

THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

We Won't
Die For
Boss Profits

September 15, 1941

Monthly Organ of the Young Peoples Socialist League (Youth Section, Workers Party)

Price 2 Cents

THE PEOPLE, NOT ROOSEVELT, MUST DECIDE THE WAR ISSUE!

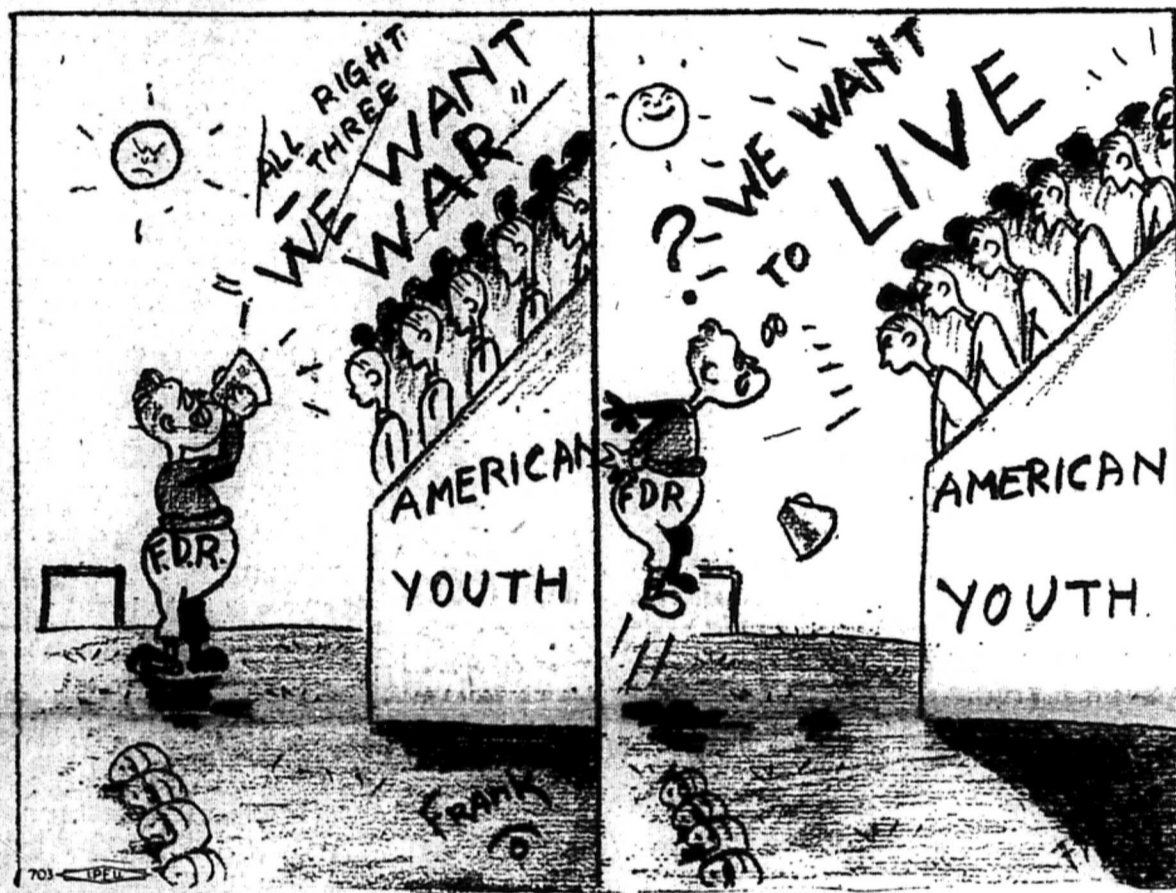
NYA Youth Strike for Less Hours

ROCHESTER, N. Y. — Three hundred and thirty NYA workers recently went on strike against the new NYA schedule which would have doubled the hours worked per month from 60 to 120, while merely increasing wages from \$16 to \$25 per month. The strike lasted three days during which time the NYA defense workshop was closed as tight as a drum. When the strike was finally settled, the wage increase remained, but the hours were decreased to 80 per month!

This victory of the Rochester NYA youth is an important step forward. It shows the way in which it can be done throughout the country. NYA organization is a vital necessity in order to improve the present miserable NYA conditions — in order to increase wages and decrease hours. And Rochester shows that it can be done!

Eleanor Pays Visit to NYA

By JOE N. Y. A.
On Wednesday, August 27, the President's wife, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, visited the NYA Astoria Workshop Experience Center. The plans carried out for her visit were elaborate. For the first time in the existence of NYA, flowers were present in the cafeteria and an enjoyable meal was served. There was chicken soup and chicken a la king. (Just contrast this with the hash we have been eating for weeks!) And then the final surprise; for three weeks we had only peaches (with an apple selection of rotten ones) for dessert. Finally, when Eleanor came, the string was snapped. There appeared a variety of desserts: peaches, prunes, or cake. The cafeteria revolution was not the only one. Each shop had its own. Each worker was told, in case he was asked, what he was doing. How considerate they are, when they even tell us what type of work we are doing. And as a finishing touch in the machine shop a blueprint was tacked on each machine. In many cases the prints called for an eight-inches piece of stock when you received a three-inch piece of stock to work on.
Well, here's hoping the President visits NYA. Then they may even go as far as teaching us something.



Shachtman for Mayor!

The Workers Party and its youth section, the Young Peoples Socialist League, are determined that the voice of the working class anti-war point of view should be heard in the coming New York mayoralty elections!

As a result, they have entered an intensive campaign to place their candidate, Max Shachtman (national secretary of the Workers Party) on the ballot by securing the necessary number of nominating signatures to place an independent candidate on the ballot—7,500 signatures. As these lines are written, this number already has been secured after three weeks of work, and the Workers Party and YPSL are going ahead to get twice as many signatures as are legally required in order to place their candidate on the ballot.

This mayoralty election has obvious national significance. Warmonger LaGuardia is running on a platform of complete and uncritical endorsement of President Roosevelt's foreign policy. The Democratic candidate—O'Dwyer—has so far come out fearlessly against crime, vice and dishonesty, but has failed to say anything on the burning issue of the day: war.

It is no exaggeration to say that Shachtman is the only candidate who runs on an uncompromisingly anti-war and anti-fascist program. He supports neither the imperialists of the Churchill-Roosevelt camp nor those of the Hitler-Mussolini camp. Nor does he give any support to the Stalinist stooges of Churchill and Roosevelt. Every government involved in the Second World War is fighting an imperialist war, and Shachtman, representing the interests of the workers, supports none of them.

Instead he stands for the Third Camp in this war—the camp of the oppressed and enslaved and tricked people who have been and will be

sent to their deaths by the two warring imperialist camps. Shachtman stands for the camp of socialism—which is the only way to end the bloody war.

It is for this reason that the youth of New York must rally solidly behind Shachtman. As the statement of the Young Peoples Socialist League endorsing Shachtman declares:

"To vote and work for Shacht-

man is to vote and work against war entry. It means to fight for your right to live. It means to fight for the right of American youth to decide its own destiny. It means to fight for the right of America to carve out its own future in America and not to die on some European or African battlefield."

Shachtman for Mayor! That is the cry that must resound in the streets of New York!

