

Stalin Plans to Free Trotsky's Killer, Jackson!

From sources which we have every reason to believe reliable, we learn that—

Stalin has ordered that all arrangements be made for the escape of Jacques Mornard, alias Jackson, the assassin of Leon Trotsky, who has been in prison in Mexico since he was caught red-handed in the act of murdering the leader of the Russian Revolution.

The "technical forces" which the GPU considers requisite for arranging the escape have already been assembled in Mexico.

Even the approximate date has already been set for the flight.

Furthermore, reports from Mexico indicate that when Mornard-

Jackson is sentenced—and his sentence is momentarily expected—he will probably be sent to the Islas Marias. Only one of the four islas (islands), located a few

dozen miles off the Pacific Coast of Mexico, is inhabited, and it is used as a penal colony. Prisoners are not confined to any particular space. They are obliged to answer a roll-call twice a day. Between roll-calls they may roam about at will. At night, military guards patrol the island, but it does not appear too difficult to evade them.

Only recently an escape took place from the island. A group of four or five prisoners stole one of the large rowboats and disappeared with it. The fact that the boats are under constant guard indicates that they had the cooperation of one or more of the guards. Under such conditions, Mornard-Jackson's escape from the penal colony island, if he is sent there, would be a comparatively easy job, given the tremendous resources and the determination of Stalin's other agents of the GPU. The Pacific Coast-line of Mexico is largely unguarded and it would not be hard for Mornard-Jackson to meet a motorboat at a pre-arranged spot.

WHY STALIN WANTS THE ESCAPE

The Kremlin gangster chief requires the escape of his agent because—

Mornard-Jackson's continued detention in prison serves to demoralize other GPU agents who might be directed to carry out missions of the same type assigned to Trotsky's killer. He must therefore be rescued for the sake of the smooth functioning of the Kremlin network. This is all the more important because of the fact that another GPU agent, Plevistkaya, wife of the "White Guard" General Skobin, who arranged the kidnapping of General Miller in Paris in 1937, died in a French prison during the war, died after having spilled some information to the police when she lost hope of being released.

Mornard-Jackson is not entirely and permanently reliable. Some day he might talk, especially if the mortal crisis of Stalinism reaches a crucial point, and what he has to tell will not make uninteresting reading. He must therefore be transferred to where such a danger to Stalin may be totally eliminated.

The assassin has, therefore, been promised safety in the USSR. He himself, however, is not altogether prepared to fall in with the plan. He is disturbed about what is to anyone who understands the functioning of the Stalin machine—a dead certainty: that he will be disposed of for good, once his escape has been arranged, probably without his "rescuers" bothering to have him make the trip half-way around the world. . . . Stalin has always operated with his own agents on the cold theory that dead men tell no tales.

We reserve comment, for the moment, on any further details. These details are not, however, unknown outside the immediate circle of the interested parties.

THE WORLD AT WAR

Japan Caught In Dilemma Of Ruinous War Or Total Surrender of Imperialist Plans

By MAX STERLING

The Far East crisis has taken a turn for the worse. Nobody expected anything different—not even Roosevelt, who was obliged to return suddenly from his trip to Warm Springs, Ga., in order to be in the nation's capital in case there should be a sudden explosion.

The "peace" talks of the Japanese negotiators, Nomura and Kurosu, have come to a snag. Secretary of State Hull has been kind enough to give them a written statement of American imperialism's terms for peace in the Far East. The "principles" enunciated by Hull are tantamount to making Japan renounce her own imperialist "principles" in order to accommodate America. Since this is just as possible for Japan as to demand of a tiger that

he grow feathers, the Japanese Premier, General Tojo, thundered, in turn, about the American and British claws in the Far East. He declared that "their exploitation of the Asiatic peoples must be purged with a vengeance."

The Open Door

American policy with regard to the Far East can be summed up in two words: "Open Door." American imperialism demands that Japan "open the door" in China for American exploitation. Japan, of course, wants to keep the door closed. She wants to keep the door closed to the others so that she can practice her own brand of exploitation.

The "Open Door" is no doubt a "principle" for the United States and sooner or later America will clash in battle with Japan over this issue. However, there is good reason to believe that Washington might have compromised **MOMENTARILY** on this question but for China's insistence that there be no compromise. There have been reports that Washington has attempted to persuade Chinese leaders that such a compromise, in which Japan would not be compelled to disgorge all of her conquests providing she broke definitively with the Axis, would better promote the war plans of the "democracies" in the war against Hitler. "After we have done with Hitler," they argued, "then we will settle our score with Japan."

This reasoning apparently fell on deaf ears. Chiang Kai-shek, it is said, threatened to turn to Germany in the event of such a deal. It is well known that German representatives in the Far East are extremely anxious to promote peace between Japan and China. Naturally there is a good reason for this: Germany knows what a handicap Japan will face if

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British Labor Party Crisis

The Labor Party of England is wracked by the severest crisis in many years. A group of 30 labor deputies have raised the demand that industry be conscripted as a reply to Prime Minister Churchill's announcement that all men and women from the age of 19 to 50 would soon be liable to conscription.

These labor deputies have openly revolted against the official leadership of the party, personified by Ernest Bevin, which supports the proposal of Churchill without raising the demand for conscription of industry.

These deputies threaten to bring this issue into Parliament and it is rumored that a vote of confidence in the Churchill government may take place on this issue.

LABOR ACTION

DECEMBER 8, 1941

ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

ONE CENT

END SECRET DIPLOMACY IN THE FAR EAST WAR CRISIS!

Anti-Strike Bills Must Be Defeated!

A national emergency conference of 300 CIO leaders was being held in Washington last week under the direction of Phillip Murray, CIO president, in an effort to block passage of the four anti-labor bills presented to Congress.

Keenly aware of the fact that passage of any of the bills, all of which are expected to be voted on this week in the House of Representatives, would strangle the labor movement, the CIO, with some assistance from the AFL, is putting the pressure on in Washington.

The counter-proposal of the CIO to anti-strike legislation is a nebulous capital, labor and government conference to work out "industrial peace" by voluntary methods.

The idea behind having four different anti-labor bills is very simply. The labor-baiters figure if they can't get the most drastic ones across, they'll have three other choices. In any event, they hope at least one of these bills will muster a sufficient majority to pass.

Representative Smith, of Virginia, introduced the "extremist measure." It proposes, in genuine Hitler fashion, to do the following: freeze the existing open or closed shop conditions in war industry; outlaw sympathetic, boycott or jurisdictional strikes; mass picketing, government supervised strike votes and union registration and accounting.

In plain words, it proposes not only to stop the CIO from any serious organization campaigns, but also to emasculate the whole militant industrial union movement, turning it into a glorified company union run under government supervision.

Representative Walter, of Pennsylvania, has another bill, along the lines of the Smith proposals, but with a sugar-coated bill which says that, despite all the above-mentioned restrictions and strangulation, lawful strikes are permissible. In other words, if labor could find some way of observing all the hogtying provisions and still call a strike, it would be considered legal!

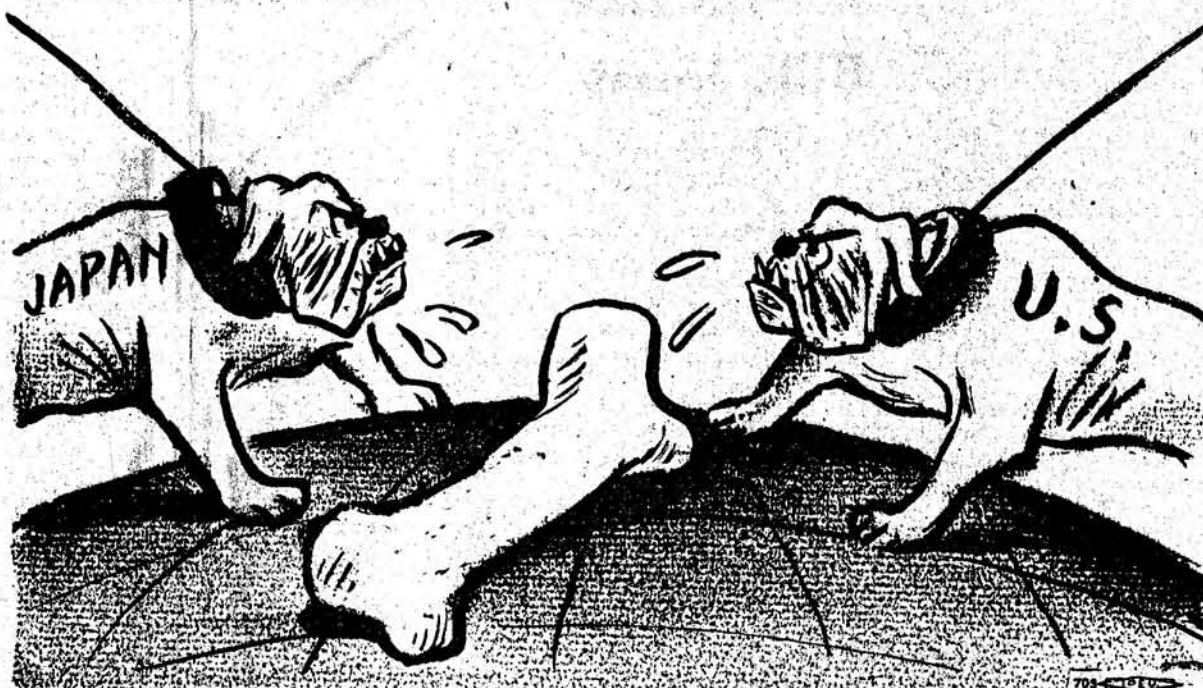
A Major Operation

As one congressman admitted: "These measures would perform a major operation on organized labor." The operation was successful, the patient died, in the way these measures would work.

