

# The Fighting Worker

Official Organ of The Revolutionary Workers League, U. S.

Workers of  
The World  
Unite!

VOL. 3—No. 3 — Whole No. 106

FEBRUARY, 15, 1943

Price 5c

## Imperialists Fear Red Army Victory

### Miner's Strike Will Rise Again

The 3 week strike of the 22,000 hard coal miners of Pennsylvania comes in the midst of the war. As the first militant strike struggle of 1943, it sets the keynote for the wave of strikes to come.

By striking before the expiration of the contract, for higher wages and against the 6 day week and increased dues, the miners demonstrated in action their distrust and hatred of the mine operators, the Lewis machine, and the war government's labor board.

The workers see big business and the coal operators making millions out of the war. They see the operators combining to fix prices, with war profiteering on such a raw and open basis that a Federal grand jury is forced to indict 29 anthracite corporations on charges of fixing prices from 1939 to 1942. and yet the OPA grants the operators an increase of 50 cents a ton on hard coal to "meet higher costs"!

On the other hand, every grievance is given a run-around, wage demands are pushed off till the new contract, and the 15% limitation practically cuts out any increase; food price are rising, rents increasing, and taxes are adding new burdens.

With the present low wages, time and a half for Saturdays is a miserable sop-rightly rejected by more than a 5 to 1 vote by workers of the Lehigh Valley Coal Co. To make things worse, Lewis' agreement left a hundred loopholes for the operators to cheat and cut on Saturday overtime pay for piece-rate workers. Not all of Lewis' fanfare about a "victory" can hide the sell-out nature of this agreement.

The capitalist press attempted to palm off the strike as merely against the increase of fifty cents a month in dues. The economic plight of the miners, the crushing weight of the war on living stand-

ards, was ignored or pushed into the background. The strike was used as a weapon by the Roosevelt force against Lewis and by reactionaries generally against the union movement.

The right wing forces in and out of Congress seized on the strike as an excuse for a whole series of anti-labor bills.

#### WORKERS STRUGGLE AGAINST BUREOCRACY

That the miners are fiercely opposed to Lewis and his machine goes without saying. They know that he wants the increased dues to build up a war chest against the AFL and CIO, for an independent movement. And they know also that Lewis will give any such movement the same check-off and gangsterism, the same bureaucracy, the same despotic cynical disregard of the workers needs and rights as he has given them.

Some 15 months ago, in September 1941, the rank and file in this same area struck against the check-off and the dues and special assessments which were increased from \$14 to \$24. They revolted in spite of the UMW having closed shop and check-off agreement with the operators, in spite of their livelihood being endangered.

That revolt, even though it was encouraged by the Hillman-Roosevelt forces, was a harbinger of last month's struggle.

Incidentally, it may be noted that the Trotskyites at that time supported Lewis and condemned the rank and file revolt on the grounds that the increases were "voted by the international executive board and approved by a referendum of the membership." (Militant, Sept. 27, 1941). Hitler also has "referendums"!

The present dues increase was approved by a convention (of course, a Lewis convention, with all that means). But this time the Trotskyites oppose Lewis and no longer speak about his "progressive union policies." (Militant, Sept. 20, 1941). The reason for their switch is the Lewis break with the CIO ended their hopes of becoming a tail to his kite.

(Cont. on page 2—Col. 1)

January 26, 1943 — The Red Army has retaken more than three-quarters of the territory lost in the German summer offensive. Without question they will retake the rest of the territory lost last year, too. The present counter stroke seems to have great momentum.

The British 8th Army has completed the conquest of the Italian empire in Africa, and it continues to roll into Tunisia.

The victories of the United Nations in recent months are already bringing forth visions of Victory in the near future to gullible people.

But what is Victory?

The Allies have taken North Africa, but in the present seat of government sits Peyrouin, a semi-Fascist reactionary of the worst sort. Nogues, Giraud, De Gaulle, and other Monarchists and reactionaries complete the line-up. In Yugoslavia, Mihailovitch and the Partisans are fighting more viciously than ever.

The influential British magazine "New Statesman and Nation" points out that "reactions in this country and not less in the United States to this succession of resounding Russian victories contain elements of latent danger."

The British and Americans are obviously fearful of a victory... by their ALLY. A very strange position indeed!

#### RED ARMY "EMBARRASSINGLY SUCCESSFUL"

The magazine continues: "Conceivably there is rush that the less reactionary interests, alarmed by popular enthusiasm for the Russian armies" (why are they so alarmed? is it perhaps the possibility that the masses may decide to fight for Socialism in England and America?) "and by the disquieting (!) possibilities of Russia winning the war 'on her own,' may work covertly (!) for a reduction in the future rate of lend-lease and British shipments to this embarrassingly (!) successful ally." (Our emphasis.)

This editorial is an amazing statement. In a few well placed words an organ of British Imperialism admits that, despite Stalinism, the Red Army is so great a danger to the capitalist system that its victories are "embarrassing," that lend-lease must be reduced so that the Red Armies shall

not be in a position to aid the maturing revolution in Europe. And the British Bourgeoisie fear all this despite the fact that Stalin has pledged, on his own reformist account, to fight against the revolution for 20 years (the Anglo-Soviet pact) and to defend the status-quo.

What then is Victory? Will a Red Army break through and an Allied invasion of the continent spell Victory?

#### NO UNITY IN IMPERIALIST CAMP

It must be obvious even to the political blind that the camp of the United Nations is rent asunder by a dozen schisms and frictions. The major friction, of course, is with the Soviet Union—the Workers State (degenerated though it may be, under Stalinism). But there are other sore spots—India, the Chinese Peasant Armies, the Partisans, the maturing revolution in Europe, and finally the growing friction within each national boundary—in the United States between the New Deal, the Right Wing anti New Dealers and the growing resentment of the working class, in Britain between Labor and Churchill; in colonial France between the two puppets, Giraud and DeGaulle, and in all the "governments-in-exile."