Shachtman's Youth Program

- 1) AGAINST THE IMPERIALIST WAR—AGAINST BOTH THE ROOSEVELT-CHURCHILL-STALIN CAMP AND THE HITLER-MUSSOLINI CAMP.
- 2) LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE—FOR A NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR.
- 3) AGAINST THE PLAN TO MAKE THE PEOPLE PAY FOR THIS BOSSES' WAR BY TAXING THE WORKERS — MAKE THE RICH PAY FOR THE WAR.
- 4) FOR FULL SOCIAL EQUALITY FOR NEGROES — OUT-LAW DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NEGROES IN ANY FORM. JOBS FOR NEGROES IN WAR INDUSTRIES. OPEN EVERY BRANCH OF THE ARMED FORCES TO NEGROES.
- 5) FOR A MUNICIPAL YOUTH MINIMUM WAGE — NO YOUTH IN NEW YORK CITY SHOULD EARN LESS THAN 60 CENTS AN HOUR, THE MINIMUM WAGE NECESSARY TO MEET THE RISING COST OF LIVING.
- 6) FOR FULL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY YOUTH—INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS FOR NEW SCHOOLS. REOPEN TOWNSEND HARRIS HIGH SCHOOL. PUT AN END TO THE RED-BAITING WITCH HUNTS OF THE RAPP-COUDERT COMMITTEE.
- 7) FOR THE RIGHT OF EVERY NEW YORK YOUTH TO LEARN A TRADE—INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FREE TRADE SCHOOLS. ABOLISH ANY EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO ENTER THESE SCHOOLS.

America is in the war! It is only a matter of days before new and more frequent "incidents" occur on the seas which will again inflame the war hysteria which President Roosevelt created in his last radio speech.

Roosevelt has made clear his intention to engage in an undeclared war with Germany—on the pretext of preserving the freedom of the seas for ships transporting contraband for belligerent nations.

Thus, the two great rival imperialist camps, fighting not for democracy but for profits and markets, are lining up against each other.

High School Students Face War Problems

Dear Fellow Students:

This month, hundreds of thousands of high school students in New York City are entering a new term of high school. The present world imperialist conflict has its effect on all groups of people and we, the high school youth, are no exception. While millions upon millions of dollars for planes, guns and tanks, education receives a mere pittance. For example, in New York City, only one new high school has been built in the past year, setting a record low for the creation of new educational facilities in the city. Another school, Townsend Harris High, has been closed against the protests of its students with their parents and teachers. We high school students are affected in other ways, too. Our classrooms are overcrowded, we sit two and three on a seat, our teachers' lists have been cut, numerous attempts have been made to censor our courses and our textbooks.

When we go back this term, our teachers are going to glorify the bloody imperialist war. They are going to tell us of the "vital" necessity of a new AEF. In our English classes they are going to discourage our reading of such exposés of war and militarism as "All Quiet on the Western Front" and "Three Soldiers." In our history classes they will attempt to justify in our eyes and minds the First Imperialist World War as the first in a series of struggles between the "democracies" and the dictatorships. In our economics classes they'll tell us about our "great" capitalist system of "free enterprise," "individualism" and "democracy." In addition, in every class from shop to music, we will be reminded daily of our duty to sacrifice everything for the sake of the democratic imperialists in their war with the fascists.

The World We Face

This is what they'll tell us this term. But will they tell us about the world we're growing up into? Will they tell us about the 2½ (and probably more) years of our life that we're going to give up training to become obedient cannon fodder? Will they tell us about the millions of us who are going to be killed or maimed in ever-recurring imperialist slaughters that become worse and worse with each one?

In our history classes, will they show us President Wilson's statement that the First World War was a "business war," and will they show us how the Second World War developed from the first?

In our economics classes will they

And American youth is to be sacrificed on the altar of another war "to make the world safe for democracy." American youth will die tomorrow on the ships which engage in combat; and the day after tomorrow they will die in the second AEF which will undoubtedly be sent by President Roosevelt once the present undeclared war is formalized into a declared war.

Though we are against the war and against entry into it, we have nothing in common with Lindbergh and his "America First" cronies. We oppose and despise these fascist and anti-Semitic reactionaries.

This is a war of imperialists and profiteers! The people have nothing to gain but death and misery.

Now, before it is too late, the people must demand the right to decide. The people must demand the right to vote on war. We are to do the dying and fighting; let us decide!

Ford Instr. May Strike

Once again Ford Instrument Co. discriminates against "learners" in granting wage increases under a new union contract. A five-cent raise is proposed for the learners, an eight-cent raise for the young helpers and 10 and 12-cent raises for the more skilled mechanics.

Local 425 of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers, however, threw this proposal back at the management at their September 16 meetings with a threat to take a strike vote unless the company meets the union demands. The youth, both learners and helpers, are united in their determination to fight this discrimination even if it means taking strike action.

The workers at Ford Instrument seek protection against rising prices. They therefore demand a 20-cent general increase for all categories, a 60-cent an hour starting rate for learners instead of the present 50-cent rate, and two weeks' vacation, plus 11 holidays with pay. In addition, the union is demanding the continuation of closed shop provisions and preferential hiring.

A mass meeting of all of the 2,000 workers has been called for Sunday, September 21, at which a report will be given on the latest proposals of the company. On the agenda is a proposal for a strike if the company still refuses to meet the union's demands. Two dollars a week from each worker was voted at the September 16 meeting for a defense fund, if the strike should be necessary. The workers of Ford Instrument mean business. The youth are determined that they won't be discriminated against this time.

(Continued on page 2)

A Manuscript Found in an Empty Vodka Bottle

Gullible's Travels or the Sour Power

By the Bean of Canterbury (High Pontificate of the Stalinist Orthodox Church in the Bourgeois World)

(Note to the reader: This book was written by the Bean of Canterbury, high pontificate of the Stalinist Orthodox Church in the Bourgeois World, where he leads the faithful sheep to slaughter (no, pardon us, we mean "worship"). He is a courageous English churchman, whose unprejudiced mind sees things with a clarity and brilliance unexcelled. Even the Daily Worker says so. If you don't believe him you are either corrupted by capitalist gold or are a nasty Trotskyite. Don't say we didn't warn you.—Ed.)

The Land of the Kremlin, or, as it is sometimes called, the Sovietfatherland, or the Landofsocialistachievement, is so different from the rest of the world that it might appropriately be called Another World. Indeed, I believe it has, once or twice, been so called. It lies approximately 17 light-years of Socialist Reconstruction beyond that great waste of darkness and barbarism known as the Outside World. It is bounded on the north by Sabotage, on the east by Japanese Banditimperialism, on the south by Agents Provocateurs and on the west by the Peoples Front (a natural bridge to the Bourgeois World.)

One may enter the Sovietfatherland only by means of the facilities of the Party Line, a fleet of fast-moving fishing boats run sometimes on oil, but mostly on wind. The Party Line does not pursue a direct course, because of the changing Objective Circumstances, but follows rather a zig-zag, in order to utilize fully the Current of Popular Opinion and the Tide of Reaction. Generally, though, the tendency is to bear to the right, which is the easier way. The captain of my particular ship, the "War Monger" (formerly the "Yanks Are Not Coming," before that the "Social-Fascist") was William Zig-Zag Foster, an able and loyal servant of the Party Line, whose talents were, I understand, especially adapted to quelling mutinies or uneasiness on the part of fellow-travelers.