The Vinson Bill, introduced previously.

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FIGHTING OVER FAR EAST BONE



Navy Sec. Knox Would Drive Union Men "Out on a Rail!"

Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox endorsed, last week, a statement of Rear Admiral W. H. Blandy which urged that union organizers be "driven out of town on a rail."

Admiral Blandy spoke in Macon Ga., and said of defense strikes: "I am confident that no such stoppage of work can happen here, but if it should come about that any of these disloyal citizens shall approach you with any such suggestions, I hope you will ride them out of town on a rail as if they were wearing swastikas on their sleeves."

When the Workers Defense League inquired of Secretary of the Navy Knox whether he agreed with these anti-union sentiments, he said: "With the sentiments thus expressed, I am in thoroughgoing accord."

The Workers Defense League inquired of President Roosevelt whether he supported the statement of his Secretary of the Navy. The President—despite his recent readiness to attack labor leaders like John L. Lewis—has thus far not had a word to say about the viciously anti-labor attitude of Knox.

Secretary of the Navy Knox has been one of the most eloquent speakers about how the American bosses and their government were going to build a wonderful, new world AFTER the war ended. He has been a very eloquent speaker about how President Roosevelt's so-called "Four Freedoms" would prove to be the new Magna Carta for the American people.

Does Secretary of the Navy Knox, an authoritative spokesman for the Roosevelt Administration, believe that the "Four Freedoms" include the right to organize unions—even in "defense" industries—and to exercise the elementary right to strike, when the workers feel that it is impossible to work any longer?

The President had better answer. Otherwise, some of us might add this speech of Knox with FDR's endorsement of anti-strike legislation, "with FDR's attack on the union miners—and come to the conclusion that the Four Freedoms of President Roosevelt are OK for holiday speeches but don't apply where it really counts.

HE SAID IT . . .



REAR ADMIRAL BLANDY

Profits of Bosses Continue to Zoom Sky High

On December 2nd the Federal Reserve Bank of New York issued a report which showed an approximate 10 per cent increase in net profits for the third quarter of this year!

The report says that this rate of profit was still 20 per cent below 1929, although the volume of production is 40 per cent higher. It does not say anything, however, about the large contingency funds that are put away by the large corporations and which are not taxable. This is usually done to avoid paying larger taxes to the government. But it is not NOW counted in the profits.

With 1940 as a measuring basis, profits in the first nine months of this year were 96 per cent higher than last year, and after the payment of taxes were still 21 per cent higher!

For a group of 401 representative commercial and industrial companies, net profits in the third quarter of 1941 were 41 per cent higher than in 1940, and for the first nine months of this year, they were 26 per cent higher than a year ago!

While the high cost of living is destroying the living standards of the workers, the capitalists grow richer.

The People Must Decide War Issue

A little group of about a half dozen people meet every other day or so in the White House these days. Their deliberations are secret; nobody knows what is going on among them.

And yet these people—President Roosevelt, Secretary of State Hull, Ambassador Nomura of Japan and Special Envoy Kurosu of Japan—hold the fate of 200,000,000 people in their hands, the fate of 130,000,000 Americans and 70,000,000 Japanese.

These men negotiate the question of peace or war, they negotiate the lives of a generation. But the people involved, those who may be called upon to do the fighting, are not told what is going on.

All that the people are told is that there is a steadily mounting war crisis—a crisis so sharp that America may shortly be at war.

That these sessions are held in such secrecy is itself sufficient cause for suspicion. But when the real, basic issues involved in the U.S.-Japan conflict are made clear, then there is even more cause for suspicion.

If there has ever been a war fought solely and completely for profits, if there has ever been a war in which the people of both countries had absolutely no stake, it was pure and noble as compared with the war which may break out any day between America and Japan.

Because here there is no issue of "democracy" or anything else like that. It is purely and simply a question of imperialist rivalry.

What little has been divulged about the conference proves that Japan wants the right to have a "co-prosperity sphere"—that is, the right to have imperialist investments in and imperialist domination over the fabulously wealthy Pacific area. This includes such rich imperialist pluckings as China, Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, etc.

America, on the other hand, demands that Japan cease its attempts at imperialist expansion, that Japan make a graceful exit from China, that it cease casting covetous glances at the Dutch East Indies and Siam. It also demands that Japan break with the Axis and come over to the Anglo-American bloc.

If this be done, America promises to lift its economic sanctions against Japan, which are slowly choking the Japanese economy.

Democracy Not Involved

It is clear from the nature of the negotiations—which are not concerned with any abstract phrases about freedom, or concepts of life, but which are as hard and mercenary as two gangsters divvying up territory for their respective gangs—it is clear that no sane (or honest) person can claim that democracy or the American way of life is involved.

For anyone who claims that America is now campaigning for democracy, or the rights of the Chinese, must also explain the fact that for the past several years America has helped supply Japan with oil in order to conduct its war with China. They will have to explain how America can be fighting for democracy, if the scrap iron and oil which are labeled "made in America" bomb the helpless people of Chungking.

When it was to the interests of the American imperialists to go easy with Japan they did so; now they are getting tough. They are demanding that Japan resign itself to the idea of being a second rate power. They are demanding that Japan give up its imperialist expansion.

Japan is therefore caught in a terrible dilemma. The Japanese don't want to fight the ABCD powers—America, Britain, China and Dutch East Indies. They know that such a war means national suicide. But they also cannot meet the stiff demands of the American negotiators.

This they cannot do because to do so would also mean suicide for

(Continued on page 3)

18 Minneapolis Defendants Convicted; Plan Appeal To U. S. Supreme Court

Eighteen of the twenty-three defendants in the Minneapolis "sedition" case have been found guilty of one of the two counts on which they were tried—violation of the Smith Act of June, 1940, which makes illegal the advocacy of the overthrow of the government or the spreading of "dissension" in the armed forces.

All twenty-three of the defendants were acquitted of the charge of having violated Article 6 of the Criminal Code, which punishes organization of a conspiracy to overthrow the government.

The jury deliberated for forty hours before it reached its verdict. As soon as it did, representatives of the defendants announced that an appeal would immediately be instituted.

That the defendants would be convicted on the basis of perjured testimony, hysterical red baiting and flag waving by this jury of small town business men and farmers was not

unforeseen. But that it would be convicted on the least substantial, on the most ludicrous and fantastic of all the charges only proves once more the totally baseless and reactionary character of the prosecution.

ENTIRE CASE COLLAPSES

The defendants were acquitted of the main charge of the prosecution—allegedly planning and participating in a conspiracy to overthrow the government. By virtue of this acquittal, the entire basis of the case fell apart.

No testimony of any substantial nature was offered during the trial that the defendants had done or said anything about the army—other than propagate the so-called military policy of the Socialist Workers Party.

As a matter of fact, Special Prosecutor Henry Schweinhaut admitted during the trial that he was not even trying to prove that the SWP attempted to stir up insubordination in

the army! He admitted that it was not his contention that the SWP advocated such a policy!

So we see the utterly ludicrous—but tragic—situation that the defendants are convicted on precisely the point which the government did not even contend, on precisely the point which the government more or less gave to the defendants—while they are freed on the charge which the government went to such pains to prove!

We attempt to go over the mass of testimony—what was ever said, even by the Tobin perjurers in the service of the prosecution; what was said about creating insubordination in the army?

IS THIS THE PROOF?

The testimony of hophead Roy Wjenicke, a shiftless lout who was made an organizer by Tobin's 544-AFL, to the effect that he was

(Continued on page 2)

Brewster Men Negotiate for Wage Increase

Negotiations for a new contract began a week ago, as the Brewster Aircraft Local 465, UAW-CIO, presented its demands, which had been approved by the membership, to the Brewster Aircraft Corp. The new contract takes into consideration the rising cost of living as the basis for its wage clause.

The union is demanding a 75 cent minimum and a 15 cent general increase, following the precedent set in aircraft on the West Coast; an escalator wage clause permitting of the reopening of the wage clause when prices have risen or when conditions in the industry as regards profits or wages warrant reopening of the wage clause; and job classifications which would bring the rates for jobs up to a more equitable comparison to the similar job rates in the auto industry.

In addition, the new contract provides for a union shop, two weeks' vacation at the end of one year's employment, check-off, grievance procedure, paid holidays, job protection through seniority, job protection for those who are drafted into the army.

In view of the recent layoff of several hundred men because of the poor planning of the management, a special clause provides for the union to work in conjunction with the company on planning, thus preventing or cutting down future layoffs. (This is similar to the Murray plan for the setting up of industry councils with the unions having the right to work on production planning.) The union is going to have to fight to have this contract accepted but the fight will be worth while, not only for the men who will be governed by this contract, but for the UAW-CIO in the East.