Military victory over Germany does not and can not solve the problem of the danger of Fascism. On the contrary the forces of Fascism are GROWING in the very DEMOCRATIC countries that are supposedly fighting it.

The vicious struggle between American and British Imperialism—today kept behind closed doors, lest it demoralize the masses—nevertheless continues to grow and mature to a boiling point. America must reduce Britain to a second rate power. Will Britain submit? The choice does not belong to her, and possibly the die has already been cast. But possibly too, this matter may be settled by FORCE OF ARMS, even after an Allied "Victory."

Military victories in the imperialist war solve nothing, as far as the working masses are concerned. Only the Revolution—proletarian revolution in every country on earth, and a political revolution in Russia—can bring real Victory.

### Profits - War or Peace

How do the capitalists support their own war effort? How seriously do they take the "war for democracy"?

Here is a statement made last September in a secret session of the Resolutions Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers, by Lamot DuPont, one of the most powerful capitalists in the world.

Says Mr. DuPont: "Let's stop ducking the issue. The issue is shall we continue to lend our rights to the Government because of the so-called national emergency, or shall we take those rights back. Let's be sensible. We hold the aces. There isn't a college professor in Washington who can win this war, there isn't a labor leader in this country who can win this war, and the Russians and the British can't win this war unless we produce. And I mean US HERE IN THIS ROOM. I say war does not eliminate the profit incentive and war or peace WE MUST HAVE OUR PROFIT. War work must show profits... They want what we've got. Good. Make them pay the RIGHT PRICE for it. And if they don't like the price, let them think it over."

You see, to Mr. DuPont, (and the rest of the capitalist class) it is only a "so-called" national emergency. The whole war is just a business proposition, and without profits the war is meaningless.

#### PRODUCTION PROGRESS SHELVED UNLESS PROFITABLE

Sabotage against their own war effort is the rule in capitalist circles, not the exception. For instance Standard Oil, General Electric, DuPont and other large corporations have been accused of withholding patents and inventions from the American war effort, while permitting the Germans to use the same patents.

Anaconda Copper—king of the copper world—produced defective

wire for the U.S. Armed forces, which cost the American taxpayers \$6,000,000.00 (not including what the Soviet Union paid in blood and gold for this useless material).

In the patent office in Washington, and in the secret archives of the big corporations, there are inventions and discoveries that would eliminate the use of gasoline in automobiles and planes, and that could be produced for less than 5% of the cost of gasoline. An old inventor is being pensioned in Chicago at \$50,000 per year so that his substitute product shall not put the oil companies out of business.

Inventions for the making of rubber out of alcohol have been deliberately shelved because of the fear of the rubber monopolists that it would decentralize the industry and put them out of business after the war.

All important new plants are being put up at government expense, so that after the war they can be scrapped and will offer no competition to "private enterprise."

The capitalist war is being impeded by the Wall Street financiers, themselves, because finance capital is more interested in maintaining the "status-quo" (or at least a reasonable status-quo) than in having the great discoveries of capitalism brought out and replace "old, stable" industries.

Together with all this, of course, there undoubtedly remains considerable trading with Germany and Japan, even today. Shipments to Spain are tremendously high. Isn't it reasonable to assume that just as in the last war much of these shipments are going to the "enemy"? The Bank of International Settlements in Switzerland continues to function with American and British members sitting on it alongside of German members, and transacting business. What "business" are they transacting?

### F. E. P. C. Withers Minorities Waken

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Repercussions of the McNutt order muzzling the Fair Employment Practices Committee were felt here in the fight to eliminate discrimination in the hiring of workers in public utilities. The Capital Transit Company, which has consistently discriminated against Negroes, and has fought labor unions which opposed such action, was ordered some weeks ago to cease such discrimination, and had agreed (on paper) to do so. Observers interested in the matter have been watching eagerly to see whether Negroes would actually be placed behind the steering wheels,

but to date none has been seen. Now that the FEPC has been throttled by Mr. McNutt, it is feared that the transit company will make no effort to obey the order. The National Committee for the Use of Negroes in Public Utilities, which has been conducting the fight, however, states that it has no intention of surrendering, but will continue to battle along whatever lines may be made necessary by the new situation.

#### WORKERS UNITED, DESPITE COMPANY

The Capitalist Transit Company has been particularly belligerent in its attempt to prevent any sort

of unity among its workers, carrying its policy of "divide and rule" to almost inhuman extremes, and inflaming race prejudice by all sorts of underhanded means. In spite of this, many of its own employes have sided with the fight for racial equality in every respect, and a sense of unity between workers regardless of race is being strengthened in the fight.

#### FAR REACHING RAILROAD HEARING ALSO STOPPED

One of the most far reaching and vicious set-backs was given to colored workers when McNutt ordered the hearings on the dis-

(Cont. on page 2—Col. 1)

# Lewis Breaks Strike

(Cont. from page 1)

## GOVT AGENCIES AID STRIKE BREAK

Against the strikers were lined up the forces of the coal operators, the war government and its boards and agencies and armed forces, and the Lewis machine.

The Dept. of Labor, through the US Employment Service, issued a ruling denying unemployment compensation for 6 weeks to the strikers. But this in itself was not enough to deter the miners, whose stamina and courage has been tested and proven in years of militant struggle.

To break the strike, Lewis was forced to use every possible means of pressure. His first heavy blow was the brutal dissolution of the Tri-District General Mine Board, and the object capitulation of its officials. But the fact that not even this was able to cow the strikers shows how the iron grip of the bureaucracy was weakening.

This measure was rapidly followed up by a threat of expulsion from the union of any miner who continued on strike. Expulsion meant being practically blacklisted from the industry, deprived of the right to a job.

The bureaucracy and its apparatus were mobilized in full force, "special" meetings called, in which a handful called off the strike in the name of the entire local. Gunmen and gorillas made sure the vote was "right."