The voyage was a peaceful one, and rather uneventful, except that once we were nearly hit by a Storm of Fascist Reaction, but by banding together in collective security and praying to Roosevelt we were able to weather the storm, even making a considerable catch of suckers and other poor fish en route.

KREMLIN LAND

My first introduction of Kremlin Land was Moscow, the heart of the country. At first glance I was appalled by the squalor, the wretchedness of living conditions. There were block after block of over-crowded barracks and tenements, without lighting or sanitary convenience. I remarked upon this to my guide, I. Killemeff (appointed to aid my inspection by the Party Line) who explained to me that this was a result of the increasing progress in Moscow. Because of Stalin's industrial program, the population had increased so much that it was no longer possible to house it. This condition, however, he pointed out, was different from similar conditions under capitalist exploitation. Sharing a two-room apartment with three other families helped create the proper cooperative spirit and, indirectly (because of the resulting sexual profligacy), increased the population so that Moscow would eventually have enough workers to build better habitations. "Besides," he added, "with Stakhanovism, 90 per cent of the workers don't get a chance to come home anyway." I was favorably impressed by the force with which he spoke, and the clarity of his logic, and could not help comparing condition in this Happy Land with the wretchedness of Chicago's slums, London's East End, and the like.

We entered the industrial section in order to inspect the factories. My outstanding impression of the factory system was its efficiency. Here there was no waste motion or time for inefficient small talk. As a matter of fact, so intent are citizens upon their work that they would not even talk to me on the streets, not even when I asked them about the system. A dead silence pervaded all. However, my guide explained to me that once a year, on May 1, the citizens took precious moments off from their jobs of building socialism to cheer Comrade Stalin for five consecutive hours. That, said my guide, gives them enough of an opportunity to express their happiness at being permitted to work in the Soviet factories, so that they can be quiet for the other 364 days of the year. A remarkable innovation is that of the GPU, a sort of Efficiency Experts' Corps. When a worker has a suggestion or criticism he simply must make, he makes it to the GPU, who make the necessary adjustments and reward the worker with a vacation or a trip to Siberia (an all-year-round resort for Old Bolsheviks).

In the heart of Moscow is the Palace, or as it is called in the Landof-socialistreconstruction, the Kremlin. Here the Tsar used to sit surrounded by lackeys and Imperial Guards. This unhappy state of affairs has long since been terminated, and today Stalin lives there with his loyal friends and the GPU. Outside the Kremlin is Red Square, famous as the place where Stalin appears once a year to be cheered. My guide explained that the curious name of the place is due to a "red" superstition on the part of the natives, but that eventually it would be changed to Stalin Square, as more in keeping with contemporary conditions. "A while back," he added, "we nearly changed the name to Adol[h]itlerplatz." (Here he hurriedly double-crossed himself, a quaint custom to be found among all servants of the Party Line.)

LOCAL AND EXPRESS

We rode on the wonderful Moscow Subway. The train is much like the New York City Subway. This, said my guide, proves the willingness of the nation to adopt the best of capitalist technique, and therefore proved the superiority of Soviet methods over the backward nations like the USA. The train stopped at every single station and, since Moscow is huge in area, the journey seemed interminable. I quizzed my guide whether there were not any express trains running and he, after laughing good-naturedly at my naivete, explained as follows:

"Your question shows your unfamiliarity with our present advanced state of technology. You are so used to having slow, stupid local trains that you naturally assume that we have them here. We have long since eliminated local trains by making all of our local stops into express stops. Therefore we are able to run only express trains and still cover all of the stations. Stakhanovism. But we are today starting a new express-express train which will not stop at any stations. This will be the fastest train in the world. Stakhanovism." Surely, thought I, this is a decided advantage over the situation in other countries which 80 per cent of the stops are local stops.

My next visit was to Josef Stalin, leader and champion of his people. The door to Stalin's quarters is a huge one, made of massive steel, with a slot through which the doorman can peer out. Over the top is inscribed a quotation: "We wholly disapprove of what you say, and we'll defend with Your Death Our Right to Say It. This Means You.—Stalin." The doorman examined me through the slot, then made the sign of the double-cross. I returned the greeting and he, satisfied with my evidence of good intentions, opened the door. After presenting my credentials to the GPU, as well as my carte blanche from the Party Line, I was stripped and examined for fascist infection (it appears they had had an epidemic of it recently), and then was permitted to prostrate myself before the champion of democracy, Comrade Stalin.

UNCLE JOE CONFESSES

The sight that greeted my eyes was a strange one. Uncle Joe (as I learned affectionately to call him) was peeing up and down the room, leaving a stream of invective directed, apparently, against me, for there was no one else in the room.

"You Trotskyite lovestoneite bukharinite saboteur wrecker counter-revolutionaryagentoffascism! I ought to purge you. You lie to the people. You plot against the revolution. You saboteur of production!"

"But, dear beloved leader," I interjected, "I'm sure you must be—"

"My dear, beloved comrade," he answered, "shoddop!" He resumed the incantation. "You make alliances with British imperialism. You vote

for Roosevelt. You make pacts with Hitler. Who knows what you're going to do next? Nobody trusts you any more."

But, Comrade Stalin," I interrupted. "My loyal comrade," he answered, "this is the last time I'm going to tell you to shoddop. I can see you were never in the YCL." With that he resumed: "You steal the money of the people. I ought to send you to Siberia, you dog, you. Oh, if Lenin were only alive he'd expose you, you social-fascist. I give you three minutes to confess. Come, come, capitulate! Capitulate!"

"But, comrade leader," I expostulated, "I have done nothing; I am innocent!"

"Did you come to me via the Party Line?" he queried.

"Yes, dearly beloved leader." "Then you are, indeed, Innocent," was his rejoinder. "But anyway, comrade, I was not talking to you. This is my regular ten minute period of Bolshevik self-criticism." Then he went on to explain that it was a custom in the country, in deference to the memory of Lenin (one of Stalin's departed aides), for public officials to devote ten minutes a day to criticizing themselves. It made better Bolsheviks of them. "And besides," he added, "how do we know what to purge people for if we don't know what mistakes we've made?" His logic was unanswerable, and we entered upon a long conversation, in the course of which I gained some very interesting information about this wonderful country.

HOW GENERALS DIE

I was much impressed by a certain system in the army. Whereas in backward countries general get shot after the reach the front, the Soviet government shoots its generals BEFORE they go to the front, sometimes, in preparation for a major military campaign, several at a time. This saves a great deal of time, as well as providing excellent target practice for Soviet marksmen. Besides," asked Uncle Joe, "what do they need generals for when they've got me? Didn't I do all right in building up the Red Army?"

I queried Stalin about the historical background of the country, and I reproduce the story exactly as he told it to me, for who should know better than Stalin?

Stalin, with the help of a man named Lenin, who were Bolsheviks, planned the Russian Revolution against the Tsar. In the plans they were aided by a group of trotskitecounterrevolutionaryagentsoffascism, who wanted to keep the Tsar (named Mikado), so they disguised themselves as Bolsheviks and won the revolution for Stalin and overthrew the Tsar, but they were really allied with the Tsar all the time. After this Stalin's helper, Lenin, died, so Stalin was the only real Bolshevik left and he had to expose the trotskitecounterrevolutionaryagentsoffascism all by himself. This was particularly hard because the people (not understanding Dialectical Materialism) didn't believe the trotskyite-etc.'s were really traitors, so Stalin charged that the trotskyite-etc.'s had won the Revolution and had overthrown the Tsar so they could get into Key Places where they could throw monkey wrenches and things into machines and stuff, and build tractors that wouldn't run. They did this because all trotskyite-etc.'s are mean and they wanted to put the Tsar in power again so he would split the country with Hitler, who would put them in power.

