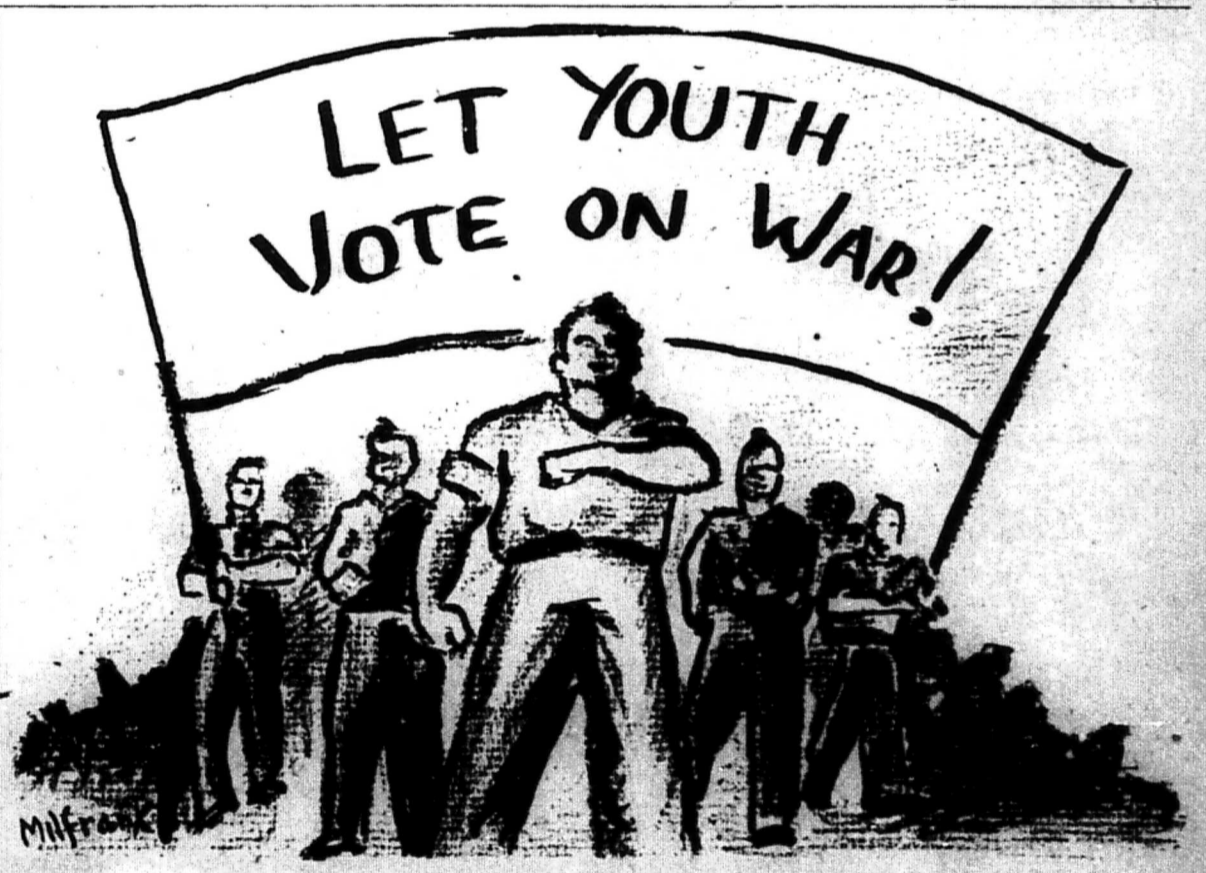
The American Youth Congress, the most ambitious of all Stalinist youth front organizations, announced its annual congress in Philadelphia over the July 4 week-end.

At the last "Town Hall" meeting of the Youth Congress in Washington in February, there arose considerable opposition to the Stalinist domination which had previously been unchallenged for a number of years. This opposition came from two sources: 1) a fairly large bloc

A member of the Young Communist League was asked why the Dean of Canterbury's book, which the Stalinists are selling as the "gospel" in the United States, is not circulated in Russia. The best answer he could find was that the Russian workers know how well off they are and don't enjoy reading about it.

of pro-Roosevelt, pro-war delegates led by the renegade Joe Lash, and

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Reich Workers Fight Hitler

By MILTON MILLER

"The chief criticism of the London broadcasts is, however, directed against the failure of the English to make known their objectives in this war."

This is the statement we find in a report from Berlin contained in the May issue of "Inside Germany Reports." (A bulletin issued by a sponsoring committee which includes noted isolationists and interventionists.) This statement is the key to an understanding of why the present British and American ruling class cannot defeat Hitlerism in the present war. They cannot give the mass of the German peo-

ple a perspective other than that announced by Anthony Eden who stated recently that "Germany must never again be permitted to disturb the peace of the world."

Somewhere in Britain—Rudolph Hess, the Nazi who dropped in for a social call to Britain, has been living rather well. Reports are that this great "idealist" has been eating some fancy chicken dinners. Not many of His Majesty's subjects have seen that item on the menu for some time.

The German people supported Hitler because they saw in him the concrete answer to the Versailles Treaty. In their memory is the record of years of starvation as a result of Germany's defeat in the last imperialist war and the burden placed upon them by British and French ruling class. That is why revolutionary socialists maintain that only a socialist program can win away the masses who follow Hitler today! A concrete examination of Germany today proves this to the hilt.

The controlled Nazi press gives very little indication of the real

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On the Youth Front

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE DEATH OF LOU GEHRIG

by IRVING HOWE

This department saw its first baseball game at the age of 14. We recall distinctly the thrill which we felt when Lou Gehrig hit two home runs during the game.

ing a picture of your first appearance in long pants—provokes a whole series of thoughts and memories. We think Lou Gehrig must have died contented. He had mastered the game he loved; he had become the idol of millions of youth who saw in him the perfect sportsman.