This contract will give the UAW one of the best in the Eastern region and will be of great aid in the big job of organizing aircraft in the East.

UAW Board Faces Aircraft Problems

The next meeting of the UAW-CIO International Executive Board will be held in New York for the first time, within the next two weeks. The main object of this meeting should be to add impetus to the lackadaisical organizing drive in aircraft now going on in the East. The importance of organizing aircraft cannot be stressed enough. When you compare the similarity of wage rates in the auto industry (due to the union organization of all the auto plants) with the difference in wages in organized and unorganized aircraft plants, you can see why, when the union forces through a wage increase in one auto plant, almost all of the others follow.

By giving Local 365, at present negotiating a new contract with Erewster Aircraft, the wholehearted support of the International UAW and seeing to it that this local gets a contract which can be pointed to as a real achievement of the UAW-CIO in the Eastern region, they will be providing the material they need in the organizing drive.

New Price Bill Fails To Solve The Problem of The Rising Cost of Living

By FRANK DEMBY

Faced with the dilemma of serious price inflation or taking steps in the direction of establishing totalitarian controls, the House of Representatives passed a weak-kneed compromise last Friday by a vote of 224 to 161. After some fancy political maneuvering, the question of price control, raised as long ago as last July, has now been referred to the Senate where, it is expected, a "real" price control bill will be passed.

The House bill declares that in the interests of "national defense" it is necessary to prevent price and credit inflation. Its provisions, however, cannot possibly achieve this objective. In fact, if the House bill becomes law it will definitely result in further substantial increases in prices. As always, the working people will suffer.

FARM BLOC BLACKMAIL

The congressional farm bloc, operating in the interests of the rich commercial farmers, has put into the bill a provision concerning the prices of farm products that constitutes one of the best illustrations of congressional blackmail in a long, long time. A ceiling is to be established on farm prices, but this upper limit cannot be lower than the highest of the following three levels:

- (1) A price equal to 110 per cent of parity;
- (2) The market price prevailing on October 1, 1941;
- (3) The average price for the period 1919-1929.

The original draft of the price control bill called for a ceiling on farm prices to be based on the price as of July 28, 1941, or 100 per cent of parity, whichever was higher. Parity, as I have previously explained, was the slogan of the Farm Bureau, to give the commercial farmers the same purchasing power as they possessed in the period from 1909-1914, which is the highest on record for the 20th century.

This meant, in many cases, price increases above those existing on July 28 running from 10 to 30 per cent. And, of course, prices on July 28 already reflected a substantial wartime inflation. While the House Banking and Currency Committee deliberately stalled for several months, under the pretext of a "thorough" consideration of the matter of price control, prices rose substantially. This prompted the farm bloc to demand that the prevailing price level be changed from July 28 to October 1. Not satisfied with this, and being in the position to hold up indefinitely any legislation at all unless its demands were granted, the farm bloc then raised the ante on the alternative parity ceiling from 100 per cent of parity to 110 per cent.

This means an additional 10 per cent increase for many basic farm prices.

THE THIRD WRINKLE

Intoxicated with their easy success, the farm bloc introduced a third wrinkle. For some farm products, the average price from 1919 to 1929 was much higher than either 110 per cent of parity or the price on October 1. This is particularly true in the case of cotton, where a ceiling based on the 1919-1929 average would mean an additional increase of some 30 per cent. The representatives from the cotton states demanded that this be included as a third alternative and the demand was granted.

As a result, the provision of the House Price Control Bill in regard to farm prices, far from preventing prices rises, actually guarantees tremendous price increases, amounting to a wage cut for the workers of at least 20 per cent.

As for prices of industrial products, the price administrator (it is assumed by everyone that Roosevelt will appoint Leon Henderson to this position) is permitted to set a ceiling, or a top price, on any commodity threatening to reach the "inflation point." The effectiveness of this measure in preventing inflation is exceedingly dubious. First of all an awful lot will depend on the judgment of one man, Leon Henderson. Even if he should be motivated by a sincere desire to prevent inflation, he still has virtually no power to do this, for the House bill establishes a five man board of review with broad power to overrule decisions by the price administrator. Moreover, a manufacturer or profiteer can appeal any case to the courts, where it could undoubtedly be dragged out for months or years. The provision giving the price administrator power to license business men and to revoke their licenses if they violated the price ceilings was defeated by the House. Thus, there is no effective means of enforcing any of these maximum prices.

ANOTHER ADMINISTRATION DEFEAT

The Administration suffered another defeat on the proposal to give the government power to buy and sell any product in any market for the purpose of stabilizing its price. This provision was changed so that the government only has the power to buy and sell in the DOMESTIC market to stimulate production of HIGH-COST producers. This power cannot thus be used to lower prices. If used, it will only raise prices further.

A final provision of the bill permits the establishment of ceilings on rents in defense areas and

gives such tenants the right of appeal if they think their rents are too high. This in no way will stop the rent gouge now going on in defense areas in view of the fact that the rents are already sky high. Nor will it help prevent a general rise in rents throughout the country, which is clearly indicated as a next step in the developing inflationary process.

About all that can be said in favor of the action of the House of Representatives is that the House recognizes the danger of inflation and is on record as being in favor, presumably, of doing something to prevent it.

POLITICS BEHIND THE BILL

As important as the Price Control Bill itself is the politics which surrounded its passage by the House. It is clear that the question of inflation, which, of course, means the living standards of the masses, is to be the political football in the 1941 congressional elections. The Republicans hope to make a political comeback by accusing the Administration of being responsible for the failure to prevent inflation. They expect to escape the counter-charge that they sabotaged the Price Control Bill by claiming that they were for a "real" price control bill as introduced by Representative Gore. Gore's bill, following the ideas of Bernard Baruch, called for an overall price ceiling on everything including wages. This would be an exceptionally reactionary measure. The House had, at least, the political sense to defeat this proposal, for they knew how opposed the workers are to any attempt to control wages.

NOW BEFORE SENATE

The Senate now become the next stage where the battle of inflation is to be fought. The workers, particularly the organized workers, must pay very close attention to the deliberations of the Senate. The representatives of the bosses will make every attempt to unload the tremendous cost of the war onto the workers. It is the desire of the bosses to maintain and increase profits that is the main driving force in bringing about rising prices and inflation. Every worker must see to it that his union takes action on this question.

The first demand of the unions must be for a 100 per cent excess profits tax. The second demand must be to limit all profits to a maximum of 6 per cent. The third demand must be for the establishment of workers' control of prices!

Unless the workers take action along these lines, the fight to maintain living standards through wage increases will become a steadily losing fight.

Minneapolis Defendants "Guilty" - -

(Continued from page 1)

told—privately, of course—by Defendant Max Goldman to go to Fort Snelling to create insubordination and that he did NOT go?

The testimony of the government witness, moronic John Novack, that the SWP had guns hidden in churches and that it had bullets superior to U.S. Army bullets?

Or the testimony of Defendant James P. Cannon that the Socialist Workers Party advocated the so-called "proletarian military policy" which proposes that conscription be controlled by the trade unions? Is that the "revolutionary," rebellious doctrine of insubordination on which the defendants were convicted?

If this trial stank of perjury, frame-up, hysteria and perscusion before the verdict was reached, it now reeks of these things a thousand times more. The entire fabric of the government case has been torn to bits; all that the jury has believed was its least credible and weakest part.

The struggle to free the defendants must go on at increased impetus. The appeal which will be made in their behalf will have at least one clarifying and helpful factor. It will be made on one point alone. It will test not only the entire rotten procedure and testimony of the trial. It will also test the constitutionality of the venal Smith Act—which the defendants are supposed to have violated.

The labor movement, by fighting this case to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary, will have the opportunity of demanding that the Smith Act be wiped off the books as unconstitutional. It will be able to show that the law on which the defendants were convicted violates the First Amendment by violating the right of free speech.

In the meantime, we extend our complete solidarity to the convicted defendants. We pledge our continued efforts in their behalf. We know that they are guilty of nothing except loyalty to socialism and the working class.

It's Things Like This That Explain Negro "Crime" Wave

Special to LABOR ACTION

NEW YORK—A crowd of people were standing near a small confectionery store on Sutter Avenue in Brownsville. Nearby was parked a police car.

We rushed over to see what had happened.

It was a revelation, an illumination of the whole problem called the crime wave in Harlem.

Two burly cops were holding a 12 year old Negro boy, who was frightened almost to death. The boy had a bottle of pop in his coat pocket which a storekeeper claimed had been stolen.

"Let's take him out in the alley and shoot him. Stand back, we need room to use our guns. Don't let the bullets hit you. Come on. Let's go in the alley and get this over with."

With these threats, the cops terrorized the little Negro boy, who began crying and quaking.

This kept up for ten minutes and then the cops took the boy to jail.

The small storekeeper, as usual, wasn't interested in having someone pay for the bottle of pop, which the boy claimed another boy gave to him. "He's a thief. Put him in jail." And with this kind of brutal treatment, LaGuardia and his allies wonder why they are so bitterly hated by the Negro people, and why their police measures aren't "solving" the problems of the Harlem people.

We know what the Negroes really need. They need schools, recreation facilities. But above all else they need jobs. They need jobs in order to have a chance to live.