HE CAME BY RAIL . . .

We were interrupted at this point by a bushy-haired, unshaven, uncouth sort of fellow, who burst into the office exclaiming wildly:

"Where is the Party Central Committee?"

"I am the Party Central Committee," answered Uncle Joe. "Where did you come from?"

"I am from the Bolshevik Central Committee of Irkutsk near Yakurtsk."

"From Irkutsk near Yakurtsk? How did you get here?"

"Trans-Siberian Railway."

"You came all the way from Irkutsk near Yakurtsk on the Trans-Siberian Railway, one Railway, without getting off?" Uncle Joe was visibly impressed.

"Pravda!" ("Pravda" is the word for "truth." It is also the name of Uncle Joe's newspaper. Remarkable language!)

"Wonderful!" exclaimed Stalin. "Remind me to tell Kaganovich not to build a Trans-Siberian Railway. Did the trip take you long?"

"Not very long." The man drew himself up impressively. "The Bolshevik Central Committee has sent me as a delegate to vote for the seizure of power. The oppression has become unbearable. Is Comrade Lenin in Petrograd?"

"Comrade Lenin is dead."

"Dead?" The delegate drew back. "Then where is Comrade Trotsky?"

"COMRADE Trotsky!" Stalin yelled. He drew a gun, and with the

cool efficiency so characteristic of this beloved leader, shot the stranger dead.

He went to a phone and dialed a number. "Hello, Kaganovich? Listen. I want you to blow up the Trans-Siberian Railway. There is so—somebody rode on it! It's dangerous. I don't know where you'll find it, but blow it up. We'll build another in the next Five Year Plan." He hung up. "I could see that Stalin was greatly agitated, so, stepping carefully over the body, I withdrew.

THE EARL OF BROWDER

In the anteroom, I met one of the lesser nobility, the Earl of Browder, who handles the dirty work of the Party Line (99-44/100 per cent of the business) in New York. When he heard my Oxford accent, he was greatly interested in me, and invited me into his office. It was a rather modest affair, recently painted in red, white and blue and decorated with portraits of famous leaders of the American Communist Party, such as George Washington, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, Nathan Hale, Abraham Lincoln, Israel Amter, and himself. On the wall was a copy of the Declaration of Independence, under which was the notation "Endorsed by the Ninth Party Convention, CPUSA" and on the door was the motto of the Earl's family: "It's Smart to Be Shifty." We had a brief but enlightening discussion on American history, during which I learned that Benédict Arnold was a member of a trotskyite-etc. group which had sabotaged the defense of the Alamo and blew up the Maine. He had, he said, definite evidence that connected them with the massacre of General Custer by Sitting Bull. After vigorously assuring me that "Communism is Twentieth Century Americanism" he bade me good day.

My next visit was to a unique institution which requires a slight introduction before I go on to its description. A little known feature of the government on this Island of Joy (to use a phrase of Gil Green's) is the delightful method of selecting public officials. In accordance with the latest discoveries in modern science, as expressed in the Darwinian "survival of the fittest," officials are put through a vigorous test to discern their fitness for office. The people are so enthusiastic over the present regime that no one every nominates an opposition candidate, and therefore the government is able to use strictly non-partisan methods of determining the ingenuity of its elected officials. Frequent "purge picnics" are held each year, to which the public is not invited (to insure the impartiality of the proceedings). At this affair, each official blames his subordinates for his mistakes, while the subordinate retaliates by accusing his superior of bureaucratism. Then the two dive into a volume called "Comrades' Colossal Compendium o Pseudo-Leftist Phrases," containing suitable quotations for any occasion, cross-indexed and abbreviated. (These phrases, however, must be in season, as the acceptable formulae change each three months, adding to the odds against the contestants.) The one who finds the most numerous and the most suitable quotations is adjudged the winner (by Stalin, as referee), and the other is led off to the Purgery, which is the institution I am about the describe.

THE PURGERY

The Purgery is the largest edifice in Moscow, and adjoins the large Moscow Memorial Cemetery for Bureaucrats and Saboteurs (divided into lots, plots and counter-plots). It is a plain, unadorned brick building on Liquidation Lane.

There are two entrances to it: one marked "Left Deviation," the other marked "Right Deviation." During the even years the "Left Deviation" is used, and during odd years the "Right Deviation." There is no difference between them, for they both lead to the same wall. On this wall is the inscription "It's Never Too Late to Capitulate."

Having seen everything there was too see in this marvelous country, I was ready to return home. I was examined first, however, to see if I were carrying any germs of socialism on my body. It appears that this is a rapidly declining special of animal in the land but one which is purely a national product, able to survive only in One Country, and could, under no circumstances, be exported. I submitted willingly, and was declared free from any familiarity with socialist germs.

I embarked again on the Party Line for my voyage home. The journey was a rather harrowing one, for we followed first the course of the Axis River. We were nearly swamped by a blitzkrieg (tidal wave of the Axis), but quickly reversed ourselves, sailing along the broad channel of the Anti-Nazi until we reached London.

(The Bean was interrupted at this point by a London fog, in which he wandered off, thinking himself again in his beloved Kremlinland. After a while he fell head first into a bog. But don't bother him; he's happy that way.—Ed. Note.)

CLIFF.

High School Students Face War Problems From Education to Repression - - the Story of the High Schools During the Last War

By MARTIN PHILLIPS

There is much talk today of the great "democratic" right of every boy and girl in our "democracy" to an education. But let us examine what really goes on in capitalist-controlled high schools during periods of imperialist war. Those of us who today are high school students know what is going on in our schools—we know of the pressure that is constantly being applied to us, we know of the anti-labor propaganda being fed to us, of the investigation of all liberal teachers as "reds" and of the attempts being made to censor textbooks. These things the average high school student is aware of. But we must keep in mind that this is only the beginning. America has not yet taken even the formal action of entering the war.

In order to understand what will happen in the high schools later on, let us examine what happened in the New York high schools during the last war. The hounding of New York teachers began at the very outbreak of the war. First there was the "Mayor's Pledge" which they were all required to sign—to be followed by another pledge contrived by the Board of Education. Eighty-seven teachers objected to the pledge; many of these later served in the army, but this didn't save them from later persecutions and discriminations when they retired from army service. The first real outbreak occurred

at De Witt Clinton High School in the fall of 1917. Despite the fact that both teachers and pupils were both overworked, the superintendent of schools arbitrarily lengthened the school day. A group of students went down to the Board of Education to protest the measure and were promptly told by a board member that "neither the pupils nor the teachers will be allowed to run the schools, and if you don't go back and behave yourselves we'll close down all the schools."

Near to Strike
The pupils went back to the school and gave their report. There was the beginning of a strike, and over a hundred teachers met in the auditorium and drew up a resolution condemning the statement that had been made by the board member. This was a direct challenge to those in authority—the Board of Education, the superintendents and the principals. A revolt must be put down at all costs—so thought the leaders of the educational system. The "Spy Department" which was later developed into an elaborate system of espionage, was ready with the names of three of the "ring leaders." The only thing left to be done now was to cook up charges against them.