THE OTHER THOUSANDS OF GEHRIGS

Yet, think how many thousands and millions of Gehrigs, the perfection and cream of the youth of every country, the Gehrigs not only of sports but of all other fields of human activity, are today being wasted and murdered on the battlefields of the imperialist war.

something to look back at; he had done his part to make the world more livable. But the youth of the world—and who can say how many Gehrigs rot in unknown graves—have nothing to look back at or to look forward to.

There is something unutterably tragic about seeing the flower of English youth waste itself in murderous battles in the air and on the sea, the flower of German youth waste itself in the murderous legions of Hitler.

And once the war is over, what will be left? Only the old and the children. The old men to rot away; the children to be prepared to die in the Third World War of imperialism.

WHO CARES ABOUT OUR DREAMS?

The millions of boys who thrilled to the skill of Lou Gehrig are today being trained to fight in another war of business profit that will wreck them physically and psychologically.

leads them to be the Gehrigs of aviation, the Gehrigs of literature, the Gehrigs of architecture and of mechanics and of medicine—must take their destiny into their own hands and together with the working people of the country must build their own government of peace and freedom.

Report Shows Reich Workers Fighting Against Hitlerism

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situation. The bulletin cited above gives us some valuable information on conditions in Germany and the reaction of sections of the German workers.

Air Raid Problem

The problem of air raids is a vital one in Germany just as it is in Britain. The bulletin states: "In Bremen... the people, finding little protection in the air raid shelters, have become nervous. The workers are... apathetic and embittered. Perhaps nowhere is the desire for peace so strong as in this part of northern Germany."

In the Ruhr and in the Rhineland, we find the following: "The psychological effect of the air raids seems to be more important than the material effect... Working capacity is steadily sinking in the Krupp works as well as the coal mines. The prescribed quota of coal is not being filled despite Sunday work."

In Berlin: "It is common knowledge that a number of people have been killed in air raid shelters... The Gestapo prevents people from gathering near devastated areas."

Other reports indicate that Stuka pilots are sent to insane asylums with nervous breakdowns and equilibrium disturbances. A letter from Vienna confirms this, stating that Austrian old people's homes are being vacated along with insane asylums and sanatoria in order to make room for Stuka airmen.

But more revealing is the comment on the problem of food price. "It has become an open secret that practically everything can be had for money." The workers complain about the food situation. "Unskilled workers in the Siemens Electrical Works complain that they cannot even afford the necessities still available in the legal market. Fear of inflation has reached a new high."

plutocrats at the same time that Goering and other Nazi leaders live lives of luxury. It is also well known that the night life of the richly equipped air raid shelters in the big Berlin hotels can compare with that of any hotel in London.

A report from a letter from a worker in the Deutz Motor Works near Cologne shows that the German worker still strikes for his rights. "In our plant some workers discovered a spy who had denounced several people to the Gestapo. He was badly beaten up, so badly that he died... Three Gestapo officers arrived to investigate. They were threatened by the workers and called a detachment of SS men to help... The workers demanded that the troops withdraw... when refused they struck... A few hours later an officer arrived by plane from Berlin and declared that Goering had ordered the investigation called off... The SS men withdrew... the workers went back to work."

The German workers suffer as a result of the war. They eagerly follow the foreign broadcasts. So afraid is Hitler of letting the German people hear foreign broadcasts that the penalty meted out is now twice as severe as formerly. The German press has resumed publication of sentences against people found guilty of this "bad habit."

These details gleaned from reports from Germany reveal that the German workers resent the imperialist plans of their ruling class. They eagerly follow the reports they get from the outside. They can be given a goal and an incentive to take up a real struggle against Hitler only if they see how the workers in other lands who have similar problems answer them with the strength of their labor organizations. Only a socialist struggle against Hitler can disaffect his troops and the workers of Germany. That is why our war aim is the Socialist United States of the World.

Your Diploma

This Certifies that you have hereby completed the course prescribed to prepare you to join the ranks of the locked-out generation of American youth in a fruitless search for security.

After having spent twelve years of your life absorbing all the distortions "taught" by our schools, you are now equipped with enough illusions and false hopes to carry you through years of weary searching for security. This is your real lot in the mythical land of opportunity where a meteoric rise from shoe string to millions is a daily occurrence.

We are confident, Young America, that on learning that there are no more shoe strings to be had and that all the millions have been filched by us, you will maintain your faith in the "American Way." We are confident that the hatred which we have nourished in you for all "radical" ideas will keep you away from those un-American thoughts of Youth Want Jobs, Let the People Vote on War, or This is a Bosses' War, Not the People's.

Should you approach the hour when your illusions are dispelled, we offer you another alternative. We have a place for you, a real job. In our Army, you have a real task—to defend our Imperialist investments, to fill the graves of countless unknown soldiers. We offer you a Crusade for Democracy and the promise of a new Versailles Treaty. The greatest triumph of "Americanism" is on the altar of profits and business. This is your Destiny.

Your Masters, The Bankers and Bosses.

Reviewer Thinks Citizen Kane An Overrated Movie

By BILL HAINES

When this reviewer went to see Orson Welles' much publicized movie, "Citizen Kane," unanimously acclaimed by the "critics" as one of the greatest pictures of all time, showing in only one theater in this city at fancy prices, he expected great things.

and which therefore had to be produced with the utmost secrecy? Wasn't this the picture which Hearst fought for six months to suppress, but which Orson Welles, like a knight in shining armor, produced in spite of all threats, defying the opposition of Hearst's newspaper chain, radio commentators and Movietone News?

The answer is that somebody is trying to take the American public for a ride.

If Charles Foster Kane, the newspaper publisher whose life the movie relates, is supposed to be the real William Randolph Hearst exposed for public denunciation, then truly "any and all resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental." "Citizen Kane" merely scratches the surface of Kane's (Hearst's) historical role and concentrates instead on his love life and personal characteristics.

Read 'em and Weep! Comic Strips Ain't Funny Anymore

By TED LYONS

Read 'em and weep! It's a sad, sad story, friends—but that's what has happened to our comic strips.