LABOR ACTION
114 W. 14th Street
New York City

Dear Friends:

I am interested in learning more about the Workers Party and its fight against the bosses' war plans.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____



In the brief space of three weeks, the One Cent LABOR ACTION blitzkrieged its circulation double, and is well on its way toward tripling it!

Here are some details of that SENSATIONAL ADVANCE:

The branches are increasing their bundle orders, as Comrade Gates reported last week in his column. I follow close on his heels to add another very tasty morsel for the palates of our devotees.

SUBS ARE BEGINNING TO ROLL IN. Our subscribers and friends are hailing the One Cent LABOR ACTION as a great need of the American workers. We would like to let you in on our correspondence, but for lack of space, a couple of excerpts will do.

Writes a subscriber from Ohio: "Enclosed is my renewal to LABOR ACTION. May your courageous analysis of social forces to make available to humankind."

At a party forum in Harlem a Negro worker rises to say:

"LABOR ACTION has a lot to say. I will contribute enough weekly to make possible the distribution of 200 LABOR ACTIONS to workers in Harlem."

These are heartening indications of what LABOR ACTION means to the workers.

Branches! Subscribers! Friends! Follow these excellent examples! Help us speed toward our immediate goal of quadrupling our press circulation!

The Business Manager.

Most Shachtman Votes Came From Negro and Poor People

The official returns in the recent mayoralty election in New York City are now available from the Board of Elections and permit an analysis of the vote for the candidate of the Workers Party, Max Shachtman. Two facts are immediately clear:

(1) The unofficial estimate previously reported in LABOR ACTION is closely confirmed. The total vote for Shachtman in the city was 2,019. Since the vote for James Cannon of the SWP was 1,101, this makes the total Trotskyist vote over 3,000.

(2) These votes were ANTI-WAR votes, not general malcontents. This is proved by the fact that the Shachtman vote is concentrated in overwhelming fashion in those neighborhoods in which the branches of the Workers Party carried on their propaganda work and is generally insignificant elsewhere.

The distribution of the vote by boroughs follows:

Manhattan	517
Brooklyn	615
Bronx	746
Queens	124
Richmond	17

GALA SOCIAL of the West Bronx Branch

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The figure for the Bronx permits comparison with last year, when Comrade Shachtman campaigned for Congress in a district covering about one half of the borough and received 411 votes, against a candidate who by no means possesses the popular support of LaGuardia. In spite of that fact, however, Shachtman this year registered an increase of about one third in the same area!

Most significant fact is the relative concentration of the Shachtman vote in Harlem. Over one fourth of the entire Manhattan vote came from the assembly districts covering the Harlem area. The bulk of the rest, in Manhattan, came from three other neighborhoods in which the Workers Party has made itself known: Yorkville, the Lower East Side and, to a lesser extent, the Upper West Side.

In Brooklyn, well over a third of the borough vote came from the neighborhoods which encircle the Brownsville center of the party. Two other assembly districts recorded relatively large votes for Shachtman, but partially because of the large size of the districts themselves. These are the 16th (Bensonhurst and Midwood) and the 18th (Flatbush).

The party has never conducted any neighborhood work in either Richmond or Queens.

AKRON BRANCH HITS ANTI-MINERS PROPAGANDA

The Akron Branch had a letter published this week in the Akron Beacon condemning the anti-labor propaganda which had been spread in the press as a result of the miners' strike. The letter, of considerable length, clearly stated the case for support of the miners, and also gave the party position in relation to proposed anti-labor legislation.

These Are Some of the UPS When You Work for Old King Cotton

By A MISSOURI SHARECROPPER

We, the sharecroppers from Missouri, feel like we should have the right to work for ourselves and families and being fully free from Landlord's Punishment. We are Citizens of the United States of America. Because our forefathers were Direct Slaves for the owning class, they work the fields and cut down the big timbers and cleared the lands just for what they could eat. And we have been working for Old Boss ever since. As wage slaves raising King Cotton for him and making him richer and ourselves poorer slaves. We are tired of this condition and we realize that the only way out is to, change it ourselves through organizations and a mass struggle.

The first thing that we want is the right to work and live a clean democratic life as human. We have die for this country to help make it a fit place to live. We have work for nothing for this country. What now can we do? Organize is the thing to do and it must be done soon. We love our country (if we had one) sweet Land of Liberty. Sweet as honey for the rich and Hell for the Poor Negroes and white workers. What kind of a world are we live in under present conditions? A capitalist system run by the owning class are the world today.

THE UPS IN THE WORK

When you work all day in Old King Cotton these are some Ups. You have to go to bed before its made up. So that you can get up before Sun Up. You have to wake up before you get up. And when you get up, you have to match up, then harness up, then hitch up, and all day long talking to the mule saying get up. Now you have to break the land up. Plant and wait until the cotton comes up. And when it comes up you have to chop some of it up. And when you lay by you have to wait until it open up. Now you begin picking. When you get a sack full of Old King Cotton you weigh it up. Then hand it to the gin and it will suck it up. Gin and bale up.

And later on the Boss will say lets have a settlement up. And before you can have a settlement up you must figure it up. And the boss will say John you just didn't pay up and if you say you didn't owe it he will say you taken it up in making the crop. And if you protest against his figure YOU WILL GET BEAT UP. And when you go to the shack to your wife you haven't got any money. She will get mad and pack up. Then you are all messed up. THESE UPS IS HELL.

From a worker who knows the System.

Let's Give the Fund Drive that Last Big Push!

By ALBERT GATES
Director of Party Building Fund

The One Cent LABOR ACTION has really made its mark! Enthusiastic responses have come in from all over the country. Factory distributions have been greatly increased and many branches write in stating that they require more copies.

In answer to these responses, the business office printed 12,000 copies of the December 1st issue, all of which were sold and distributed!

If these demands continue, we shall soon reach the 15,000 mark—a truly stupendous achievement.

Although a definite improvement was visible this week in the standing of several of the Party Branches in the Party Building Fund Drive, other branches fell below their payments. Time is drawing close—all branches are requested to put the squeeze on to complete their quotas.

The standings show that the Akron Branch is the first one to exceed its quota. Akron has sent in \$120.00 as against a quota of \$100.00. In addition, Akron voted special donations to the National Office in the form of a Christmas gift! There's an idea for every branch in the country. A Christmas gift to the National Office! There is no reason why Akron should step out ahead of the rest of the Party. We know some of the branches will not allow this standing to remain as it is.

In the last week, Youngstown has also completed its quota. Rochester came through last week.

What about New York? It is still a long way from its goal. We hear a lot of rumors about its plans to complete its quota shortly—but we would like to see something more concrete.

While Cleveland, Washington, Philadelphia and San Francisco have come through with payments, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Chicago and Buffalo are lagging. We expect to see this situation altered, too, in the next week. Nothing yet from Boston, Detroit and Columbus! They are still in the zero stage, the only branches which have yet to send in a single penny. What about it, Boston, Detroit and Columbus?

Branch	Quota	Raised	Percentage
Akron	100.00	120.00	120
Rochester	25.00	25.00	100
Youngstown	30.00	30.00	100
YPSL	000.00	357.20	
Nevada	000.00	15.00	
Washington	200.00	90.00	45
Philadelphia	200.00	90.00	45
Worcester	50.00	20.00	40
Cleveland	50.00	20.00	40
National Office	500.00	197.00	39.4
San Francisco	150.00	40.00	26.6
St. Louis	150.00	41.25	25.5
New York	3,000.00	765.71	23.3
Los Angeles	300.00	68.00	22.6
Chicago	275.00	31.00	11.2
Lynn	75.00	7.50	10
Buffalo	300.00	27.25	9
Columbus	100.00	00.00	0
Detroit	20.00	00.00	0
Boston	50.00	00.00	0
Totals	5,575.00	1,944.71	34.7

Of Special Interest To Women

By Susan Green

Last July butter and pork were removed from the list of foods available to food stamp customers. Just before election—FOR NO MYSTERIOUS REASON—these products were restored to the food stamp list. However, that removal last July was the handwriting on the wall.

For Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon general of the United States Public Health Service, now come out with a threatening forecast. He predicts that in another few months there may not be enough "surplus food" to permit the continuance of the food stamp plan.

You can guess from this where food prices will be in a few months from now—and also what will happen to the poor people on relief.

Undoubtedly the food stamp system is far from satisfactory to these people. It permits them to buy only CERTAIN KINDS OF FOODS, and does not begin to cover all their food requirements—to say nothing of OTHER NECESSITIES. Furthermore, it has segregated relief clients into a human island of stamp users removed from the body of cash-using consumers. However, the stamp plan, with all its faults, does allow the poor mother to provide her family with more edibles than she could afford on her relief pittance alone.

Now this help will be taken away from her—because of the war.

Dr. Parran states further that the school lunch program which now gives a small measure of needed nourishment to children suffering from malnutrition, is also in danger. Thus the poorest of the poor will be made still poorer.

And the children will suffer most—BECAUSE OF THE WAR.

The war has created a market for food outside of this country—at a fancy profit. The hungry mouths at home must thereafter remain hungry—according to the standards of the profit system.

But why wait until Dr. Parran's predictions come true and actual want is here? Cash relief allowances must be increased. Now is the time to make the demand.

And the women must be in the forefront of this fight or they and their families will be trodden upon by the ruthless war profiteers.