At the same time Roosevelt threatened to call in the armed forces.

The combined attack finally broke the strike. Without independent organized leadership the

rank and file was unable to continue its struggles. But the struggle is not ended; it is only forced underground once again.

## RANK AND FILE MUST STRIKE AGAINST BOSS AND BUREAUCRAT

The strike of the miners portends the new trend among the rank and file in the labor movement. The resistance of the working class to shouldering the major burden of the war while capital reaps a golden harvest, is bound to burst forth in a wave of strikes. But the new strikes will increasingly take on this dual character — against the bosses and management on the one hand, and against the labor bureaucrats with their no-strike agreements and sell-out policies on the other hand.

The struggle of the miners points out the road to all the workers. Independent working class action, rank and file control of the unions, and class struggle policies in them, are indispensable if the workers are to move forward.

There must be local autonomy, local control of funds, and no check-off. The shop stewards in the factories and plants form the obvious organizational base for this progressive development. The shop stewards are workers themselves, close to the other workers in the plants. Through the shop stewards, organized and coordinated in broad and democratic structures, the workers can express themselves directly and clearly. The building up of the shop steward movement is a primary task of the progressive trade unionist today.

# Workers Will Avenge Tresca Murder

Some 5000 persons attended the memorial services for Carlo Tresca, well known anti-fascist, anarchist, syndicalist and libertarian, in New York City on January 16. They were mostly Italian workers, but many others as well, who had known and loved Tresca for his long record of service in the Labor movement.

The meeting for Tresca, who had been shot and killed 6 days before by an assassin's bullets, was organized by the Italian-American Labor Council, the Il Martello group, and others. It was throughout a support-the-imperialist-war meeting — betraying everything Tresca's lifework of militant activity in the class struggle stood for. Tresca, himself, however, by his support of the war in the last year or so, made possible this outrage on his memory.

## 40 YEARS A MILITANT FIGHTER FOR LABOR

Arriving in the U.S. shortly after the turn of the century, Tresca's name was associated with practically every major strike struggle in the past 40 years. He played an active and militant role in the 1912-13 textile strikes in Lawrence, Mass., and in Patterson, New Jersey. He was one of the leading figures in the Sacco-Vanzetti case. He fought side by side with the iron miners of the Mesabi range in Minnesota.

His proud record of over 30 arrests, for inciting to riots, breaking injunctions, and all the rest, will always remain as the real and lasting testimonial to his life.

Tresca's forty years of bold and determined struggle against capitalism, and later, after the first World War, against capitalism in its fascist form, brought him many enemies. Repeated attempts on his life by fascist forces only strengthened his hatred and his struggle against fascism.

Despite his lack of a clear understanding and his rejection of Marxism, he saw early and fought bitterly against Stalinism, its bureaucracy and dictatorship, and its GPU. He was only too well acquainted with the political and organizational methods of the Stalinist GPU. It was he who publicly accused the American G. P. U. agent, George Mink, of the assassination in Spain of his close personal friend, the Italian anarchist Berneri.

It was Tresca, too, who in February 1938, made known the abduction to the Soviet Union of Juliet Stuart Poyntz by the GPU. Poyntz was shifted in 1934 from public CP activity to special GPU work. In May 1937 she expressed to Tresca in a personal conversation, her dissatisfaction and disgust. Shortly afterward she disappeared. Tresca linked up this disappearance with the arrest in Moscow in the same period of the Robinson-Rubens couple, who had left the U.S. on a false passport. His exposure of the new frame-up trial that was in the making effectively put an end to the whole dastardly plot.

He was a member of the Dewey Commission that investigated Trotsky; and could always be counted on for any labor defense activity.

Lately he was waging an uncompromising struggle to prevent the Stalinists from penetrating into the Italian Mazzini Society, and other Italian organizations. He was engaged in discussions with the Office of War Information to establish an Italian-American Victory Committee, but was opposing inclusion of pro-fascist elements and of Stalinists. He had succeeded in barring Stalinists even from membership in the Mazzini Society, and was organizing to have them shut out of the OWI meeting that was to launch the Victory Committee, a few days before he was shot.

## EVIDENCE INDICATES ASSASSINATION ORGANIZED

After his death, however, Alan Granston and Lee Falk, of the Office of War Information, asserted that Tresca had agreed to drop his opposition to the Stalinists. This brought charges of an "unscrupulous misrepresentation" of the assassinated Tresca's beliefs.

Luigi Antonini, head of the Italian Dress and Waist Makers Union 89, and president of the Italian-American Labor Council, said:

"... It is a shame to put in his mouth that he was ready to accept the Communists... Naturally, I cannot point my finger at his assassin, but if I had to choose between the Fascists and the Communists, I will give the Communists 95% that they did it, and the Fascist 5%..."

Dr. Humberto Gualtieri, editor of Tresca's Il Martello, also denied that Tresca had dropped his opposition and said that "Tresca planned with me to walk out of the OWI meeting with those who might follow him if the OWI carried out its insistence. There was a large list of organizations invited, but the OWI didn't invite the Mazzini Society, which had already barred Communists."

The police investigations into the murder have thus far run into a blind alley. While it is not impossible that it was an individual and even personal act, all indications point to an organized political assassination. The car that was used was later found registered under a false name and address. The whole thing, from spying on Tresca's habits, a man at either exit from his building, the smoothly organized get-away that required an apparatus and plenty of money, shows that it was organized and planned in great detail.

Whoever the murderers, the workingclass owes them a punishment which time will never erase.

# F. E. P. C. Obeys

(Cont. from page 1)

criminating practices of the southern railroads to be canceled. After much research, and pressure, this hearing was scheduled for Jan. 26th. It has been canceled by McNutt who claims he is acting under "instructions," but from just who has not been explained. Like previous hearings, which were getting too close to the true powers behind discrimination, the boys at the top have stepped in and "instructed" cancellation.