Gone are the days when our hearts were young and gay. Gone are the days when, after finishing our arduous task of memorizing the sports page, we could turn to the comics for a bit of relaxation.

Take Terry and the Pirates, for instance. The person who could seriously call this strip a comic would probably split a gut with laughter reading a treatise on chemical equations. Terry and his pal, Pat Ryan, now busy fighting for "democracy" against the Axis partners in China, make use of everything from the Morse code to good looking blondes to thwart the "bad guys."

Then there's Little Orphan Annie. This precocious little brat continues year in and year out saving the world from ruin. Of course such a heavy burden is too much for such a young child and her dog—so her creator, the vicious anti-labor red-baiter, Harold Grey, has generously endowed her with such an array of genius as Daddy Warbucks, the Asp, Punjab, and others. All aid Annie in tracking down foreign agents, fifth columnists and labor agitators.

Bill Wright, the husband of Winnie Winkle, and Joe Palooka have set the pace for the rest of the strips by volunteering in the U. S. Army. Winnie Winkle readers were seen to have burst out into an uncontrollable flood of tears and refused their corn flakes when Bill Wright gave up a promising Hollywood career and left Winnie with an expectant child just so he could join Uncle Sam's Army.

PALOOKA JOINS THE ARMY

Joe Palooka gave up the heavyweight boxing title for Army life. Joe is so patriotic you see the red, white and blue coming right out of the strip even on week days when there's no colored supplement. Any day now you can expect Skeeze, Smitty and Harold Teen to don uniforms and go marching off to wherever FDR wants to send us and them.

Don Winslow is already in the Navy—and boy, what a whale of a job he's doing! In his years of chasing spies, fifth columnists and foreign agents he's received literally hundreds of death-dealing bullet wounds, he's been machine gunned more times than Don Ameche has played in flops and he's been tortured more times than he's been knifed—and vice versa. And yet the man lives! Incredible! A superman! And that takes us to—

Superman. His name must be mentioned with respect. Just smile miliciously when discussing him with the kids on the street—and you'll be treated with the special Superman icy stare, the special Superman Jiu-Jitsu grip, and, if you're still not convinced, you'll get the super-special Superman box-top "Ray Gun" right over your head. Why HE stands head and shoulders above all the rest. Superman licks whole armies! By golly, HE conquers notions single handed! If you didn't read it in the papers you wouldn't believe it!

ABNER FOR THE WAR

And now, the saddest words of tongue or pen: Li'l Abner has turned pro-war! All ye who have tears prepare to shed them now: Li'l Abner, our pride and joy—the comic of comics—has begun to go the way of all the rest. No longer will the Yokum family serve as the one bright ray of light on the dark comic page. Li'l Abner, according to the latest reports, is also on his way to the U. S. Army. And with him gone, where shall we turn? Ella Cinders? Spunkie? Dick Tracy? No—the same old spy and pro-war bunk. Oh, unhappy day!

That's what's happened, folks. The comics are a nightmare. Spies and fifth columnists are as thick as bedbugs in a slum tenement. Murders, killings, rape and arson. Crooks, con-men, warmongers and finks. Where the hell can a guy turn to for a laugh. Even the Brooklyn Dodgers have turned serious!

The editorials are kind of funny—in a tragic sort of way. FDR's "I Hate War" (but I hate peace more) speeches make some funny reading. Mussolini complimenting the Italian Army for its Greek campaign was good for a few laughs. But—it ain't like in the old days.

In the N.Y. High Schools

By a joint proclamation of President Roosevelt, Governor Lehman and Mayor La Guardia, May 18, 1941, was declared to be New York's "I Am an American Day" and a special celebration in Central Park, featuring prominent celebrities and politicians, was scheduled.

The meeting turned out to be a "patriotic" all-out-for-the-British-Empire rally.

In the high schools of the city, a campaign to publicize the celebration commenced a week before. At De Witt Clinton, the High School of Science, Roosevelt, Evander Childs and Walton, etc., leaflets with a picture of the Statue of Liberty imprinted on them were issued, calling upon the students to "co-operate to the fullest possible extent in the observance of that day and make full use of every opportunity to publish and proudly display the fact that I am an American." Underneath this pledge were spaces for 20 signatures.

In all the schools, teachers instructed their students to have their pledges signed by themselves, their families and friends and to return them the next day. Students up would be made, and the names were informed that a strict check of those students who did not return their pledges would be turned in to the "office."

Students Intimidated

Students in this manner were intimidated into getting the leaflets signed. Thus the story in the boss press that thousands of New York high school students endorsed "I am an American Day" by bringing to school signed leaflets, is absolutely false. High school students endorsed this "Jingo Day" with its pro-war rallies simply because they were forced to. They were literally threatened to sign—or else!

For the most part, students resented this, and rightly so. Why should high school youths be com-under threats? It brings to mind pelled to sign a paper saying that they are glad to be Americans—Hitler's "plebiscites" where the people were told to vote "Ja" or else! Is that democracy?

The celebration of "I Am an American Day" is a step taken by the Roosevelt Administration to instill in the workers and youth of this country a jingoistic spirit, and to help line up the American working class and American youth in support of the imperialist camp of Great Britain in the Second World War.

AYC Meet--

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2) a small group of anti-war, anti-Stalinist delegates.

The Stalinists were not exactly comfortable about it and they have decided not to allow any repetition of that situation. As a result, they are trying to run this shindig in such a fashion that any attempt at opposition will be handicapped in advance.

The announcement for the meeting states that "general agreement on policy should be arrived at early in the Congress, allowing adequate time for the discussion of activities to be promoted during the next year in each field of work." In other words, discussion on the IMPORTANT, controversial issues will be at a minimum and the meeting will be primarily concerned with a bull session on "how to do things."