THE MOST HOPELESS GIRLS IN THE WORLD

Peter Kihss, on the staff of the New York World-Telegram, writing about the spread of delinquency among girls in New York City, has the following to say:

"Through the portals of the Women's House of Detention pass some of the most hopeless girls in the world—and through them are passing more and more young girls who have taken to drink. The doctors and the sociologists today blame the WAR for that increase in alcoholism among the young women penal offenders."

You can be sure that the official lists of war casualties will not contain the names of these victims of war conditions.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE BLURBS:

"THE ARMY BUILDS MEN . . ."

More than 60,000 of the first million draftees were rejected by the draft boards because they were infected with venereal disease. The army wants no "damaged goods." Only the purest are good enough to enter the sanctified services "defending American democracy."

But beyond those portals for the pure, there is an awful stink, which has been stirred up for the public to smell by the authors of a book called "No. 1 Saboteur of Our Defense. Plain Words About Venereal Disease."

Drs. Parran and Vonderlehr, of the United States Public Health Service, reveal in their book that of the more than a million draftees who entered the army as first-class merchandise, a great many have become "seconds" and "as is." More than eight out of every thousand have acquired syphilis. More than forty out of every thousand have contracted gonorrhea.

Today there are at least as many NEW victims of venereal disease in the army as were originally rejected.

WHY NOT FACE THIS PROBLEM

IN A FRANK AND HONEST WAY?

It will afford small solace to the mothers, wives and sweethearts of these men to know that by an act of Congress passed last July, the Secretary of War has full authority to designate areas to be cleared of prostitutes and then employ the services of the FBI to get this done.

For this act is meaningless and has not been invoked by the army command—which understands only too well that to be "ENTERTAINED" by prostitutes is the ugly but natural by-product of the abnormal, exiled life of the soldier.

But the mothers, wives and sweethearts of these unlucky men have the right to demand why no protection is provided their men. Why is there no inspection of the "entertainers"—why no prophylactic treatment for the men? Why this criminal negligence on the part of the army command?

IS IT AFRAID THAT BY HANDLING THIS DARK PROBLEM OPENLY IT WILL WOUND THE SENSIBILITIES OF THE WAR-MONGERING HYPOCRITES WHO PREACH THAT WAR "BUILDS BODY AND CHARACTER"?

DON'T THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES COUNT?

Maddening and offensive to all honest instincts, is the way in which this scandalous contamination of the healthiest young men of the country has been commented upon in the capitalist press. Drs. Parran and Vonderlehr themselves entitled their book: "No. 1 Saboteur of Our Defense." That indicates the color of the comment. Everything is regarded from the point of view of the war interests of American imperialism. THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE ITSELF IS NOT WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE AT ALL.

Nor have pro-war commentators expressed any concern over the human problem presented by the vast army of prostitutes following the armed forces. And understandably so!

For these living women—better than volumes of dead statistics—indict the capitalist system. THEY PROVE THAT ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES SIMPLY DO NOT EXIST FOR LARGE SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION.

By the fortunes of war, the army of prostitutes—the LOWEST OF THE EXPLOITED—march with the boys drafted to fight for the greater power of the imperialist system of exploitation.

End Secret Diplomacy in Far East - -

(Continued from page 1)

the Japanese imperialists. Their expansion—as the expansion of all imperialist powers—comes not from any bad ideas of any individual; it comes from the gaping contradictions of the by now poverty stricken Japanese economy. If Japan does not gain control over additional areas in the Far East, that means the decrease of power of the Japanese imperialists and the heightening of the crisis of Japanese imperialism. It means national suicide just as much as defeat in a war would mean national suicide.

If Japan Surrenders

If Japan gets out of China, it (1) surrenders all hope eventually to dominate that most sought after of imperialist prizes and (2) it heightens the possibility of internal revolt by admitting to its people the futility of the entire Chinese venture and by bringing back home a million tired, disillusioned soldiers for whom no place can be found in the internal economy.

Here is the best example possible of the fact that under modern capitalism, wars are caused, not primarily by bad leaders, but essentially by the contradictions of a decayed economic system which forces each of the big imperialist countries to vie with each other for control and domination over the rest of the world.

That is why the present conference takes place in an atmosphere of calculatedly increasing tension. There was no incident which brought the crisis; the two contending economic rivals merely realized that their conflict was reaching such a point that they would either have to come to some agreement or go to war.

For the Japanese it is a difficult choice. They are tough out of necessity; but they don't relish the idea of a war with America. They are trying to get better conditions for the settlement. America, on the other hand, is tough in the negotiations because she is in a dominant position and is anxious to establish

Oil and Rubber Are Real Stakes in Far East

If naval and military warfare break forth on the vast Pacific Ocean, the China Seas and the islands and lands of the South Seas, it will be a tremendous and far-flung clash. Countless millions will participate in it, for the great imperialist powers have big stakes in this part of the world.

Here are the facts:

(1) THE OPPONENTS

The United States with its allies—The British Empire (England, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Malaya); the Dutch West Indies; China; Thailand (Siam) versus the Empire of Japan with its allies—the puppet governments of Nanking and Manchukuo; French Indo-China and Germany and Italy (from a distance).

(2) THE BATTLEFIELD

The entire expanse of the Pacific Ocean, the Sea of Japan, the South China Seas and the Indian Ocean. The islands of the Dutch East Indies, the Philippines, Formosa, Hainan, Sakhalin, Hawaii, South Sea Isles, etc.

The territories of China, French Indo-China, Thailand (Siam), Malaya, the island Kingdom of Japan, Manchuria, Siberia, Burma, etc.

(3) THE PEOPLE AFFECTED

One hundred and forty million Americans, 400 million Chinese, 100 million Japanese, 10 million East Indians (Javanese), 25 million Indo-Chinese, 14 million Siamese, five million Burmese, eight million Australians and New Zealanders, four million Malaysians, 14 million Filipinos—not to count Russians of Siberia, Indians from British India, Hawaiians, etc., who will be drawn into this imperialist clash. Eight hundred million people—almost half the human race—will be directly affected:

(4) AND THE STAKES?

(a) Economic: For America and her allies: The oil, rubber, quinine and tea of the Dutch East Indies;

complete control of the Far East. There is also the consideration that entry into the general war in Europe can be expedited by entering a war in the Far East.

But for the people of both countries, such a war can only mean endless miseries. We have nothing to gain. What interest have we, whe-

ther Morgan has economic control over Siam or whether the Japanese equivalent of Morgan has control? We get nothing out of it either way.

The people are not being consulted. Once the negotiations have reached a crucial stage, however, the people will be told that they must sacrifice, must go to war to

make the world safe for Siam.

Now, before it is too late, let us answer:

An End to Secret Diplomacy! Let the people know what's going on!

And Let the People Vote on War! They're going to fight; they should have the right to decide!

American Facelifters Work on Stalin

Now "A Kindly Man With Grey Hair"

By HENRY JUDD

Joseph Stalin, having invoked the name of God during the course of a toast blessing the efforts of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, is now awaiting the result of his invocation. Was it all "in vain," or will the rocky Arsenal of Democracy open up and gush forth its supplies of tanks, planes and guns in an endless flow?

Certainly the preliminary results seem to have been propitious! The British have opened up the long-hoped-for "Second Front" in North Africa; transportation to Russia by way of Iran and India is working with smoother efficiency.

Perhaps there is something in this prayer business after all!

It is not surprising to witness the sudden "conversion" of Stalin. This criminal assassin of the Russian people, who has destroyed root and branch of the original workers' democratic state established in Russia, has placed the destiny of the bureaucratic class which he leads, entirely in the hands of the Anglo-

American war camp. Just as Pe- tain and Il Duce do the bidding of Hitler, so Stalin must do the bidding of Roosevelt-Churchill.

Professions of religious faith are minor aspects of the political obligations Stalin must assume. To a sinister and permanently corrupted individual such as himself, problems of sincerity have no reality. Stalin is sincerely "converted" to whatever may help perpetuate his crumbling regime. Tomorrow, if it would secure him a few more tanks and some oil, he would join the Society of Jesus or don the robes of a Dominican monk!

American capitalism works hard to fulfill its part of this deceitful bargain.

Stalin has been handed over to the beauty specialists of our "Political Hollywood." He is to be glamorized, re-built along approved American lines. None but experts can work at this task.

His mustache must be trimmed, his face lifted, the cold mask re-

placed by one belonging to a kindly old gent (with graying hair), who only loves his country. The voice that once sentenced thousands of revolutionists to the execution squads now becomes strong and mellow, filled with patriotic overtones and gentle expressions in the manner of Charles Boyer. Trust our specialists—they are vastly experienced.

First come the officials and diplomats. Harry Hopkins, Joseph Davies and Averill Harriman return home with words of ecstatic praise for the man and his regime.

Not to be outdone, Messrs. Churchill and Bervbrook utter mouth-filling words of Victorian praise for the genial and unconquerable "Defender of the Faith," the doughty warrior and "Defender of the Realm."

The assassin of the Old Bolshevik Guard—specially skilled in the arts of frame-up and mass terror—becomes, in the words of an American diplomatic representative at Kuibishev "a kindly old gentleman with graying hair!"