The first teacher was brought to trial and expelled because he had given his pupils the following theme: "Write an open letter to the President, commenting frankly, within the limits of your knowl-

edge, upon his conduct of the war against the German government." For THAT, he was thrown out of the school system.

The offense of the second teacher was that he had given his pupils a list of books to read which included the following: 1) a book on anarchism, by a non-anarchist, criticizing the theory, and 2) Jean Christophe, a novel by the Frenchman, Romain Rolland. The third teacher was ousted on a similar flimsy charge.

That's what happened to these men, none of whom were "reds" or even "pinks"—but who dared to think for themselves. The expulsion of these three Clinton teachers was a victory for reaction in the educational system. The spy network was now extended. A card index was compiled by the teacher who was chief spy, with detailed information about suspected teachers.

Another Victim
Another teacher was soon to fall victim, this time in Brooklyn Commercial High School. His only crime was that a boy in his class had asked him "whether or not Lenin and Trotsky were, in his opinion, German agents." His exact reply, as sworn to by 35 boys in his class, was that he "did not think so, as Lenin and Trotsky had been busy circulating propaganda literature against the war among the Germans, thereby undermining their

(Continued on page 3)

Martin Phillips.

Max Weiss Proposes to Joe Lash

YCL Flirtation With Jingo Youth Leaders

by Irving Howe

LEFT OF THE NEWS

Quote and unquote:

"I have often been accused of using 'hysterical' words."—Dorothy Thomson. . . . Don't let these accusations bother you, Dotty. . . . Go right on using them.

"A railroad strike at this time is unthinkable."—William Green. . . . Think again, Bill, you're getting a one-track mind.

"I no longer believe what I read in the papers, unless it's a story I've written, and even then I have my doubts."—Walter Duranty. . . . How naive! Here's a man who thinks he's paid to BELIEVE what he writes!

"We should have more consideration for the boys who are keeping out defense bonds from becoming worthless."—Senator O'Daniels, of Texas, speaking on draftees. . . . Come, come, Senator. Surely you have more tact than that.

According to the Dean of Canterbury, Soviet aviators fly "as straight as the party line." . . . Now we know what happened to those fliers who were missing a while back. . . . The line changed while they were in the air. . . . They started out for Berlin and ended up in London. . . . And fliers aren't the only Russians who turn up missing because of the Party Line . . . or the only ones who are left up in the air, either.

Speaking of curves, the YCL girls, some of whom have almost as many as the party line, are doing army recruiting in real ROTC style. . . . Jingo belles, jingo belles, jingo all the way. . . . They want to take the boys for an open 'slay' ride.

The British imperialist "V" for "Victory" dates back to Caesar's days, when a "V" symbolized a military victory of slave-imperialist Rome over ITS oppressed nationalities. . . . In those days, too, they did it in the name of the Roman people . . . most of whom were on the dole.

We note with satisfaction the decision of Minneapolis's progressive Teamsters Local 544 not to give an inch to mud-slinging Dan Tobin. . . . Give a bureaucrat an inch and he wants to be a ruler, we say.

This may be old, but in line with the mayoralty campaign we think it's worth repeating:

I don't like the politicians in this city.

They boddiya. They take the money oddiya.

In fact, I don't even like La-Gwaddiya.

We don't believe there's a gas shortage. . . . Instead of this 7:00 p.m. curfew, why not stick a pipe line into Senator Pepper? . . . If he had his way, soon we'd have to take soldiers out of the army in order to recruit a civilian population. . . . They're calling him "The Gentle Drafter."

We close with the thought of the month: If generals can die in bed, why can't we?

Cliff.

The Young Communist League is blessed with a particularly adaptable leadership. Characterized by a servility towards the leadership of the Communist Party and its policies as well as an ambition to rise to higher bureaucratic posts in the Stalinist hierarchy, the YCL leaders are always ready to defend whatever may be the latest twist or turn in Stalinist policy. And, God knows, there's plenty of twisting and turning for them to do!

An interesting and instructive example of this latest twist, occasioned by the German-Russo war, is the report of Max Weiss, now president of the YCL's National Committee, which has been reprinted in pamphlet form. It is worth while examining the ideas of this report, since from them we can get an indication of the direction in which the YCL is headed.

Weiss begins with a discussion of the war, and, as all other Stalinist spokesmen, attempts to justify the sharp about-face which the Stalinists made from an "anti-war" position to blatant support of the imperialist war which Churchill and Roosevelt are conducting together with Stalin. His argument is as follows:

"Prior to the involvement of the Soviet Union this war was an imperialist war on both sides. The governments waging it were motivated by imperialist aims. Despite their profoundly democratic and anti-fascist sentiments, the masses of the people could not influence the real aims of the war. These were fired by the dominant warring powers. Consequently, the people had nothing to gain from a victory of either side."

"The involvement of the Soviet Union, however, has brought about a different situation. . . . The involvement of the Soviet Union as a dominant power in the war gives the people of the whole world a guarantee that the anti-fascist aims which motivate their struggle against Hitler and fascism will be translated into reality in the course of the war. . . . Hence, the involvement of the Soviet Union has changed the basic character of the war, transforming it into a just war against Hitler fascism. . . ."

WHERE IS THE CHANGE?

Now, listen again: ". . . this war was an imperialist war. The governments waging it were motivated by imperialist aims." That is correct. The war was (and remains) an imperialist war, because the participants on both sides have imperialist aims. But how has the entry of the Soviet Union into the war changed this? Do not the warring governments retain their imperialist aims? Does not, for example, Britain continue to exploit its colony, India, just as viciously, with the same imperialist rapacity, as it did before the entrance of Stalin into the war? Do not America and Japan, again to take another example, continue to clash in the Far East for precisely the same imperialist motives as they did before Stalin entered the war?

It is clear that Weiss's argument is arrant nonsense. If what determines the reactionary nature of the war, is the imperialist aims of the participants—then nobody, by any stretch of the imagination, can declare that the war aims of Churchill and Roosevelt have changed.

Well, says Weiss, the Soviet Union in the war now changes the picture. It is "a guarantee that the anti-fascist aims . . . will be translated into reality." Why so? Let us look at the facts.

When Stalin made his one and only speech, after the Hitlerite invasion, he declared that he stood for the restoration of the pre-Hitler status. Again the Daily Worker, and before it, the Soviet press (Tass dispatch), endorsed the eight-point program of Churchill and Roosevelt which also comes out for the restoration of the imperialist status quo. Nowhere, absolutely nowhere, have Stalin or any of his lackeys said a word about socialism being their aim.

WAR AIMS AND SOCIALISM

The best proof of that is the indignant denial on the part of Weiss that the issue in this war is social-

ism. He says that to say such a thing is to repeat "Hitler's lie."

Now, we should like to ask: Does Weiss or any other Stalinist leader believe that the "genuine attempt to restore 'democratic' capitalism, that they can be satisfied by anything but socialism? Surely, even this pint-sized Browder will not say that!

So we again see that the entrance of Stalin into the war does not in any way change its basically imperialist character. For Stalin himself has assured the world that he fights merely for the restoration of the old imperialist world, in subordination to his English and American partners, and that he has no intention of making socialism a post-war aim.