Roosevelt, in a letter to Walter White, had said the FEPC was placed under the War Manpower Commission to strengthen and revitalize it, giving the group its own budget (which has since been emaculated), so it could function of its own free will, and that the committee had a free hand to do its job effectively. What has actually happened is that helpless as the committee was before, now it is even more so, and must obey the biddings of the higher-ups whether they direct their orders via the White House or in Congress.

## APOLOGISTS OFFER NO SOLUTION

The March on Washington Committee, the NAACP and similar organizations feel called upon to apologize for the FEPC liquidation. They claim that Roosevelt (that good capitalist) and McNutt (The Hoosier Hitler, so called for his vicious anti labor regime as Governor of Indiana) have had to succumb to the pressure of the powerful railroad and reactionary block in Congress. The fact is, these gentlemen have not been forced to surrender any "virtue"; they still are and always have been the mistress of one section or other of the 60 families that control the United States.

The energy of the minority groups in this country will be wasted if they listen to the Rah-

dolphins and Whites who will undoubtedly try to revive this hollow log called FEPC which contains such defeatists as Mark Etheridge, who predicted that not even tanks and guns would change the race relations in the south.

The conservative ANP is beginning to see the light as evidenced by this quotation: "Whoever is responsible (for FEPC Cancellations) is as guilty of a 'stab' in the back as was Italy and Japan, only this time, it was not a stab by a foreign enemy."

The day is coming closer and closer, when the members of minority groups must take the blindfold from their eyes and see who their oppressors are. The day of depending on "liberals" and "good" bourgeois politicians is over. It is up to these groups to organize with the working class for independent class action.

## Courts Find Girls "Guilty" of Jim Crow Protest

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Two young women, Miss Mildred Turpin of New York, and Miss Caroline Johnson, of Carlisle, Pa., were forcibly taken from a bus in northern Virginia, and lodged in a county jail in that State, on a charge of violation of the segregation act. The "crime" of which the two young colored women were the next morning found "guilty" was that they had seated themselves in the front portion of the bus, instead of the rear, as required by Virginia state law.

### Will Appeal Guilty Verdict

They were taken to the Clarendon county jail, where they spent the night, and the next morning were found guilty, given suspended fines of \$5.00 each and the costs.

The young women have expres-

# C. U. A. Excess Baggage Now

How far the recently organized "Confederated Unions of America" goes will depend on many circumstances, but it is obvious from the outset that the independent federation of Unions starts with a false perspective.

There are many fine features to the CUA. The dominant organization of the group, the Mechanics Educational Society of America, is a militant Union that has consistently refused to follow the lead of the AFL and CIO and give up the right to strike. The leader of the MESA, Matthew Smith, refused to follow the lead of the Trotsky wing of the MESA and liquidate into the UAW-CIO, in 1936. He correctly estimated the role of the CIO leadership, as class collaborator.

The new "Confederation" also has a sprinkling of "wobbly" or former IWW elements. Its Constitution is far more democratic than that of the two big Federations. No officer may receive more than \$5,000 per year and all officers are subject to a continual check by the Executive Board. In turn the Executive Board is composed of rank and file workers, none of whom may be a paid official of any Union.

The CUA has a fairly clear position on labor unity. Its December

sed their intention of suing both the Virginia police and the company, and are appealing the verdict of "guilty."

paper says that "unity is imperative and every honest working man and woman fights to achieve it, but it will have to be done in spite of the so-called leaders—and possibly against them." It denounces not only Green and Murray but their former mentor, John L. Lewis.

## NO REAL BASIS FOR C.U.A. EXISTENCE

But the CUA also has many serious drawbacks. The roster of Unions originally attending the first Conference runs all the way from the MESA to some shady sounding Unions with an "Incorporated" attached to their names. Some of these, of course, were investigated at the Conference and their credentials removed, but there were really far too many such organizations, "Automotive Workers Industrial Union, Inc. Chicago"; Western Electric Employees Association, Newark; "First Wisconsin National Bank Employees Association, Milwaukee"; Employees Association, Inc., Bayonne; and many others. Some of these, at least, are Company Unions, although it must be admitted the leaders of the CUA made an effort to remove such outfits.

The resolutions and positions of the first Conference were rather weak. The delegation voted to ask for "definite assurances that these (labor) rights will be restored, undeleted AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE WAR." But nothing was said about fighting

for those rights NOW. The CUA voted support to Roosevelt and "the furtherance of our war effort until final victory is achieved," thus placing itself on the same political level as the AFL and CIO, and giving it no real basis for an independent existence.

The new organization has no clear-cut position on Industrial Unionism, or on trade Union policy. Within its ranks are some notorious craft Unions, such as an independent Welders Union. The CUA, despite many militant elements in its ranks, has failed to emblazon on its banner Industrial Unionism with a Class Struggle policy.

## FALSE ORIENTATION

But all of this is really not the major criticism of the CUA. Even if the policy of the "left-wingers" would prevail, the Confederated Unions of America would still be saddled with an absolutely false orientation and perspective.

The main current of American Labor is today within the AFL and CIO. The major portion of the work of liberating the labor movement must be done WITHIN (not outside of) these two organizations. (plus the Lewis UMWA and the Railroad Brotherhoods). What is needed today is not a THIRD Federation of Labor, but a National Progressive Group, based on shop stewards and rank and file militants, regardless of affiliation. Without such a group to rescue the 11 million workers

(Cont. page 4, Col. 5)



**THE FIGHTING WORKER**  
 REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE, U. S.  
 (Affiliated to the Provisional International Contact  
 Commission for a New Communist (4th) International)

Subscription \$1.00 per year

Published monthly by  
 DEMOS PRESS  
 708 N. Clark Street, Chicago, Ill.

**PLEASE NOTE**

There is no connection between the Demos Press and the Social Science Institute located at the same address.