Another indication of the desire of the Stalinists to have this meeting all to themselves is the outrageous fee of \$5.00 per delegate from national organizations and \$3.00 per delegate from local organizations charged merely for the "right" to attend the sessions. This is probably worked on the theory that if anyone wants to oppose the YCL, it'll be damned expensive.

P.S.—In case you're interested, the resolutions passed by the AYC can be previewed in any issue of the Daily Worker you pick up.

N. Y. YPSL Has A Convention

The New York division of the Young Peoples Socialist League held its semi-annual convention several weeks ago. The convention demonstrated the progress made in recent months by the New York organization.

The main organizational report indicated that the New York organization had registered a considerable increase in membership, that literature sales had gone up sharply and that one new unit, in Staten Island, had been organized.

I WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE

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Name _____ Address _____ City _____

Vacations: Democratic Right For Young Workers In War Industries

As the summer months approach, big business begins a drive to lengthen working hours and do away with paid vacations. Through newspaper and radio chains an organized attempt is made to exploit the pro-"national defense" attitude of the American workers in order to take away their gains and weaken their unions.

The nationally publicized incident of the Ford Instrument Company workers in New York is an example. Ninety-five per cent of the 1,500 workers in this CIO plant voted to insist upon paid vacations from the company. Personal statements by the local president were "interpreted" by the boss press to mean that the workers volunteered to surrender their vacations. The press and radio made this a lead story. Repudiations published by the union were buried in obscure parts of the newspapers.

The damage was done. Several large war industries a few days later took away from their workers the right to paid vacations, using Ford Instrument workers as an example.

The war industries are today manned by tremendous numbers of youth. Mass production processes have resulted in the utilization of greater numbers of young workers than ever before at low wages. The youth cannot and do not accept the 60-hour work week with no paid vacations as their model of working conditions, particularly since it is modeled after the Nazi pattern.

SNIPING AT LABOR'S GAINS

The CIO unions have won this year, for the first time involving millions of workers, some provision for vacations with pay. Frightened at the rising militancy of American labor, the bosses are already sniping at these gains in an attempt to make them ineffective before they are granted. They do this in the name of "national defense."

This is indeed hypocrisy. Big business has since its birth and christening fought for ITS IDEALS—more profits and longer hours without overtime pay; it has always refused to grant paid vacations except to its most favored employees, those who remain at one job for five or ten years with loyalty and sacrifice . . . for their boss.

This has always excluded the youth, who, even if they intensely desired to do so, never found themselves in a position to have worked five or ten years at a steady job. "Vacations" for youth have always been at the bosses' desire, unpaid and unenjoyed. Today, thanks to militant unionism, the paid vacation is a democratic right. In many CIO shops a youth five months in the plant is entitled to at least one week of a paid vacation.

WHAT NATIONAL DEFENSE MEANS TO YOUTH

To the youth of America "national defense" means defending democratic rights such as these. It means defense against starvation standards of living. It means defense against long hours of enslavement in the factory without rest or recreation.

To the bosses, "national defense" means millions of dollars in profits, factories running at all hours of the day and night and seven days in the week so that profits can be amassed as quickly as possible. When any sacrifices are to be made, the workers are called upon to make them.

The Roosevelt Administration began this drive with its appeals to the workers to keep the plants running without week-end interruptions and without vacations.

To the Roosevelt Administration there is only one way of paying for the war. The heaviest taxes are imposed upon the workers. Sacrifices of time, energy and health are all demanded from the workers. Labor is asked to weaken its unions, abandon its gains and make the bosses rich "in order to fight Hitlerism."

American youth in the factories are asked to sacrifice their youth,

their health and recreation in the factories or their lives on the battlefield.

All this is asked for the purpose of fighting a war, not against Hitlerism, as the American bosses try to make the people believe, but for a redivision of the world, for colonies and markets and to provide big business with new sources of wealth.

Just as the Ford Instrument Company workers repudiated the boss press and insisted upon their vacations, so must the young workers and old in union shops, whether they be CIO or AFL, insist upon their right to shorter hours and paid vacations and all the other gains that the years of militant unionism have won for them.

If the American bosses drag the workers into a war for profits then they must be made to pay for that war and to provide decent working conditions for their workers both in the army and in the factories.

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO PAID VACATIONS!
DEFEND THE FORTY-HOUR WEEK!
FIGHT FOR SHORTER HOURS AT HIGHER PAY!

Program for Young Workers

1. A Job for Every Youth.

We demand that all war industries be required to hire at least 10 per cent of their employees from the ranks of the unemployed youth between the ages of 18 and 24.

2. The Right to Learn a Trade.

All youth, experienced or not, have the right to trade training. Conscript the machine facilities in the shops and make them available for the unions after working hours to train young people in the skilled trades.

3. An Apprentice for Every Ten Mechanics.

Training of all apprentices to acquire the skills of a mechanic. The training to be done on the job, and in special schools on company time. Automatic raises periodically. Special seniority for apprentices.

4. A Minimum of \$24 for All Apprentices and Learners.

All youth not actually doing equal work to be started at a minimum of 60 cents per hour. This applies to all those legitimately classified as apprentices or learners.

5. Equal Pay for Equal Work.

No cutting of wages because of "learner" status or sex. Youth doing the same work as adults should get regular wages, regardless of the classification of employment.

6. Thirty Dollars a Week for 'Thirty Hours' Work.

The regular wage of workers should be at least one dollar an hour. Time and a half for overtime over thirty hours. For increased wages to meet the rising cost of living.

7. Abolish Jim-Crow and Anti-Semitism.

No discrimination in hiring or on the job because of race, religion or color.

Youth in the Unions NOTES ON NYA, WAGES AND PRICES, AND APPRENTICES

By EUGENE VICTOR

It seems ironic, when big business is enjoying a war boom and millions are absorbed by the armed forces, that the President should propose an NYA appropriation one hundred and fifty-eight million dollars greater than it ever was.

American youth must realize its ominous meanings.

It means that at the peak of its productive capacity American industry has no intention of giving jobs to the unemployed youth.