To add finishing touches and a more polished air to the new portrait, hoards of ex-Stalinist liberals, journalists and fellow travelers set to work. No longer "disillusioned" (for Stalin has finally joined up with a world-wide Popular Front) they forget the crimes which they (or some of them) exposed a few brief months ago and revert to yesterday's hypocritical game—apologists for the totalitarian regime of Moscow—Kuibishev, Duranty, Shecan, Fischer, Ralph ("I Came, I Saw, I Interviewed") Ingersoll, Hindus, etc. A collection of journalistic hacks worshipping at the same shrine of World War II.

Washington society vies for admission tickets to Russian Embassy balls; New York debutantes make their debuts at affairs for "Russian Medical Aid"; Russian films of the Stalin vintage are revived wholesale; a hundred radio stations play folk music (Cossack music is most popular); Tschalkovsky is played, swung, recorded and canned; the Stalinist intelligentsia is dizzy with success.

The KKK Cancer Must Be Cut Out of the Trade Union Movement!

By JACK WILSON

The Ku Klux Klan, which considers the CIO as a menace to America, has embarked on an ambitious program of destroying the CIO from within, by first capturing as many unions as possible.

In Detroit, heart of the Auto Workers Union, the Ku Klux Klan openly announced its intention this week of recruiting 5,000 new members among the UAWA locals.

They are openly recruiting, they are openly organizing classes in parliamentary procedure so their factions can operate more efficiently, they are studying union organization to become experts in breaking up unions and, above all, they are organizing goon squads and vigilante groups to terrorize opponent elements.

Six Ku Klux Klan members in Georgia are under felony sentences for flogging CIO mill workers in Atlanta three years ago. It is the KKK which leads every gang of vigilantes who slug, tar and feather CIO organizers trying to bring unionism to the South. Every CIO unionist knows that down South the toughest opponent, the real strong-arm of the open shop bosses, is the KKK.

When the CIO began to sweep the country in 1936, the KKK tried its terroristic tactics to stop industrial unionism. They burned crosses on the hills near Akron's rubber plants, for example, in an effort to intimidate the rubber workers, who very

promptly went on a sit-down strike and chased after the hooded vigilantes, who fled.

In the General Motors strike, the KKK elements along with the Black Legion, acted as a strike-breaking agency, trying to whip up sentiment against the CIO.

In Anderson, Ind., the KKK headed a mob of three hundred which tried to lynch two union organizers, after having already run some union men out of town.

These open acts, and many others like them, alienated all support the KKK had among the thousands of workers in the Midwest mass production industries before the CIO came along. It is a fact, for example, that once upon a time 90 per cent of Akron's rubber workers were members of the KKK. And Toledo and Detroit were two other strongholds of the Klan in the North.

Now the KKK is reviving in these areas. That is what is so extremely significant and important to the labor movement. That the KKK can hold open recruiting drives in Detroit must come as a shock to every union militant associated with the CIO.

The KKK program in the union consists first and foremost of creating bitter and union-busting feelings by its venomous attacks on the "Catholics, Jews, Communists, Negroes and Foreigners." It seeks to divide the workers along religious and racial lines. It preaches Jim-

Crowism within the union movement.

What is involved is not only that the KKK is a prototype of a fascist force, or that its program is reactionary.

The specific program that KKK members advocate in the CIO unions is a direct violation not only of the whole spirit and tradition of the CIO movement, but of the laws of the CIO stated in the CIO national constitution, which say that the CIO basic principle is social, economical and political equality.

The CIO takes in all workers, by its constitution, irrespective of their race, creed or color. The KKK fights openly against this whole idea, and violates every single basic principle of the CIO.

The CIO can no more tolerate the KKK or its members within the CIO unions than it can tolerate stoop-pigeons and other direct agents of the bosses.

The question before the CIO is not one of freedom of speech for a working class political opponent, that is, an individual who starts from the same pro-labor basis but disagrees on program for carrying it out.

The KKK openly stands anti-labor. It acts against labor. It is the spearhead of all the foul forces of reaction. It is the natural basis for a full-blown fascist movement.

Inclusion of its members within organized labor is like permitting a cancer germ to be placed in a heal-

thy body. Death is the only result. In self-preservation, the CIO must immediately drive the KKK out of its ranks.

Unless the CIO does this nationally, Phillip Murray, CIO president, will find, for example, a group of men carrying CIO cards who oppose him merely because he is of Catholic faith (whereas freedom of religion is a cardinal point among the rights defended by the CIO). Other union officials and members will be opposed merely because they are of Jewish faith. Militants because they will be branded "Communists," Negro unionists will be subjected to "lynch-law" terrorism.

"Poison the atmosphere of the CIO by creating and fomenting racial and religious prejudices." Those are the instructions of the Imperial Wizard of the KKK to his blind followers in the CIO.

"Hurl the cry of Nigger-lover at any CIO unionist who wants the South organized," the Imperial Wizard adds. This way perhaps the Negro and white workers can be further divided. Perhaps the Southern White worker can be made a victim of the prejudices inculcated in him since birth and the CIO kept from organizing the South to benefit all workers, Negro, white, or any other race.

Only the bosses benefit from the KKK program.

Drive the KKK out of the CIO! Cut this cancer out of the union!

Draftees Will Go To School - - To Learn What?

The first anniversary of the compulsory military conscription act was noted by an event almost as startling as the actual passage of the act at the time it was first proposed.

General Ben Lear, the famous "Yoo-Hoo" general, has announced that the Second Army will soon institute a series of classes among drafted soldiers in order to "intensify general interest in the training program." He admits that these classes are motivated by the chronic problem of the Army: morale.

The classes, which will take the form of lectures delivered by specially selected regimental officers, are the following:

- 1) Hemisphere Geography and World Trade—prepared by Dr. William Fletcher of Yale University.
- 2) American History—prepared by Dr. Ralph Gabriel of Yale.
- 3) The struggle for human liberty, with special emphasis on the Constitution and Bill of Rights—prepared by Dr. Gabriel.
- 4) Fascism, Nazism and Communism "in contrast to the American way of life"—prepared by a board of officers.
- 5) The World Crisis—prepared by the same board.

That such a series of lectures should be proposed by Yoo-Hoo Lear is an extraordinarily interesting fact. It is conclusive proof, if any still be needed, that the basic army program—basic from the point of view of the general staff—has not yet been solved. That problem is, of course, morale.

THE MAIN PROBLEM REMAINS: MORALE

A year has gone by since the passage of the draft bill. It has been a year in which the problems of the draftees have occupied a very prominent place in the attention of the country. Food, furloughs, tax free cigarettes, the right to vote, Negro votes, housing—these are but a few of the problems that have received wide publicity. Some of them, such as housing, have been partially solved. But the one great problem of the draftees, the problem which encompasses all the others, the problem of morale, has not been solved.

So serious is this problem that the army has taken the unprecedented step of beginning this series of lectures.

We, of course, do not consider it our business to act as advisors for the U.S. Army General Staff. So we will not make it our business to moan, as some of the "liberal" papers and magazines undoubtedly will, about making sure that these lectures are "fair" and "liberal." Because we know pretty well that most of them won't be.

You don't have to be a genius to know that Yoo-Hoo Lear is not going to have lectures which explain American history in terms of the struggles of the American people for a better life or lectures which give a complete and fair picture of American labor.

There are, however, a few questions which we should like to ask about these proposed lectures:

If some of these lectures take place in Fort Bragg, N. C., will the speaker tell his audience of Negro draftees how everyone is free and equal in this country? Will he mention the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution which supposedly outlawed slavery?

When the speaker on American history tells about the wonderful educational opportunities in this country, will he tell the draftees that it was the labor movement which was the first to fight for free education?

WILL THEY TELL THE BOYS ABOUT SACCO AND VANZETTI?

When the speaker on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights tells the boys about the glories of American freedom, will he mention the name of Tom Mooney? Of Sacco and Vanzetti? Of Gene Debs? Of the Haymarket martyrs?

And when the speaker on the world crisis tells the boys about how it is necessary to go to war and fight for "democracy," will he perhaps mention what President Wilson admitted after the last war—that it was "for business, and not democracy"? Will he tell them of the findings of the Nye senatorial committee which proved that the war was fought for profit?

But it is not necessary—nor does it do much good—to ask many more such questions. For everyone knows that the bluebloods of the Army General Staff, the tin hat generals who are the most hidebound reactionaries of the country, have not suddenly reformed. They are just as reactionary as before. They have merely set on this idea as a method of getting their pro-war and anti-labor propaganda across more efficiently, in an organized fashion.

There is one clear and simple need that every draftee and every trade unionist cannot but agree with.

INSTEAD OF LECTURES POURED AT THE MEN, WHY NOT ALLOW THE DRAFTEES THEMSELVES TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS?

It is interesting to note that according to General Lear's plan there is no provision made for discussion. It is not hard to understand why he has no interest in allowing the soldiers to express themselves. For him these lectures are on the same level, and for the same purpose, as drilling or maneuvers.

But the men want a chance to hold discussions among themselves on an organized basis. They want a chance to discuss, not to be talked to by some officer.

LABOR MOVEMENT NEEDS RIGHT TO PRESENT ITS CASE

And the labor movement must back up this idea of freedom of discussion for draftees. Free forums, at which various points of view can be presented and at which the men can have their say, would be a great thing for labor. It would break the monopoly hold which the anti-labor reactionaries have on army life.