We, as a matter of fact believe that the issue in this war is socialism. We do not merely say, as the Stalinists do now: Choose between Hitler or the Allies. For we believe that if either of them wins, it will be capitalist slavery and brutality that will win out. We believe that the only force that can stop Hitler is the Third Camp of the world working class (about which the Stalinists were talking only yesterday—when it was convenient) which will smash Hitlerism and its source, capitalism, once and for all. That is why socialism is an issue in this war. It is the only way to end it!

What, however, is the issue in the world, according to the Stalinist version? It is, Weiss tells us, that German fascism wants to conquer the world." But, pray tell, wasn't that just as true before Stalin sided with Churchill and Roosevelt? Wasn't that true when Stalin sided with Hitler? And if that were a reason to support Roosevelt and Churchill, wouldn't it have been just as valid before the outbreak of the Russo-German war?

Weiss then proceeds to discuss what he wants America to do. His proposal can be summed up in one word: war. He is ready to have America take over "whatever naval bases are required."

"The declared policy of the Roosevelt Administration for full aid to Britain and the Soviet Union dictates as a matter of plain common sense that the United States shall become a full-fledged partner of this alliance at the earliest possible moment."

And, further, "the masses of youth must be prepared to support every economic, political and military move of the Roosevelt Administration which will effectively contribute to the defense of our country."

In other words, war! The YCL lines up, without hesitation, on the side of the capitalist interventionists, on the side of the hysterical war-mongering journalists, on the side of the scheming war profiteers. It lines up against the masses of the people and youth whom it wants to send to mass slaughter on Europe's battlefields.

NATIONAL YOUTH FRONT

Finally, Weiss proposes the organization of a "National Youth Front" to be composed of all pro-war youth organizations.

Among the groups with which the YCL wants to form this National Youth Front is the Clearing House for Youth Groups, which is led by Joe Lash, unofficial youth spokesman of the Roosevelt Administration and a leading pro-war leader among youth organizations. Lash, in the past period, had been the special object of YCL attacks, as a reading of past issues of the Young Communist Review will demonstrate.

Now Lash is to be the partner of Weiss. A fitting couple! Together for war, together against the interests of working class youth, together in support of imperialism!

We, for our part, are against any sort of National Youth Front. We want a united front of all working class and poor youth. We want nothing to do with the ritzy, capitalist youth outfits which are financed, staffed, led and composed of young blue-bloods. We want the proletarian and poor youth to ally themselves with the working class in its struggle against war and for its class emancipation. That is the only way out.

UE "Reps" Show Fighting Attitude

At their seventh convention in Camden, the delegates of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union locals demonstrated a militant attitude toward labor's economic problems even if the convention resolutions do not offer the best solution to those problems. And although the progressive outlook of these rank and file unionists led them to reject categorically the vicious red-baiting of ex-President Carey and his followers, it is unfortunate that they found no better substitute than the program of union leaders whose policies vary with the "line" of the Communist Party.

The important business of the union got off to an un-

A Generation of Ill-Fed, Sick Youth

By BILL HAINES

Imagine a country where "at least 40 million people are suffering from very bad diets," where "malnutrition has been a contributing cause in approximately 60 per cent of the deaths in this country for the past five years," and where "400,000 out of a million (40 per cent) potential draftees had to be rejected for physical defects." This country is not impoverished China or India, but the richest country in the world, the United States of America!

The above quotations are taken from statements made by such authorities as Vice-President Henry A. Wallace, Brigadier-General Lewis Hershey, director of the Selective Service Act, and Federal Securities Administrator Paul McNutt, at the recent National Nutrition Conference for Defense, called in Washington by President Roosevelt. The conference was called to consider ways and means of raising the poor nutrition level of the American public. It is ironic but typical of capitalism that the government should be concerned with the public's poor health at the present time after having allowed it to deteriorate progressively for the past ten years.

The reason for the Administration's sudden interest in nutrition is, of course, its wartime needs. McNutt gave the whole show away when he asked: "How can we expect to step up production of airplanes, munitions and ships if we do not step up the health and general fitness of the workers who make production possible?" In a similar vein, the director of the Selective Service Act, Hershey, complained about the high percentage (40 per cent) of draft rejections for physical reasons and stated that "the low public health is endangering national defense."

Peculiar Interest

In other words, these gentlemen do not care about improving the public's health and diet for the benefit of the people, but rather wish to do so only as a means of producing the best possible cannon fodder for imperialist war.

(Continued on page 4)

conflict which was more pro-war than its equivalent carried by the recent auto workers convention in Buffalo. The resolution carried by the UAW at least opposed American participation in the conflict. Similar isolationist resolutions introduced at the UE convention by the St. Louis and Bridgeport locals were defeated, however, and the Stalinist-Careyite resolution carried against five opposing votes. Only an hour and a half of discussion occurred on the "Aid to Britain, China and the USSR" resolution.

On the issue of Communists in the UE, the delegates showed that they understood what was really involved although the opposing resolutions were equally reactionary. James Carey, president of the UE, supported a resolution giving locals the right to introduce into their local constitutions measures barring Nais, Communists and Fascists from office. The Stalinists countered with a resolution in the best tradition of the rightwing labor-fakers guaranteeing members in good standing their rights and privileges without discrimination "unless such a member be proved guilty of acts against the nation."

Challenge Stalinists

When union militants challenged the latter resolution by asking what would become of Jackson, UE vice-president in Canada, accused by his government of disloyalty or of similar offenses which have occurred during UE strikes in this country when against the "nation" for defending union leaders were accused of "acts the rights of their brothers, the Stalinists evaded answering the questions.

The pro-Carey delegates, however, could have won a silver loving cup for their hysterical flag-waving and violent attitude toward militant left-wingers, had the National Association of Manufacturers offered one. It is a tribute to the understanding of the delegates that they rejected in overwhelming majority the disgusting red-baiting of the Careyites even though, in doing so, they accepted the equally reactionary resolution of the Stalinists.

Proof that they really didn't want to do so is the vote that a large bloc of militant delegates cast for the candidates for president of the international. The Stalinists supported Fitzgerald, president of the Lynn General Electric Local. Although Carey was defeated by his opponent, the vote was very close, unlike the overwhelming vote against Carey's red-baiting.

It is impossible to avoid comparing the UE convention with the convention of the auto workers in one respect. Although the UE boasts jurisdiction over 300,000 workers in the industry, a tremendous percentage of whom are youth, there were few delegates younger than 25. Even if this membership figure is not really representative of the dues-paying members, it reveals a lack of interest in responsibility on the part of the younger members in the UE. There were many youth at the UAW convention.

Youth Problem

It is likely that a share of the responsibility for this situation lies in the lack of attention to the problem of discrimination against the youth in UE plants. Elsewhere on this page is the resolution introduced at the convention calling attention to what is now a nationwide problem, the discrimination against "learners" in the machine shops and instrument plants. The substance of this resolution was proposed and carried at the convention. This particular action, however, offers no concrete solution to the problem, merely suggesting that standards be set similar to the standards for apprentices.

Since, however, the apprentice standards are a long-existent reality in the machine-tool industry, this is no real solution. A minimum wage and provisions for a national organization drive to establish it can solve the youth wage problem.