## Editorials

### The Casablanca Conference

The Casablanca meeting of Roosevelt and Churchill revealed little in public commitments, other than to reaffirm that which was already stated. It was also a disappointment to many because Stalin did not attend, nor was Chiang Kai Shek invited. The conference did, however, state that the United Nations were pledged to an unconditional surrender of the Axis. This in order to block any attempt of Hitler to launch his usual "peace" offensive this winter.

We can be assured that though much more was taken up at Casablanca than that which was told to the press, the conference did not reveal unity in action of the leading united nations. On the contrary it revealed wide difference among the four leading nations as to how to conduct the war.

#### U.S., GREAT BRITAIN ANTAGONISM MAIN POINT

The main point taken up at the Casablanca conference was an attempt by Roosevelt and Churchill to iron out their differences. This Conference, if it was indicative of anything, revealed the growing intensity of the antagonism between Britain and America.

They did not make much headway in settling the knotty problem of French north Africa. Each Country maintains its own Lieutenant; Giraud, American, De Gaulle, for Britain.

They at least came to an understanding as to military leadership to drive the Axis out of Tunisia, in order to release their forces as soon as possible and be prepared for any move by Hitler against either Spain and Gibraltar, and the Near East and a drive toward Asia.

They surely came to a preliminary understanding of the divisions of the spoils in North Africa. United States is primarily concerned with air and naval bases on the west coast of Africa, especially Dakar.

#### FEAR OF REVOLUTION ONLY COMMON GROUND FOR ACTION

The conference no doubt planned steps to check the maturing revolts in Europe and the growing influence of the Red Army.

They can find basic agreement on joint action to hold in check the revolution in India, China and other colonial areas.

They at least found common grounds in their drive to take Italy and Finland out of the war as soon as possible.

Roosevelt and Churchill did nothing to help the Arabs get back their country from French imperialism. They did nothing to smash the Anti-Semitic laws, or release from imprisonment the many Jews. They did nothing to help the real anti-Fascists fighters of Spain who are still in prison in North Africa. In short, they did nothing to advance their "four freedoms."

The so-called big mystery was the absence of Stalin who was too busy to attend. Regardless of the excuses given, it is true that the Soviet Union must be careful in attending conference that take up war strategy against Japan. Japan will attack Russian when the right time arrives, but there is no need to give Tokyo advantages. Stalinism has already committed itself to imperialism, and for Stalin to attend would, most likely, enable Roosevelt and Churchill to wring even more concession out of him for a little material aid.

Roosevelt made considerable political capital in the United States toward rebuilding his torn fences by this daring, showman visit to the front by air.

The story of the conference is yet to be told, but when it is told just check it with these considerations.

### Where Is that Economic Democracy at Home?

Speaking before the Congress of the United States, Congressman Aimee brought forth the following amazing picture of American "Democracy."

"If we let \$100 represent the total wealth and 100 people the total population, the wealth of the country would be divided as follows, one man would own \$59; two men would each own \$9; 22 men would each own \$1.22 and 75 men would each own less than 7 cents."

This is within the United States.

### Economic Democracy in Porto Rico

What about the "Four Freedoms" in the American colony of Porto Rico?

The average income of the average native family is less than \$200 per year. The wage and hour act has no meaning in this colony.

The main cry of the native population—LAND—has been stifled for half a century. The land is owned lock stock and barrel by the big sugar refining interests in United States. And this despite a native law which prohibits anyone from owning more than 500 acres.

The present puny efforts of Rex Tugwell, New Deal appointed Governor, to eliminate some of the abuses, is only an effort to quell the storm. But Wall Street, through the press in the U.S., is clamoring bloody murder against the "socialist, experiment."

The war has made things much worse. Shipping is not available, markets have been lost. More than half the island population is unemployed and starving.

If Vice-President Wallace meant what he said about the "Five Democracies," including "economic democracy," and if President Roosevelt was really sincere in his talk about "security from the cradle to the grave," what are these two gentlemen doing to bring such security to the people of Porto Rico? While the nation is spending 109 billions for war, there can be no excuse for not spending a few additional millions to grant the necessities of life to the Porto Rican masses.

No excuse, of course—except imperialism, and its tenet of profits,—first, last and always.

### Trotskyites Demand "Real" Rationing

"We are FOR rationing—provided it is properly controlled and handled!" "rationing (is) the only democratic way of meeting the alarming food shortage," but it must be regulated by "committees of workers, farmers and housewives—the only agencies that can make a go of price control and rationing."

These statements are culled from the Dec. 28 and Jan. 4 paper of Shachtman Trotskyites. The Cannon Trotskyites echo the same sentiments in their January 2nd paper: "Rationing and price fixing are absolutely necessary... real rationing and price fixing can be realized only under the control of democratic mass committees of unions, dirt farmers organizations, small business men and housewives."

It is hard to believe that these words come from the pen of people who call themselves "Marxists," who have the effrontery in fact to say that they are the "only" organizations fighting the war.

Rationing under capitalism is purely a method of spreading the scarcity. The anarchy of capitalist production and the great costs of war make it necessary for the ruling class to curtail consumers goods production and distribution. In the midst of the most gigantic productive effort in all history, precisely when 100 billion dollars of war materials will be produced, capitalism finds it necessary to cut down the rations of sugar and butter, meat and coffee, canned goods and dairy products.

#### CAPITALIST RATIONING IS ORGANIZED SCARCITY

Can this evil be eliminated by any PARTIAL measures? Rationing is merely a by-product of capitalist decay, of organized scarcity. Can a mere honest administration of rationing solve anything? The very idea is ridiculous.

The question is can ANYBODY make a "go" of a rationing and price-fixing, not whether a committee of housewives is preferable to a committee of Hendersons or Browns. Can people who believe in the overthrow of capitalism, seriously speak of "real" rationing, under Capitalism in opposition to any other kind of rationing?