It means almost three million youth are condemned to go through the next year on a weekly wage of five dollars or less.

Here are the figures on NYA. When it was established under the WPA in 1935 it employed several hundred thousand. By 1937, which was a so-called "recovery" year, it had over 600,000 youth on its rolls. In 1941, with industry reaping huge profits, it is expected to carry almost 3,000,000 youths on its rolls.

It would seem that \$150,000,000 is a pretty small sum to spread over 3,000,000 youth for one year—and it is. Many high school students are permitted to earn less than \$3.00 a month. The highest salary (to unemployed youth) is about \$5.00 a week.

PRICES AND WAGES OF YOUNG WORKERS

Prices are going up. Everybody admits it at least. Wheat prices are 17 cents higher than last year. Beef prices went up 16 per cent in a year. Borden and Sheffield announce an increase in the price of milk this summer. String beans and tomatoes more than doubled in price in a year.

But the government is in no hurry to peg the rising price levels. Henderson, who was appointed to do precisely that work, permits prices to reach substantially higher levels over 1940 before pegging them. The government policy, while it seeks to avoid sudden inflationary rises in prices which would upset the war economy, does not have any intention of keeping prices at their pre-war level. This guarantees to industry an increase which covers its recent wage increases and gives it a profit besides while protecting it from the dangers of inflation.

How about the worker? Already the wage increases he won in 1941 are being taken away from him in the rising cost of living. He got a 10 per cent wage increase in most cases. The cost of living has already gone up over 15 per cent.

For the youth, the situation is even worse. If you re-examine the strike wave in 1941 you will recall that it gained wage increases in the aircraft, shipbuilding, steel and auto industries primarily. But of the

10,000,000 young workers in the United States fewer than a half million are employed in these industries. More than half of the 10,000,000 are unorganized and did not benefit at all from the wage increases.

Of those who do work in unionized industries, more than three-fourths work in the textile, clothing and food-packing industries. They received no substantial wage increases in 1941. The Hillman and Dubinsky unions have been asleep on their feet. Yet ironically enough it is precisely through those products that price increases will be directly brought to the consumer.

When the young worker goes to buy a suit this fall he'll discover that wool has gone up more than 25 per cent. His girl friend now knows that cotton yarn has gone up from 31 cents last May to 32 cents this May.

The buyers of textiles have been purchasing and storing huge quantities of materials in anticipation of even greater increases in the price levels. But young workers cannot invest in suits and dresses two or three years ahead of time. They are out on a limb.

There is only one way to put a stop to this practice. The unions must fight for a rising scale of wages to meet the increasing cost of living and for equal pay for equal work for youth.

PROVIDING FOR LEARNERS

After four weeks of continuous negotiations and at the threat of strike action the Fairchild Aviation Corporation, which makes aerial cameras, signed a contract with the CIO which gives learners and apprentices a break. No longer can the company use young machinists at low rates of pay under the pretense of teaching them to become mechanics.

Under the new contract, the learner starts at 55 cents an hour. After four weeks he receives a five-cent an hour increase. In three months he receives another five-cent increase and every six months after that a five-cent increase until he reaches the status of a second-class mechanic at 88 cents an hour.

Compare this to the learners at Ford Instrument Co. in New York. The are members of the local headed by Frank Craig who made

himself nationally famous several weeks ago for his company stand on vacations and working hours. In his shop the learners start at 45 cents an hour, get a five-cent increase three months later, another one after six months and the rest is up to them. Frank Craig evidently believes that a man should bargain for himself, not only on vacations but on wages as well. He evidently considers his union just a place where he can get the boys together to explain the management's point of view.

The one bad feature of the Fairchild contract is its duration; it is binding for two years. The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers will have to see that the rising cost of living in the next two years is met by increases in wages or the value of the contract will be lost.

Stalin's Boys Propose and Dispose At Chicago Industrial Youth Confab

The Young Stalinists have done it again! Just as they organized a fake industrial youth conference in New York last winter with the simple purpose of creating another front organization for the American Youth Congress, so did they stage a mass conference of their own members and sympathizers in Chicago last month under the guise of a trade union youth organization.

The meeting consisted of a veritable parade of members of the Young Communist League who took the floor more for the purpose of giving the meeting the appearance of being genuinely representative of the midwest industrial youth than for the purpose of adding anything to the discussion. The one or two innocents who were somehow convinced to attend and pushed up front to speak reflected in their faces all the bewilderment of a boy who goes backstage on his first visit to the theater.

It wasn't that the problems taken up at the conference were of no concern to the real rank and file youth of the CIO and AFL unions. Union committees to aid draftees, genuine apprenticeship agreements, trade-training and NYA training programs are the real problems of the working class youth today.

Then why weren't these youth at the conference? They weren't kept out. Anybody was admitted as a visitor. Any youth member of any trade union could be seated as an observer if he could prove his union affiliation. Action was not limited to delegates. Yet the working class youth of Midwest America, with the exception of those already members or contacts of the Young Communist League, seem to have boycotted the conference.

The reasons are as follows: 1—Many did not know about it because no real campaign was initiated to get the non-Stalinist unions to send youth delegates. Members of the YCL in these unions did not take the floor and demand that the union leadership recognize the conference. They did not agitate among the youth in the shops to put pressure on the union leadership for recognition of the conference. They simply went to the conference unselected and unrepresentative and registered as observers. The YCL

wanted to make sure it controlled the conference.

2—Many of them knew about it and deliberately avoided it. Not because they are uninterested in the problems discussed by the conference. They are completely uninterested in the undemocratic control and fake demagoguery of sessions where no critic of the Communist Party line has a chance to raise his voice.

The saddest thing about these conferences is that there is a genuine need for delegated conferences of CIO and AFL youth to solve their common problems but the nature of the Stalinist activity sabotages any attempt to organize genuinely representative meetings. The result is that trade union youth have come to look upon them all as undemocratic and staged mass meetings for Stalinist speakers.