High Schools During Last War--

(Continued from page 2)

morale and weakening their power." Despite the fact that he had an excellent teaching record, this teacher was expelled from the school system because he had dared to utter a timid defense of the two great revolutionary leaders from a slander which was obviously false. Soon afterward, still another teacher was thrown out of the educational system because he had advised his pupils to read an article by the world-famous economist, Thorstein Veblen.

Then there is the story of the High School of Commerce, which was one of the most progressive schools of the time. There existed complete freedom of discussion in the classrooms. But not for long. It had been the custom, when election time came around, for the history and civics departments to take a straw ballot for the Presidency—and the dreadful discovery was made that 354 out of 2,000 students had voted for the great socialist leader, Debs. It was proposed to tell this in the school weekly, but a tiny minority to hold all the power, the superintendent in charge ordered the paper suppressed and rebuked the principal for having had the straw poll taken.

A little later the same principal got his orders about freedom of discussion of Russia—this was no longer to be free; there was to be one view and one view alone and that was the official anti-Bolshevik propaganda. Later the school was ordered to enforce a rule forbidding socialist newspapers to be carried in classrooms or study halls. To add strength to the dictatorship

that was set up in the school system, one of the leading superintendents made the remark to reporters that he would bar H. G. Wells from the school form of New York for having said that Lenin was a great man!

We have given a few examples of what happened in New York high schools during the last war. Of course, in other cities all over the country the same things were happening. And today, again, we come across similar situations. The Rapp-Coudert Committee, a streamlined version of the Lusk laws, is an example—one of the hundreds that can be cited.

But this is really only the beginning. The wave of reaction that promises to sweep over the educational system this time will make the last one seem like a mere drop of water. That is, unless something is done about it. . . .

The high school student of today is the soldier of tomorrow. He cannot bury himself in the sand, regardless of whether the sand is books, football or anything else. He must recognize his problem and must line up with the working class in order to solve it.

The CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

Subscription: 25c a year
Published monthly
Vol. II, No. 9 (New Series)
(Whole No. 47)
SEPTEMBER 15, 1941
Organ of the
YOUNG PEOPLES
SOCIALIST LEAGUE
YOUTH SECTION, WORKERS PARTY
114 W. 14th St. (3rd Floor)
New York, N. Y.
Editor: Irving Howe
Bus. Mgr.: Evelyn Stone

RESOLUTION NO. 96

Submitted by Local 735, Cleveland, Ohio

LEARNERS' STANDARDS

WHEREAS: Our union has fought for and established standards for apprenticeship in our industry in cooperation with the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship which has protected the youth desiring to become skilled workers, and

WHEREAS: At present thousands of young people are being brought into our industry as "learners" who are not receiving proper training which will qualify them for machine tool operators when the present program is over, and

WHEREAS: These learners should be protected by the establishment of standards similar to those already established for apprenticeship under the supervision of the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship, and

WHEREAS: These standards should provide for adequate supplementary education and equal representation of labor and management on shop committees authorized to supervise this training program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That Local 735, United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America, urges the establishment of standards for learners and that the present legislation authorizing the establishment of the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship be amended by Congress to also include similar provisions for learners, and be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be presented to the seventh convention of our international union for adoption with instructions to our international officers to work for the adoption of an appropriate amendment by Congress to the existing legislation, and be it further

REIGN OF TERROR AGAINST THE NEGRO DRAFTEE MUST BE ENDED

Story of Fort Bragg Murder

A crowded bus load of Negro conscripts was returning from a near-by town to Fort Bragg, an army camp in North Carolina. One of the Negro soldiers was drunk and began to get noisy. The driver tried to get him to be quiet and when that was impossible, he refused to drive on until the drunken Negro was quieted.

The bus was stopped at the railroad station by a dispatcher. In the meantime, the driver, seeing two white MPs on the street, called them over and asked them to quiet the drunken Negro.

The MP's boarded the bus. The first one, a 20 year old from Jim Crow Texas, got to the Negro and smashed him across the head with a club. The MP kept beating the Negro even after he was unconscious and his head crushed by the blows of the club.

Another Negro soldier, Allen Turman, demanded to know what the MP's were going to do with the unconscious Negro. When informed that the drunken soldier would be taken to jail instead of to a doctor, Turman protested. The MP dropped his "work" on the drunken Negro and began to attack Turman.

Turman didn't take it lying down. He fought back. He managed to throw the MP off balance and then grabbed the gun from out the MP's holster and shot him through the heart. The other MP drew his gun. Turman fired at him and shot him through the neck, shoulder and hand. Turman was shot and killed and three others injured in this gun battle.

The nation's press garbled and distorted this story. Reports tried to turn this incident in "a drunken soldier shot and killed an MP and was killed in turn." No. That is not what happened! A courageous Negro soldier, sober but enraged by witnessing the useless and brutal attack on his buddy, tried to stop the beating. When he saw that he must kill or be killed, he chose to fight it out. That is what happened on the bus back to Fort Bragg.

We wonder: The next time one of the hysterical woodchucks makes a speech about going to war "to defend democracy," will he tell this story in order to give a vivid illustration of what is really... American democracy?

Police Brutality In Philadelphia Must Stop!

Once again police brutality displayed itself in the Philadelphia Negro ghetto district only a few weeks past.

A woman of about 25 years of age went berserk at about 12:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 15, causing considerable anxiety among sympathetic bystanders along the South Street Rhinoceros. Police were called to "arrest" the woman and give aid in releasing a cleaver that was being wildly wielded by her at everyone passing the highway.

It was necessary after "completely" having the berserk Henrietta Jackson under control, for an officer to "dash up" and hit the woman over the head with his flashlight, breaking it to bits.

As many police were on hand to disperse the crowd, it was unnecessary to realize the crowd's decision when they bellowed "let's let her go!" The officer who had so violently bashed the woman over the head was forced into a doorway of a store with pistol drawn in an effort to stave off the angry mob.

Others, venting the unnecessary attitude taken by the arresting officers, minced no words in stating their views and did their best to convince the crowd that the procedure was anti-democratic and prejudicial.

BALTIMORE—While Negro leaders hailed the willingness of Glenn L. Martin, president of the Martin airplane factory, to discuss with them the question of jobs for Negroes, the very same Mr. Martin handed in a request to the WPA for 1,000 new workers—all of whom must be white! It was clear that what the airplane boss was trying to do was to get the Negro people involved in a long series of conferences that would never end, while he would continue his Jim-Crow policy right along. Martin is the man who recently said that he would rather close his plant down than employ Negroes.

"Come On, Fight for Democracy"



Rep. Mitchell on How NOT To Defend Negro People

A few months ago, the Negro press of the country, as well as sections of the white press, came out in a rash over the Supreme Court victory won by Congressman Mitchell of Illinois. After four years of struggle, Mitchell had finally carried his case up to the highest court in the land and had received a decision that from then on there were to be equal accommodations for colored and white passengers in all interstate travel.

Some papers hailed it as a tremendous victory. A few reported it for the shallow thing it is. Now, it seems, those Negroes who have the money to pay for a Pullman car need no longer fear the hardships of traveling in dirty, hot coaches. The railroads must provide them, even in Alabama, with—JIM-CROW Pullmans.

What Representative Mitchell, the Supreme Court justices and the enthusiastic press failed to notice was that nothing in the decision could possibly change the fundamental policy of the Southern roads. Colored and white still may not ride in the same cars and for those who are not congressmen and yet need Pullman transportation, nothing at all has been done. The coaches are still as dirty and as hot as ever before.