All rationing under the exploiters society is an evil, just like unemployment, just like war and is opposed by Marxists for the same reason. The answer to rationing does not lie in any minor palliative. It rests upon a concerted struggle for WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION FOR USE. Against the organized scarcity of capitalism, we, the Marxists, counterpose workers control and workers Councils not of just the minor by-product of the capitalist production process, but of production itself. Anything else is just reformism. Anything else is just a compromise with the bourgeois war effort.

To be "against" the war in words—as the Trotskyites are—and FOR rationing, FOR selective service, and FOR other such things in action is a cheap play on words, a deception practiced by the modern counterparts of Karl Kautsky.

### Lenin, Liebknecht, Luxemburg, Point the Way to Freedom

Jan. 25, 1942. This is the third commemoration of the death of Lenin, Liebknecht and Luxemburg since the start of the imperialist war in 1939. In the course of time we have seen the long flow of working class youth killed and maimed, the destruction of billions of dollars of property, hunger, sickness and pestilence sweeping the earth, Fascism triumphant over most of Europe and Asia; while the bourgeois democracies, rapidly paving the way for the victory of the fascist forces in England and the United States, have increasingly lowered the standard of living of the working class and are rapidly destroying whatever civil liberties exist until the burden of the war is becoming more and more intolerable. It

### "Social Security" or Socialism?

The gentlemen in the counting houses have learned a little lesson from the last war. When the Revolution swept Europe after 1917, the exploiters attempted to dam the tide by granting some long overdue reforms. In Germany the Weimar Constitution and all sorts of improved "social security" schemes were introduced. The reforms of the Weimar Republic became a prototype for the bourgeoisie of the rest of Europe. But the Revolutions continued to break out in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Italy and a dozen other places; and it was only through a combination of errors on the part of the revolutionists, a lack of Marxian leadership, and the skill and force of the exploiters that the Revolution was finally set back.

That was World War I.

This time, however, finance capital does not intend to repeat the error. In England the Beveridge Plan for "social security" is being put forth BEFORE the Revolution breaks out, in order to dull the blade. In America, "liberals," spokesmen for Wall Street, like Willkie and Wallace, keep speaking of the "century of the Common Man," "people's revolution," "security," a "quart of milk a day for each person in the world," "an end to imperialism" and other such tidbits of demagoguery. Mr. Roosevelt had proposed to Congress that it pass laws assuring each person with some measure of security from "the cradle to the grave." No more selling apples on the streetcorner says Mr. Roosevelt.

#### PROMISES ARE CHEAPEST METHOD OF PACIFICATION

After the experiences of WPA, relief, CCC, NYA and all the rest, few people will be misled by all these phrases. That they are empty promises is quite evident by the "social security" we have at present. Certainly a nation which spends 109 BILLIONS for war purposes in one short year, could afford a few extra billions to lighten the plight of the 13 million Negroes, to raise the living standards of the very low paid agricultural workers and millions of industrial workers. Certainly a government which promises "four freedom" FOR THE FUTURE could assure us of some of that freedom today. But "freedom" is becoming as rare as snow in summer.

The promises of "security" do have some meaning, however. The increasing cry of the masses as to "what are we fighting this war for anyway," must be answered. And it is answered not with any concrete concessions today, but with some deceptive promises for tomorrow—always tomorrow.

It is hoped—by Wall Street and its puppets—that this clever strategy will charm the multitudes, will quiet them long enough for the inevitable armed hooligans (fascists) of tomorrow to prepare. It has ever been so with capitalism: demagoguery, lies, and empty promises go hand in hand with bourgeois force and violence.

But the sands of demagoguery are running low. Beveridge plans and New Dealism are much too limited to check the Revolution that is coming. Capitalism is too decayed to grant any real security; in fact it can continue to exist only by making life infinitely more uncertain and infinitely more insecure for the working class and the middle class.

The present puny efforts, although better organized and better planned, will be even less effective than the 1920 Beveridge plans in checking the coming and inevitable Proletarian Revolution.

is the darkest period the toiling masses have faced since the victory of Fascism in Germany and Spain.

Yes, it is dark. But through the darkness of reaction and over the roar of cannon and the drone of airplane motors one hears the clear and unmistakable voices of the revolutionary martyrs who today, more than ever before, answers the needs of the suffering and confused working class.

"This is an imperialist war," they say. "As long as capitalism exists, wars for the redivision of the earth amongst the great powers will be fought. It is a war in which the exploited working class have no interest. The working and colonial masses must oppose this war.

They must fight for a society which will govern in their own interests, a society of production for use, a socialist society. Against ALL forms of capitalist rule, whether fascist or democratic, the rallying cry must be **TURN THE IMPERIALIST WAR INTO A CIVIL WAR!**"

Only the forces of the International Contact Commission stand on the program of Lenin, Liebknecht and Luxemburg. The most important task of the day is to transform the Commission, by ceaseless opposition to the imperialist war, and by daily activity in the class struggle thereby winning over wider and wider layers of the oppressed, into the international instrument of struggle.

THE FOURTH (COMMUNIST) INTERNATIONAL!

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## Rationing Robs Workers To Insure More Profits

The PRICE, PROFIT, AND WAGE CEILING the Roosevelt administration has placed on the country has no fundamental effect in stopping the rise in prices and profits although it has had considerable effects upon wages, thanks to the labor agents of the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L. and the Stal'nists.

Government figures reveal that since the war started wholesale prices have advanced 35%.

Wholesale food prices have advanced over 50%.

And they say the cost of living has advanced over 20%. But any worker knows that for the unskilled and semi-skilled the cost of living has **ADVANCED OVER 50%**. To make an average out of the rich, the middle class and the few high paid and the millions below this is the best kind of fakery.

With all of the so called stop-gaps in the present war, in 40 months the wholesale price of food went up 37 points. In the last war in the same period, without this price fixing it went up only 37 points in 33 months.