If such forums were held, it would be possible for a man like Phillip Murray, CIO president, to speak at the camps and explain the community of interest between union man and draftee, and help destroy the anti-union venom being fostered in the army. After all, if hysterical war advocates like Dorothy Thompson are allowed to speak at army camps, why shouldn't Phillip Murray be allowed to present labor's case?

That, we think, must be the answer of both the draftees and the trade unions to General Lear's proposed series of classes.

FOR THE RIGHT OF SOLDIERS TO HOLD FREE FORUMS AND DISCUSSIONS—AND, IF THEY WISH, WITH INVITED SPEAKERS!

FOR THE RIGHT OF LABOR TO PRESENT ITS CASE BEFORE THE DRAFTEES!

Editorials

OUR PROGRAM AGAINST THE WAR

1. Against both imperialist war camps! For the third camp of World Labor and the colonial peoples!
2. For the right to strike! For the defense of civil liberties and all workers' rights! Stop the persecution of aliens. Against the M-Day plans and war-time dictatorship.
3. Thirty hours a week; thirty dollars minimum pay! Time and a half wages for overtime above 30 hours. For increased wages to meet the rising cost of living.
4. Let the people vote on war! For the right of youth to vote at the age of 18—old enough to fight, old enough to vote!
5. Not a man, not a cent for Wall Street's war! A capital levy to cover the costs of imperialist war. No indirect taxes on the people.
6. Conscript the war industries under workers' control!
7. Expropriate the "Sixty Families"—the three per cent of the people who own ninety per cent of the wealth!
8. No government contract without a union contract!
9. Abolish secret diplomacy! Open the files of the State Department.
10. Full workers' rights for conscripts—the right to organize and to bargain collectively with the officers, the right of free speech, press and assembly.
11. \$60 a month minimum for conscripts. Former employers to pay the wage differential and guarantee return of the job.
12. Withdraw all armed forces from territory outside the United States. Free the colonies. Hands off Latin America.
13. Down with Jim-Crow and anti-Semitism! For full social, economic and political equality for Negroes. End discrimination against Negroes in industry and in the trade unions.
14. For Workers' Defense Guards against fascist and vigilante attacks!
15. For an Independent Labor Party.
16. For a workers' government and a people's army! No confidence in the Roosevelt government.
17. For Peace through Socialism. For the Socialist United States of the Americas, for the Socialist United States of Europe, for the World Socialist Federation.

expect from the government when it begins to organize workers below the Mason and Dixon line. Remember that FDR's main political support in Congress comes from the Southern Bourbon Democrats. They're the ones who are getting his bills across for him (the neutrality repeal, for example).

And when one of these poll tax union haters, like Cox of Georgia or Smith of Virginia, begins raising a row about CIO "interference" (organization), Washington is going to listen with a kindly ear. FDR will go out of his way to please his CIO-hating Southern friends, because he needs their votes.

First proof of that is Knox's statement. This all adds up to two things:

- 1) If the CIO expects to organize the South, it can't do it by making patriotic speeches, playing around with boss politicians, and sitting around on Washington boards. It's got to send a large force of crack organizers, who will go to the Southern workers, patiently educate them, lead them in their struggles, fight hard and, if and when necessary—strike. It's a helluva big job, but a hard, fighting group of union men can do it.
- 2) And this proves once more the need for an Independent Labor Party. If the workers had their own party, if they had men in Congress who represented their class, they could run Knox and his ilk out of Washington. They could put a stop to this sort of rotten anti-unionism.

The Burning Need: A Labor Party!

Phillip Murray, CIO president, has called a conference of representatives from each CIO union in Washington in order to protest against pending anti-strike legislation. We hope this conference proves a huge success and the CIO raises such a quantity of hell down there that Congress won't even think of anti-strike bills for the next hundred years. And we also hope that the CIO men notice that one of the people who urged the anti-strike bill was their great hero, President Roosevelt.

But there's one thing that hits the eye immediately when you consider this conference. Just imagine if there were today in America an Independent Labor Party, a party which didn't represent the bosses as the Democrats and Republicans do, a party which said openly and for all to hear: **We're for the workers, we're for the poor people.**

If the workers had such a party, even if it were only a minority party at the beginning, Phil Murray wouldn't have to go around trying to whip up a CIO lobby in order to get congressmen to vote against the anti-strike bills. There'd be a solid bloc of union men, from the farms and shops and factories, up in that Congress who'd be raising the roof against these two-by-four little labor haters who squeal like pigs every time a worker wants a two cent raise. You'd be seeing CIO men get up in Congress (maybe your own shop steward would get elected to the House of Representatives on this Labor Party ticket—why not, if some wastrel faker of a lawyer can get elected on the Democratic or Republican ticket?) and these CIO men would say:

"Listen here, brother poll-tax congressman from the South (you've got to be polite in Congress, otherwise he'd say something stronger!) have you ever worked in a mine? Have you ever tried to live on wages which remain the same, while prices go up every week? Do you know what it means to a worker to have a closed shop, where nobody can go cutting into his union conditions? We do, you see. We know that the workers need more pay, better conditions—and our union brothers have sent us here to see that their rights are protected—especially their most important right: the right to strike."

That is, if there were an Independent Labor Party!

Anti-Strike Bills Would Drive Blow At Heart of Unions!

(Continued from page 1)

ously by the House Naval Affairs Committee, with some modifications, now calls for mediation of all disputes after preliminary negotiations, with the provision that the mediation board could seek and obtain a court order enforcing a 30-day "cooling off" period. Although the bill does not expressly call this technique compulsory arbitration, in practice it amounts to the same thing because the mediation board would have behind it the weight of the courts.

The Ramspeck Bill, backed by the Roosevelt Administration, has already gone through various modifications since first outlined, because of the pressure of the organized labor movement. It included outright compulsory arbitration, which provision is now eliminated.

Calls For Plant Seizure

The bill is favored by the House Labor Committee. It provides for plant seizures by the government, which means to authorize busting up picket lines as in the North American Aviation strike last spring. It automatically ends strikes by the simple procedure of having a government official walk into a plant, say that it has been "seized" by the government, and the strikers are ordered back to work.

The company's profits, however, and its management continue. So this provision, in effect, outlaws strikes.

The Ramspeck Bill also provides for a sixty day cooling off period, during which labor is not allowed to strike while any kind of mediation is going on. As this has worked out in Michigan, where a 30-day provision is a state law, it means that management stalls off for thirty more days in granting wage increases or other demands.

Make Weak Arguments

Instead of arguing against these various bills because they cut into the basic principles of unionism and the rights of the working man, the CIO officials are pleading against their passage mainly on the ground of the resentment which would arise among the workers if any of these laws would pass, and thus the workers' confidence in Roosevelt's program would be undermined.

CIO leaders are afraid to draw the only logical conclusions from the present wave of reaction against labor in Congress. Namely, that Congress, as constituted today, is anti-

labor to the core and that the war drive is giving it strength to continue its union-wrecking career. The "friends of labor"—Democratic and Republican politicians alike—elected mainly by labor's votes, are thus showing their true character. What labor needs is its own representatives in Congress.

And the CIO must immediately begin a large scale campaign of mass pressure to defeat these anti-strike

bills. If the workers in every locality would be organized into giant mass meetings and demonstrations, that would be at least as important as the calling in of union leaders to Washington to lobby against these bills. It is only when the masses of members of the CIO themselves become involved in action that labor achieves its objectives—in this case, telling Congress where to get off.

Labor News and Notes from Britain

The recent by-election held in Lancaster was an eye-opener to everyone. The Independent Labor Party, which takes an anti-war stand, decided to enter a candidate despite the fact that Lancaster is a traditionally Conservative constituency and is predominantly rural.

The ILP has no branch in the area and has only 16 subscriptions to its paper in the entire section. Despite these facts, the ILP succeeded in getting 5,418 votes—20 per cent of the total. This, plus the fact that there is considerable lethargy within the Labor Party, which has lost 90,000 members in the past year, would indicate that the ILP got most of its votes from regular Labor Party voters.

One hundred and thirty sheet metal workers have downed tools at a southwestern aircraft works as a protest against the dilatory and off-handed methods of the management in preventing the workshop from being flooded out every time it rains heavily.

The men have lodged numerous complaints in the past, but little or nothing has been done to rectify matters.

When the men arrived to work on a recent Saturday morning and discovered that the shop was again flooded, a shop meeting was held and it was unanimously decided to strike.

Girl typists and office workers in a Central Scotland factory struck last week in pursuance of their demand for wage increases. Over 80 girls, all between 15 and 19, are concerned.

A first class political scandal took place in Parliament recently when John McGovern, ILP MP, was refused a permit to travel to Ireland in order to investigate the arrest of Cahir Healy, Irish Nationalist.

McGovern was denied the right to travel from one part of the British Isles to another and numerous MPs raised the issue of the deprivation of McGovern's rights. The government, however, did not see fit to give an unambiguous answer.

On the island of St. Lucia, British West Indies, women are employed to coal ships' bunkers. They are "employed like slaves to tramp and mount ships' gangways in scanty clothing with heavy basket loads of coal on their heads, urged on by male foremen," declared Mr. Morgan, MP, in the House of Commons. He asked for an improvement of conditions.