The genuine militants among the trade union youth in Chicago, and other cities where similar conferences may be projected must expose the true nature of this Stalinist activity in order to pave the way for genuine conferences of trade union youth which can establish united fronts on the immediate issues facing young workers: relations between the draft boards and the bosses; apprenticeship agreements; trade training; Negro discrimination and NYA training.

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YOUNG PEOPLES SOCIALIST LEAGUE

YOUTH SECTION, WORKERS PARTY

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New York, N. Y.

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Branded!

Roosevelt has attacked the right to strike in war industry!

Men who are fighting for a living wage in an industry where millions in profits are made are forced to give up strike action overnight under the threat of bayonets and draft boards. Whatever the outcome of the North American Aviation strike, its meaning is clear. War industry czars are given the right to make millions and to use force and violence against those who want a living wage.

If the followers of Joe Stalin ran the North American local, then it is up to the workers to remove them. That is not the issue over which thousands of workers agreed to strike. Their demands for a living wage cannot be sacrificed to the political interests of anyone. Breaking the North American strike denies American labor the right to a living wage. That is the only issue in the North American Aviation strike!

To the millions of young workers just entering war industry, paid miserable wages as "learners" and "helpers" because of their youth, this is a terrible blow. They can not get more than the miserable 50 cents an hour with which they start because their only weapon, a strike, is denied them. When they become militant leaders of the strike, as they often do, their youth makes them subject to the discrimination of the draft board.

Roosevelt is condemning youth to a wage of fifty cents an hour with no right to fight for more, while the millionaire owners of war industry are guaranteed new fortunes to be made for them in a war in which youth is asked to sacrifice its life.

The American youth will defend to the hilt their right to strike for a decent wage!

NYA Workshop Youth Are Unionizing

In the face of the Roosevelt Administration drive to transform the already inadequate training centers of the NYA into production units, the newly organized New York NYA Youth Council is signing up the workers in the Brooklyn and Astoria Centers to protect their rights. Representatives of the Youth Council have been meeting with Helen Harris, local NYA administrator, and have succeeded in getting several important concessions.

The Youth Council won the right to conduct their organizational activities without intimidation by project supervisors. They have succeeded in reinstating two fired workers on one of the cultural projects; and they have been granted the free use of bulletin boards in every shop in the Work Centers.

The main point on the Youth Council program at the present time is to save the cultural projects which are threatened with complete extinction on the ground that they are not an aid to "national defense." The YC has been collecting signatures on petitions to Roosevelt demanding that the cultural projects be maintained.

The change in character of the work shops to a production schedule will eliminate a possibility of apprentice training. The NYA work shops will be nothing but glorified cheap labor factories. The recruiting of members in ever greater numbers by the YC is necessary to offset this rotten scheme and make the shops a place for training youth to become experienced workers, not unskilled production workers. If, as seems quite likely, this plan goes through, the Youth Council will be forced to demand payment of union wages for production work.

Staten Island NYA Worker Says He Learns Very Little

To the Editor:

I work on an NYA project in the McWilliams Shipyard on Staten Island where there are almost 700 young people employed and I have a few "beefs" to take up which I hope you will print.

Most of us take NYA jobs in order to get ready for real jobs at decent pay. When we go to work for a little over 30 cents an hour we expect to learn something in return, particularly since we cannot earn more than \$5.00 a week.

But that's not the plan of the Administration. A whole bunch of us were recently put to work on barges, scraping and painting the bottoms. That's a good trade for jailbirds with nothing to do for a couple of years. It will never get us jobs on the outside.

Guys who've been here longer than I was tell me that it's a very usual thing and that many of them have been doing that kind of work ever since they got on the project. They all want training in welding, machine shop practice, pattern making and similar trades. But getting these things is like waiting for someone to dump a million in your lap.

Fellows quit all the time because

they are disgusted with the length of time it takes to learn a trade, but most of us can't afford to quit and we wouldn't know where to get any better training outside. Only the other day a fellow fainted at work and was brought to the office. They didn't know what polite name to call it, but we knew he didn't have a decent meal all day.

The fellows who are supposed to be learning welding get a few minutes' practice on the machines every day. Considering that fellows in outside welding courses put in four hours a night learning the trade, how far can we get at this rate?

Last March there was a report by the NYA administration in the Staten Island Advance which admitted that almost one-third of the NYA workers at McWilliams were doing this kind of unskilled work on barges and that others were doing similar work which did not provide training.

The Administration has no business keeping us at a salary of \$5.00 per week for work at which we learn nothing and we have every right in the world to demand that all our time be used for training purposes as long as we are kept at that wage.

An NYA Worker.

An Editorial

We Must March—And Do Even More

The Young Peoples Socialist League endorses the proposed march to Washington on July 1st. When the idea was first proposed, we made it clear that we thought it was time for drastic action. It was in the same spirit that we supported the Harlem bus strike campaign to get jobs for Negroes. It is only through a fighting program that the Negro will win full social, political and economic equality.

It is correct to march on the Capitol because the seat of the government of the United States is a Jim-Crow town. It is there that the representatives of big business are plotting to involve the United States in a phony war for democracy abroad, while they deny democracy, at home to 11,000,000 Negroes.

That is why we think that the committee in charge of the demonstration is making a mistake. In their "Call to Negro America" they say that "President Roosevelt is a great humanitarian and idealist." In times like these it is a mistake to whip up spirit for a man who is the leader of the move to enter the Second World War. It is wrong to applaud a man who has not lifted a finger to aid the Negroes, to do away with Jim-Crow and whose Democratic Party is the party of the southern reactionaries.

We think the committee in charge of the march should have invited white organizations and the trade unions to participate. The problem of Negro discrimination is not confined to the Negro. It is of vital interest to the whole working class—Negro and white. This has been shown most clearly by those CIO and AFL unions that have established full equality in their unions. A united demonstration would be a hundred times more effective in the struggle against Jim-Crow.