NAACP Pickets Woolworth

NEW YORK—Stating that the hiring of Negroes in the Woolworth store at Fulton Street and Nostrand Avenue in the heart of the Negro district in Brooklyn was a social problem, H. Hawkins, personnel director of the Woolworth corporation, told a delegation from Negro youth groups that the store would not hire Negro clerks. "We won't hire them unless the other stores do," he said.

A drive against the discriminatory policy of the store has been carried on for more than a month by the local youth council of the NAACP together with other organizations. Hawkins stated that the discrimination was being carried on with full knowledge of the Woolworth Corp. Youth groups here plan an organized drive to win jobs with the chain.

But the Peepul's Candidate, the only Negro in the Congress of the United States, has a different opinion of the importance of this decision. According to a speech recently delivered in Philadelphia, he considers it by far "the greatest single achievement the Negro people have made in the last 50 years."

Now, don't misunderstand. This wasn't said by someone else at a testimonial dinner for the congressman; it wasn't even part of an election campaign. On the contrary, it was part of his own speech at a protest meeting held at McDowell Temple here in an attempt to exert mass pressure on the Police Department of Philadelphia. It was at a meeting for which Mitchell had been advertised as a fiery and militant speaker, one who would show the colored people of North Philadelphia the way to fight against police brutality and murdering of colored citizens by cops.

And nobody can say Mitchell didn't tell them. He told them just about enough to succeed in messing up a proposed protest march on City Hall. He told them he was tired of "cry-baby Negroes," that it was time for his race to wake up and quit complaining. He pointed out the importance of national unity during the present crisis and said that "mob tactics" would never get them anywhere.

And as the outstanding example of how to do these things, the great Negro MISleader pointed to the decision HE had won in the Supreme Court.

Oh, yes, the congressman had plenty to say that day. He was willing to say anything and everything that might squelch the rising spirit of militancy. He spoke of our noble President, reminded the audience of the Executive Order for equal rights for defense jobs and roundly denounced anyone who might suggest that that order came as a result of the threatened march on Washington.

Like Randolph and White, those other "great Negro leaders" who so obligingly called off the march on Washington, the congressman made it very clear which side he was standing on in this fight; and that is the side, not of the Negro people, not of the working people, not of the underprivileged Southern class from which he sprang. It is not the side of the Chicago Negroes who elected him to office, but that of the

bosses, of the President, the warmongers and exploiters.

He took his stand that day with the numerous misleaders of the Negro people who are so anxious to see their race emancipated—emancipated from their militancy, from their desire to better their conditions. He told the audience he was a "personal friend of our great President." Fine, if he prefers the friendship of the President to that of his people, he has made his own bed and is not only entitled but forced to lie in it.

For the Negro people of the United States do not hold Mitchell's position. Unlike him, they have found no democracy at home. Unlike him, they do not particularly care whether they have the right to ride in a Pullman car. They would like to have a decent, clean bus or coach to travel in. Unlike him, they do not, cannot, feel that they will ever win victories in the law courts and congresses of this country. Our magistrates, judges, and Presidents have taught them these things, and even Mitchell can never unteach them.

Congressman, it's going to take a helluva lot of oratory and fine words to convince the 10 per cent of the population of this country who live in the Negro ghettos of America that you or Roosevelt or anyone else is going to win their battles for them. They have learned by hard experience that there is only one way to win—by fighting, as an organized group, against those people who oppress them.

School Girls Hit Jim-Crow

Six hundred high school girls about to get their diplomas from a South Philadelphia school took time out last week to draw up a petition condemning the anti-Negro discrimination rampant in the nation's capital.

Every year the students of the senior class take a trip to Washington. Because of the Jim-Crowism existing in the capital, Negro students must abstain from taking the trip, for when they arrive they are unable to stay in the same hotels with their fellow classmates. But this year the students decided that it was high time something was done about the situation.

The entire Negro community is profoundly stirred and shocked at what has recently been happening in the United States Army. Scarcely a day goes by without the newspapers carrying a report from some army camp which describes the latest act of discrimination against the Negro soldiers, or the latest scandal in a rapidly growing list of scandals which can only bring shame and disgrace to the heart of anyone who even pretends to believe in equality and justice.

First, the horrible murder of a Negro soldier at Fort Bragg by a white MP and the story of the reign of terror which was conducted against the Negro soldiers afterward.

Then the story of Northern Negro soldiers who deserted from their Louisiana camp because they could no longer tolerate the brutal Jim Crow reign of the camp and wanted to go back to a Northern camp where there wasn't any—or at least, less—Jim Crow practiced.

Then, the story of the Negro soldiers who were rounded up in Washington, D. C., when they go into a fight protesting against Jim Crow humiliations inflicted upon them in that city.

And these are but three out of literally dozens and scores of reports coming from every side of the country. The Negro boys, enticed or forced into service in the Army, which President Roosevelt tells us is being built to make the world safe for "democracy," are going through a nightmarish hell of Jim Crow suffering, which is inflicted on them by the superior officers of this very same army!

Especially terrible is the lot of the Northern Negro soldiers. Most of these boys, while they have of course met Jim Crow, have not come into contact with the more vicious Southern variety. They are now thrown into the Southern camps—like Camp Bragg—where the commanding officers are viciously anti-Negro and where they have to suffer the humiliations which are the usual thing for the Southern Negro boys. But the Northerners, not used to these humiliating conditions, rebel and try to fight for the preservation of some standards of human decency and respect. As a result, they have been victimized by the most vicious and brutal reign of terror.

The Negro soldiers—like the entire Negro people—must struggle for freedom or suffer the humiliations of semi-slavery. There is no middle course. Fight or surrender! Struggle for freedom or acquiesce to discrimination!

We stand four-square with the brave Negro boys who have protested against Jim Crow in the Army—those boys who have suffered in the guard house, in various forms of military punishment, in race riots provoked by stupid and brutal Southern officers. We stand with the Negro boys because we stand with the oppressed and downtrodden everywhere.

The workers everywhere, the Negro people and youth must not cease raising their voices until these scandals are ended. The fight against Jim Crow goes on: in the city, on the farm, in the barracks. That fight will not be ended until Jim Crow is in memory of the dread past.

Generation of Ill-Fed Youth--

(Continued from page 2)

The Conference well understood that the basic reason for America's poor health is the low income of the majority of the population; they simply can't afford to buy enough food to maintain good health. A report submitted to President Roosevelt urged: "Vigorous and continued attack on the fundamental problems of unemployment, insecure employment, and rates of pay inadequate to maintain an American standard of living. It has been abundantly proved in many cases that undernourishment and ignorance are twins born of the same mother—poverty." For an indication of just how low the income of the American people is, see another article in this Challenge, quoting a report of the TNEC on the effect that eight out of every ten American families have FAMILY incomes

of less than \$3,100 a year. Contrast this miserable income figure to the income of \$4,400 a year which each American family could have, according to a report of the National Survey of Potential Productive Capacity, if production had been for use instead of for profit.

Although the conference recognized that America's basic problem was low income of the masses, it proposed no concrete remedies for this situation. Why not? For the very simple reason that there are no cures for low income and unemployment within the limits of a capitalist economy system. Only socialism, through nationalizing the means of production, instituting workers' control and instituting production for use, not for profit, can cure unemployment and malnutrition and provide adequate income for all.