Sir Leonard Lyle, a Tory MP, declared that the natives would resent any improvements in conditions, since it would deprive them of work.

Sir Leonard Lyle, as you may guess, is president of the firm of Tate & Lyle, which has plantations and trading business throughout the West Indies.

World at War --

(Continued from page 1)

she were to take on Great Britain and the United States while bogged down in China. Hull's uncompromising stand toward Japan, therefore, may have resulted from the fear of a Chinese rapprochement with Germany.

Next Move Is Japan's

The next move is now Japan's. Unable to come to any terms with American imperialism, the Japanese militarists are considering another plunge calculated to end what they call the China "incident." The direction of their next advance would be the Burma Road. They have already warned the "democracies" not to interfere. The fact is that they hope America and Great Britain will not interfere.

Japan does not want war with these powers at the present time. Indeed the present is hardly an appropriate time for them to fight the Allies. Japan would like to wait until they are dealt heavy blows by Germany. But Japan's most powerful ally does not seem to be making such good headway right now. The recapture of Rostov by the Russians and the British successes in Lybia are not very good signs for Japan's hopes. Of course if the situation should take a sudden change to the opposite, it would be a different story. But right now that is how things are.

Tokyo is gambling on the hope that her attack on the Burma Road will not result in war with the "democracies." She feels that such a move does not yet go beyond the line that they have drawn. After all, an offensive against the Burma Road is just another campaign against the Chinese. And why should the "democracies" suddenly intervene in what is after all an "old" war? Thus the Japanese point upon this psychological barrier.

It is true that Great Britain and

the United States have not warned Japan that they will declare war on her if the Burma Road is attacked.

Psychological Barrier

The psychological barrier does indeed exist. It is, of course, not the only thing. The success of such a venture would still remain a question, even if the "democracies" do not actually enter the war as allies of China. That they will tighten the economic noose around the neck of Japan goes without saying. More than that will depend on the degree of Japan's success. One thing is certain—Great Britain and the United States will never permit the Japanese to liquidate successfully the war with China.

Even the psychological barrier can be eliminated. There is a report from the Philippines that American fliers will "convoy" supplies to China over the Burma Road. Though these American air-men will be flying under the flag of China there is plenty of room in that situation for the press to promote a war spirit among the American people when the Japanese start shooting down American volunteers.

The Far East situation spells war. If Roosevelt did nothing else during his brief stay at Warm Springs he at least went very far to prepare the minds of the American people for their participation in the war in the very near future. What else could be the meaning of his drastic remark that by next Thanksgiving Day the American Navy, Army and Airforce may be fighting in the war?

For Labor Action -
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DURANTY

The Creature Is At His Dirty Work Again

By IRVING HOWE

It is nauseating to observe how the American liberals have suddenly taken Stalin back to their bosoms, once he joined up on the "right side" of the war. The vilest aspect of this retrospective adoration is the way in which even the Moscow trials are now justified by such men as Harry Hopkins, former Ambassador Davies and Journalist Ralph Ingersoll.

Walter Duranty, an old hand at this sort of thing, has developed the theory to its utmost in his latest book, "The Kremlin and the People." The theory itself is by now pretty much old stuff. It goes as follows: The defendants in the Moscow trials were fifth columnists. Stalin, who foresees everything, foresaw the war with Hitler and got the fifth columnists out of the way. That is why the Red Army continues to be able to resist Hitler.

Duranty, as might be expected, adds his own unique touches. He indulges in speculations about the Russian soul; Dostolevsky is once more dragged in to explain the trials; the example of Alcibiades from Greek history is given to "explain" Trotsky; and, not to be accused of failing to give the English a break, he also drags in the example of the Earl of Essex during the reign of Queen Elizabeth!

Here is the sort of stuff Duranty palms off to explain the trials:

"I say Russians are always Russians (Who can deny that?—I.H.) and every Russian is the same Russian, kind, cruel, hospitable, envious, suspicious, affectionate, generous, will shoot you as soon as look, and if he happens to miss might kiss you the next minute on both cheeks!"

You see, of course, how this helps explain the trials.

THE DOERS AND THE TALKERS

As Duranty tells it, Stalin represented those Bolsheviks who had fought in Russia before the revolution, while Trotsky led those who had been in exile "talking in cafes." (The fact that Trotsky was in exile because he had escaped from Siberian prison—what is this to bother a self-admitted "philosopher" like Duranty?)

The Oppositionists were not really bothered by Stalin, Duranty tells us, until Kiroff was shot—which stirred Stalin to the heart and started the trials and purges. Interesting if true. It happens that Oppositionists were shot (Blumkin) and exiled before the murder of Kiroff. And to think that the trials were held because Stalin loved Kiroff—is the man serious?

Duranty, with all his attempts to explain by references to Alcibiades and how Yagoda looked Ulrich in the eye and how the Russians are like children only they are like grown-ups, does not once attempt to consider the testimony of the trials from the point of view of objective plausibility and coherence. If he did that, he would have to admit that the testimony does not jibe with the facts.

SOME STARTLING ADMISSIONS

As it is, he makes some startling admissions. He admits that from 60 to 70 per cent of the leaders of every field of Soviet life were purged. He tells a story of the Bukharin-Yagoda trial that is quite startling and revealing in the light it throws on the trials.

Yagoda, he says, had denied accusations put to him by Prosecutor Vyshinsky. Then Ulrich chastized him. Yagoda burst out with an exclamation that was not printed in the official records:

"That goes for you too—you can drive me, but not too far! I'll say what I want to say, . . . but . . . do not drive me too far!"

It is for little things like this, little slips, that the book is worth attention. Its basic idea is merely an absurd version of the Stalinist white-wash of the Moscow trials.

Mr. Jay Lovestone Completes a Journey

The last time we had occasion to discuss the distasteful subject of the activities of Mr. Jay Lovestone was in connection with the dissolution of his then Independent Labor League. That organization voluntarily committed hari-kari on the ground that it had neither program nor purpose—sentiments which, whatever our humanitarian instincts, we could not but agree with.

In the interim, Mr. Lovestone, possessing an admirable instinct to find places where his bread could be easily buttered, got himself a job with the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies as "trade union director" of that war mongering organization. Having said A by announcing his support of the imperialist war of Churchill and Roosevelt, Lovestone has not been bashful in proceeding through the rest of the turncoat alphabet.

In a forum held on Radio Station WEVD on Wednesday, November 26, Lovestone came out flatfootedly for American entry into the imperialist war; he also gave some sage advice on how to prevent strikes in defense industries "without antagonizing the labor movement." If the man ever had a spark of elementary class-consciousness, it is now completely gone; he spoke as a pure and simple war mongering bourgeois liberal.

Lovestone's latest political face should occasion no surprise among genuine revolutionists. He was never one overly concerned with principles, and once he chucked his anemic and hesitant "anti-war" position, it was clear he would soon move completely across to the other side of the fence.

What the CIO Faces in the South

One of the most important and praiseworthy decisions of the recent CIO convention was its resolution directing a large-scale organizing drive in the South. The South is today one of the bulwarks of anti-unionism. An unceasing reign of terror, the activities of such groups as the Ku Klux Klan, the prevalence of Jim Crowism, the political domination of the various poll tax Democratic machines—these are some of the obstacles in the way of the unionization of the South.

Here we wish to discuss only one aspect of the proposed CIO drive to organize the South. We hope to return to the others.

We wish to point out the important connection between the CIO proposal and the recent statement of Secretary of the Navy Knox, who endorsed the speech of Rear Admiral Bland, who had declared, in Maccon, Georgia, that "Union organizers should be run out on a rail."

Secretary Knox, it must be remembered, is not some obscure cracker politician. He is not even a notorious cracker politician, like Gene Talmadge, Georgia's governor. Knox is a member of President Roosevelt's cabinet, a member of its inner circle, and holder of a key position—the Navy secretaryship. Knox doesn't go around shooting his mouth off at random—unless he's first gotten permission from his boss, President Roosevelt.

And when Knox makes a hair-raising, anti-union, lynch-inciting statement like that, you can bet dollars against doughnuts that he isn't expressing a personal peeve. The proof of it is that the President hasn't seen fit to repudiate him—despite vigorous labor protest.

How does this affect the CIO drive in the South? It shows what union labor can

MAX SHACHTMAN, National Secretary of the Workers Party

WILL SPEAK ON **The War Crisis in the Far East**

Friday, December 12 • Irving Plaza • Irving Place and 15th Street, New York City

Staten Island NYA To Be Abolished

NYA fund slashes will hit New York on January 7 when the Staten Island Shipping Project is shut down in the name of "defense economy."

Young people on Staten Island benefitting financially and at the same time getting vocational training from the shipyard workshop will be left in the lurch with the latest budget cut.

LABOR ACTION

Official Organ of the Workers Party

Published Weekly by the Labor Action Publishing Company 114 WEST 14th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. (3rd Floor)

Vol. 5, No. 49 December 8, 1941

Editor: EMANUEL GARRETT
Managing Editor: Irving Howe
Subscription Rate: 60 Cents a year \$1.00 for Canada and Foreign
Re-entered as second class matter May 24, 1940, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.