The working class must fight, in strikes and in every way possible to increase their wages to meet the rising cost of living. Don't let the exploiters hide behind "patriotism" (to their pocket-book) to keep you down. The elementary right to live is the struggle of the day. The first step is within the Trade Unions.

## Canned Goods Rationing Means Malnutrition For Workers

We are informed by the government that it will be necessary to ration canned goods in order that **ALL MAY HAVE THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE** and that the **ALLIES** may obtain their needs to carry on the struggle against the Axis. At the same time the government announces that in order to do this it is necessary to limit the canned goods consumption per year to 48 pounds per person.

A plan to see that **ALL** persons in the country obtain the necessities of life is commendable. But the **PLAN** proposed does just the opposite. To place all sections of the country, all classes, and all divisions within occupations and classes on the same level, is to **FAVOR THE RICH** against the poor. To favor the rich against the worker, the urban poor and the unskilled masses of America.

Anyone, even without horse-sense, knows that rural areas and urban areas consume different amounts of canned goods. They know that poor and low paid workers must consume more canned goods than any other group. They know that the middle class and the exploiters in general who have private chefs use less canned goods per person than the working class. So to place all on the same level of canned goods consumption is to **DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THE POORER SECTION OF THE WORKING CLASS**.

The **AVERAGE** unskilled poor urban worker with a wife and one child uses over 700 pounds of canned goods per year in order to exist. If he is forced to pay for fresh vegetables he cannot exist. Restaurant prices are too fancy for the worker and his family, and where the woman of the family is also working it becomes impossible to have any type of balanced diet without long hours over the stove, even if they could afford the fresh produce.

## Profit System On Merry-go-round

"We must make these sacrifices because of the evils of Versailles, because we need room to live." —Hitler.

"We must make these sacrifices because the evil men of Europe have attacked our freedom." —Roosevelt.

The song is exactly the same; the only difference is in the refrain. America follows now in the footsteps of Germany from 1931 on, of France in 1936, of Britain in 1939, of Italy in 1923. The State is penetrating into every nook and cranny of the individual's life.

Six hundred thousand workers in Michigan may not quit their job on penalty of being black-listed. Sugar is rationed, gasoline is rationed, prices are frozen, coffee is rationed, wages, are controlled by government.

One little step leads to another. If you ration gasoline more people ride the trains and busses. Eventually you must ration traveling.

According to the United States News price ceilings on butter have tended to divert milk and cheese. The butter shortage is forcing diversion of butterfat from ice cream to butter. A cut of at least 20% is envisioned for ice cream.

The butter shortage creates fear that all dairy products will soon be short; hoarding of condensed milk follows. The inevitable result is rationing.

The rationing of coffee will soon result in the rationing of tea and cocoa.

The priorities on steel will soon force greater limitation on shipments, when rolling stock can not be replaced. That will create shortage in **ALL** foods, and rationing.

## BUMPER CROPS BUT GREATER "SCARCITY"

Argentina this year has a bumper crop of wheat, corn, and meat. The United States has had an exceptional year in the production and growth of foodstuffs, but as the year rolls out greater and greater restrictions are being placed on the consumer.

The shortages are not the result of shortages in nature and on the production lines. The shortages are the result of capitalist **ANARCHY**. The basic motif of capitalist economy is how to divide a minimum of goods. Capitalism can no longer live unless it lowers the standard of living.

To pay for the imperialist war taxes must be raised. But taxes can not be raised and living standards kept constant, unless capitalism were willing to do away with profits entirely—in other words unless capitalism were willing to kill itself, which of course is ridiculous. So, their only answer is a tightened belt, greater scar-

The only other alternative is to eat rice and potatoes, neck bones, and pig tails.

This war for "freedom from want" that is supposed to raise the living standard of the coolies and oppressed peoples of Asia and Africa and Europe is having the peculiar effect of lowering the standard of the American worker to near coolie level, and to this day we haven't yet heard about anyone who is receiving that "quart of milk a day" or any part of that "freedom from want" excepting those who have the cash to pay for it.

city.

But this is "war time," the argument goes.

## SOCIETY OF PRODUCTION FOR USE CAN PLAN PLENTY FOR ALL

Will peace bring changes? Think back to the 'thirties when millions of acres were plowed under, when thousands of tons of coffee were dumped, when cattle was slaughtered and kept from the market while people starved. Since then American capitalism has gone through some severe years; it has accumulated a debt seven or eight times as large; it has obligated the American people for decades to come. Whatever changes there will be after this war will be not for the better but for the worse, under capitalism.

Germany and France began their regimentation during peace time. France is today out of the war but more regimented than ever. World capitalism today—even if "peace" should come—will only be an armed camp waiting and preparing for the next war; and preparing not only with guns and tanks and planes, but with—above all—shorter rations, lower wages, and complete control over the lives of the working masses.

There can be neither peace nor plenty under capitalism. Only anarchy, war and scarcity. Plenty can be organized only under a Socialist Society, with workers control of production for use.

## Supreme Court Denies Human Rights In Carwile Case

The United States Supreme Court again shows its position in relation to property rights versus human rights, in its court treatment of the Carwile case.

Carwile had instituted a civil suit against the Blue Ridge Sanatorium of Virginia, for abuse heaped upon him while he was a charity patient there. The Labor Defense Congress has actively participated in his campaign to force the State of Virginia to rescind its laws which permit the State to be sued only on its contractual obligations, and only by its consent. After the Virginia courts refused to hear the case it was taken to the U. S. Supreme Court. This body, by its refusal of the writ of certiorari on January 11th, sustained the position of the Virginia courts—a position which implies the "King (the State) can do no wrong." This decision, in substance means that the highest tribunal in the land ruled that indigent sick workers in state hospitals have no constitutional rights; that no worker may contest the law of the state or any of its agencies; that "the states' lordly prerogative of wrong doing" may continue unabated.