The march is good. But it is not enough. The demand for the President to issue a proclamation to abolish Jim-Crow in the army, navy, air corps and national defense only scratches the surface. It is the reactionary officers in the army, the Jim-Crow bosses of industry who have to be fought. That needs more than an "executive order." It requires a struggle in every community throughout the country. It requires an organization that will fight for Negro rights all the year round.

"Jobs for Negroes" is the cry that must echo from millions of throats. It must become a mighty chorus backed up by picket lines and demonstrations throughout the country. It must be the watchword that will win full social, political and economic equality for the Negroes.

March on Washington to Fight Jim-Crow Rule!



Are Negroes Americans, Too?

Negroes are not Americans, in the opinion of the Chicago police department. The cops and American Legion officials, including the brother of Mayor Edward J. Kelly, showed what they meant by Americanism in their treatment of a group of youthful protesters against Jim-Crow at the recent "I Am an American Day."

The demonstrators, a group of 10 Negro youth, arrived at the jingo celebration bearing a sign reading: "We are Americans too, but we are Jim-Crowed in the army and defense factories. We protest." The police immediately prohibited the carrying of this banner.

Perhaps even more striking than this violation of free speech itself, was the excuse given by the cops for their action. It seems that the local police and Legion officials think it is controversial whether or not the Negroes are Jim-Crowed in the army and in jobs in the arms program. They would have a very hard time finding any Negro or, for that matter, any honest person who was not pretty darn sure that there

Calling for a mass demonstration of 10,000 Negroes to Jim-Crow Washington, the nation's capital city, the "Negroes Committee to March on Washington for Equal Participation in National Defense" is soliciting support throughout the country for a march to take place July 1st.

The plan was first proposed by A. Philip Randolph, Negro labor leader and president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, in an article written for the New York Age of January 25. The proposal was discussed for several months in the Negro press and finally a committee with Randolph as the chairman was set up.

is wholesale discrimination going on. But the cops were not going to be convinced; they insisted that it was a highly debatable point.

This behavior on the part of the PATRIOTIC officials of "I Am an American Day" was an illuminating experience for the militant youthful demonstrators. It showed them clearly that what these big shots mean by "the American way of life" includes the lie of white supremacy. The demonstrators knew perfectly well that the cops and Legion officials were not innocent enough to doubt the existence of Jim-Crow; it was clear that they were lying.

The object of the committee, according to a "Call to Negro America," a publication of the committee, is: "An 'all-out' thundering march on Washington, ending in a monster and huge demonstration at Lincoln's Monument which will shake up white America."

In order to guarantee the success of the march, numerous committees have been set up in different cities throughout the country. An official button has been issued and a request for funds has been sent to all the Negro organizations. It is planned to have contingents of Negroes from every section of the country.

The committee hopes by this action to "cause President Roosevelt to issue an executive order abolishing discrimination in all government departments, army, navy, air corps and national defense jobs."

Members of the committee include the following: A. Philip Randolph, Walter White, Lester B. Granger, Layla Lane, Frank R. Crosswith, A. C. Powell, Jr., Rev. William Lloyd Imes, Richard Parrish, Dr. Raymond Logan, Henry K. Craft and J. Finley Wilson.

The Workers Party and the Young Peoples Socialist League have endorsed the demonstration.

(See Editorial)

The Story of the Negro Workers in the New Trade Unions

By SUSAN DRAKE

The tremendous importance of Negro and white unity among the attention during the recent Ford workers was sharply brought to strike. The attempt of the Ford Motor Co. to use the Negro as a strikebreaker was stopped and the union won a great victory in the recent poll.

In view of the importance of the problem, material on the Negro workers in the unions can serve a valuable function. Cayton and Mitchell in their volume "The Black Workers and the New Unions" have done a fine job.

In their investigation of the steel, meat packing, railroad and other industries, they have shown that race conflict has hurt all workers and that unity has advanced them.

Let us look at the steel industry.

The Negro entered steel during the great strike struggles of 1890 and 1919. He was imported to act as strikebreaker—and was used successfully to break those strikes. After the strikes were broken many of the Negroes again found themselves out in the cold—but in the period between 1890 and 1930 there was an increase in Negro steel workers by 11 times the original number.

Position in Industry

The position of the Negro in industry has been far from a satisfactory one. He has been given only unskilled or semi-skilled jobs. Seventy-three and one-half per cent of the laborers are Negroes; 16.4 per cent of the semi-skilled are Negroes; 6.2 per cent of the skilled; 8 per cent in the standard crafts; 0.2 per cent office workers; 0.3 per cent officials, professional or highly technical workers.

This means that the Negro is in the lowest paid classification.

He is prevented from becoming a skilled worker by not being allowed to be an apprentice. He is discriminated against, even when he knows the work. In many cases he does the work of a skilled man, and is never given the opportunity for promotion above semi-skilled work.

In the early years of unionization the white worker hated the Negro and refused to allow him to join the unions. However, it wasn't long before it became obvious, especially in those plants where the percentage of Negro workers was high, it would be impossible to achieve better conditions without the Negro in the union. So long as the colored man could be used as a tool of the boss to keep the unions out, so long would it be impossible to get anywhere.

Company Union

The earliest trick was the company union. This was to fool both white and black workers. For even though the pretension of employee representation was there, the representative could get nothing for the worker because he feared for his job. Yet for many years the Negro chose the company union because he feared that if he joined an outside union he would be replaced by a white man.

For many years the only union in the field was the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. Bureaucratically run, the only new people taken in were those indispensable to organization. After unions were recognized by the NRA a spurt of organization took place. No emphasis was placed on taking the Negro in, but in the newer lodges, organizers realized the necessity to win his friendship and cooperation. Large numbers of Negroes joined when they were shown that they had a place in the union.