### OBJECTIVE OF CASE

The Carwile case had two objectives: 1—to urge state hospitals of ruthless machine politics in order that the working class can get decent punctual hospitalization; 2—to repudiate the medieval relic of "the king can do no wrong" so that in cases of lynching, police brutality and the abuses, persecution and discrimination of sick humanity in state institutions—the state and its subsidiaries can be sued. This case was the first in history to make such a frontal attack on state immunity—it put the doctrine directly at issue. And from the Circuit Court of Richmond (in poll tax state Virginia) to the Supreme Court of the U.S. the doctrine of State Immunity from Human Rights suits has been upheld.

The attorneys, for Carwile and the Labor Defense Congress, Mr. Stone of Richmond, and Mr. Heisler of Chicago are seeking new methods

## Chicago Election Exposes Political Tyranny & Thievery

Chicago is now preparing for its election of a Mayor. Sitting in the seat of power now is a 100% New Deal machine, led by Mayor Kelly and millionaire Patrick Nash. In opposition to Kelly, the Republicans have named a nonentity named Faherty more for the sake of appearances than for a mayoral fight.

But within the good Democratic Party, Mayor Kelly is getting opposition from other New Dealers (not Republicans and not "isolationist" Democrats). The candidate of this "Free Democratic" opposition, Alderman John S. Boyle, has the following to say of his fellow New Dealer, Mayor Kelly:

"The present city administration is tyrannical and dictatorial, as bad as anything ruling the occupied countries of Europe."

Mr. Boyle is in some "slight" contradictions here, because if Kelly is as bad as Hitler and his Quislings, then how come that Mr. Roosevelt (Boyle's big hero supports a "regime as bad as anything ruling the occupied countries of Europe," while at the same time supposedly "fighting fascism"? Furthermore, how come the great liberal Mr. Boyle himself pays dues and allegiance to the same party and even the same New Deal wing of the same party?

Mr. Boyle admits by this talk that the differences between fascism and bourgeois democracy are not all they are cracked up to be, that we've got some excellent Quislings here in the U.S.—not in the sideshow, mind you, but in the main text.

### THAT CHICAGO SUBWAY A GOLD MINE FOR KELLY

Mr. Boyle continues his story. The present administration promised Chicago it "would straighten out the traction muddle." So far it has spent 74 million dollars on the problem and the muddle is more muddled than ever. The Kelly gang promised to build the great Chicago subway for 45 million dollars, but it revised the estimates to 70 million and "before the city is through paying damages and indemnities it will be up to 300 million dollars!"

"The present Mayor," says Mr. Boyle, "has bankrupted every place he's been—the sanitary district, the park board."

Besides all this the Mayor is guilty of playing bad politics with the school system—"The teachers might just as well be living in one of the occupied countries of Europe." He, the Mayor, is also guilty of spending millions of dollars on "new projects" and then dropping them, and many other vices, according to Alderman Boyle.

Of course, Alderman Boyle is

of bringing this case before the courts again.

### BOURGEOIS COURTS PROTECT PROPERTY ONLY

Workers are asked to write their protest to Chief Justice Stone of the Supreme Court, for its adverse decision; branches of the LDC have held public protest meetings and inaugurated a post card campaign.

All of this is useful but in the long run, there will never be any justice given to any member of the workingclass except what is obtained from the pressure and action of that class. The bourgeois courts are pledged to uphold the rights of private property. Only a workers court, under a workers government will see to it that justice for workers is obtained.

not much different from the good Mayor. His only redeeming quality probably is that he is much more efficient as a servant of the master class than Mr. Kelly.

But the enlightening acceptance speech of Boyle should be an eye-opener to the masses of America who still have faith in the bourgeois politicians. Somebody must make enormous profits when a project that is to cost 45 millions runs up to 7 times that figure—300 millions. Somebody in the traction set-up must have "cleaned up" in the disbursement of 74 millions in the course of 10 short years. If the Mayor had bankrupt every other job he ever had somebody must have gained something of that too.

Certainly the workingman who foots the bill get none of the benefits of this corruption. The Chicago straphanger fits into the Chicago busses, streetcars and trains, like a sardine—only there's no room left for olive oil. The benefits that Chicago industry get from the administration are enormous. The benefits that the working class of Chicago gain are well known—particularly in the Memorial Day massacre of 1937 where the Kelly police killed eleven workers because they were peacefully picketing.

### LABOR BUROCRATS CODDLE CORRUPTION

Labor so called "non-partisan" politics in Chicago has been a major reason for the maintenance of people like Kelly in office. The whole Chicago CIO, the Stalinist wing around Travis, March and DiMao; the Hillman Murray wings, around Sam Levin and Doherty, have all supported Kelly, despite the massacre of 1937, despite the corruption. And of course the AFL bureaucrats are locked arm in arm with the Kelly-Nash machine.

If ever there was testimony to the fact that neither the old bourgeois parties, nor a "labor party based on the trade unions" (read trade union bureaucrats)—if ever there was testimony that neither of these movements can achieve any beneficial results, Chicago offers that testimony.

Only a Revolutionary Marxian Party, basing itself on independent working class action rather than shysters manouvers with cheap bourgeois politicians, can really fill the bill.

## Confederated Unions

(Cont. from page 2)

in the CIO and AFL from their reactionary leadership, the efforts of a small independent Union are really in vain.

That is not to deny, of course, the value of a central organization for groups expelled from the AFL and CIO, or groups which were refused admittance into these big Federations. Nor is it to deny the need of independents helping to "organize the unorganized." But the concentration point, at the moment, for such an organization as the CUA must be in aiding the militant progressives **WITHIN** the AFL and CIO, not to split and join with the small CUA, but to extend the progressive movement inside the AFL and CIO.

The CUA, thus starts as a still-born organization. To breathe life and vitality into it, it is first necessary to purge it of the class-collaborationist elements within it, and second to lay major emphasis on aiding a left-wing movement within the old Federations of Labor.