SWOC Success

Later the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, CIO, had even greater success. The emphasis on equality was primary. Not only with talk but by proving in action that the white unionists were not using the Negro to win recognition, helped draw greater and greater numbers of Negro workers into the unions. The book is filled with interviews of workers on the attitude of both white and Negro unionists. For example:

"I am shop steward in our local. I was elected unanimously. I would not say the whites don't want Negroes in office; they just haven't thought of the problem created by not having Negroes in office. As long as the Negro goes to meetings,

speaks when he's right and shows intelligence, the whites are for you 100 per cent." (Interview, Negro workman, Chicago, December, 1939).

Cayton and Mitchell prove that the Negro has progressed a long way. The white worker has awakened to the plight of the Negro.

Real steps toward the emancipation of the Negro and white worker will be made only when a fighting unity has been established in every industry throughout the whole country.

FDR Speech--

(Continued from page 1)

Let the 130,000,000 workers, farmers and youth decide; let the people decide—not one man!

And if, as FDR has announced, youth between 18 and 21 are to be drafted soon, why shouldn't they have the right to vote as well? IF THEY'RE OLD ENOUGH TO FIGHT AND DIE, THEY'RE OLD ENOUGH TO VOTE!

We, of the Young Peoples Socialist League, who are the Youth Section of the Workers Party, believe that this is a reactionary imperialist war on both sides—on the side of Churchill and Roosevelt as well as on the side of Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin. We believe that only a workers government that took over the industries and the wealth of the country and ran them democratically in the interests of the entire people, could rally to its banner the oppressed of the world to smash, once and for all, the scourge of fascism.

But we also believe that though there are many people who cannot yet agree with this program, the great masses of the people and especially of the youth, are against the war.

This is why we say: THE CRY OF THE HOUR MUST BE: NO CONVOYS, NO AEF!

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR! LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!

I AM INTERESTED

in receiving more information about the YPSL.

Name _____ Address _____ City _____

Philly Youth Win Sears Strike

PHILADELPHIA—Three hundred and fifty young workers of the Sears, Roebuck-Atwater Kent warehouse went on strike: 350 militant, determined fighters against the most powerful retail merchandising corporation in the world.

The strike was called before of the company's stubborn refusal to recognize the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees of America, CIO, Local 18, which represented a large majority of the workers. The union insisted that the company agree to an NLRB election. The company refused.

The representative of the company in a conference with union spokesmen talked about "democracy," "the American way of life," and "the need for unity and understanding in this grave national emergency." He talked about everything but what the workers wanted—union recognition.

Strike Action

Finally when the workers saw they could not get the company to agree to an NLRB election by conferences and discussions, they spoke in a language the company could understand—STRIKE!

In addition to union recognition, the union demands:

- 10 cents per hour wage increase. -5-day, 40-hour week, regular hours, time and a half for overtime. -Seniority rights to be recognized in layoffs and promotions. -Maintenance of all present benefits, such as vacations, sick leave, group insurance, and profit-sharing.

Sears, which made a profit of \$704,000 in 1940, squealed like a stuck pig when the workers asked for 10 cents an hour more. Its volume of sales for March, 1941, was 30 per cent higher than in March, 1940—but raises, God forbid!

Despite the numerous difficulties faced by the workers—the power of the company, its attempt to utilize the AFL to smash the strike, the arrest of pickets—the workers won the strike. There is no doubt that Local 18 will win out in the NLRB elections.

Won't the Southern Senator See A Black Figure . . . Swinging?

This is the story of two men. One is named Pepper—Claude E. Pepper. Pepper is a famous man, well known as a senator from Florida who makes noble speeches in Congress for democracy. Senator Pepper rates quite a few lines in the American Who's Who and he gets a lot of space in the New York Times. He's a famous man.

The other man is named A. C. Williams—just A. C. Williams, a Negro boy who lives—lived, rather—in Quincy, Florida. The only claim which A. C. Williams has to fame is the fact that he was lynched on May 13, 1941. Even then, the papers didn't give his first name—just A. C. Williams. After all, who was A. C. Williams? He wasn't a famous man; he never made a speech in Congress or anywhere else. He was just a poor, ordinary Negro boy . . . who never got into Who's Who.

Claude Pepper

Claude Pepper is known as the unofficial spokesman of the Roosevelt Administration. When FDR has a proposal that's too hot to handle, he has Senator Pepper make it and then sees what happens. That's why everyone listened so carefully in Washington when Senator Pepper made a speech demanding that America immediately start conveying British ships, that America seize Dakar, Greenland and a few other places that don't belong to America. In short, Pepper was ready for war . . . that is, he was ready for American youth to go to war.

What praise Pepper received for that speech! A "guardian of democracy" he was called. "A champion of freedom," said another newspaper writer. Someone proposed that a dinner be tendered him by the famous people of the country in honor of his service to democracy.

A. C. Williams

It was only a few days later that A. C. Williams was lynched. He was charged, of course, with rape. But he never had a chance to get a fair trial. He was dragged out of jail by a drunken mob and was beaten and shot until his body hung limp and swollen and was left for dead. But the mob was wrong. He still lived. He had a chance to pull through.

But Florida "justice" was not to be frustrated. When Williams was being taken to the hospital in an ambulance, he was assaulted again by the same group of men. This time they finished the job. Williams was dead.

Postscript

Nobody suggested that a dinner be held for Senator Claude E. Pepper, in whose state this lynching took place, to honor him for this great democratic event. Nobody even bothered to remember that Senator Pepper, the champion of "democracy" and the tribunal of "freedom," had been one of those senators who had filibustered against the Anti-Lynching Bill. Everybody in Washington—at least everybody who counted—was too busy slapping the great Claude E. Pepper on the back for his great speech which would get America into war . . . for "democracy." After all, who was A. C. Williams? Just a man . . . just a Negro . . .

But we wonder: when Senator Pepper glances over the lines which describe him in Who's Who, when he makes his next great speech in Congress about "democracy," won't he see an apparition that will bother him—say, the outlines of a black figure . . . swinging?