

# WE PROPOSE: A 100 PER CENT TAX ON ALL PROFITS OF WAR INDUSTRY!

## Bosses Try to Blackmail Labor at Washington Confab

By JACK WILSON

The conference of labor and industry called by President Roosevelt this week in Washington meets in an atmosphere surcharged with antagonisms arising from the conflicting interests of the participating forces.

Roosevelt seeks to obtain by voluntary agreement a "truce" between the labor movement of the employees of America, which, in effect, will hogtie the union movement completely to the war machine.

The National Association of Manufacturers denounced even the calling of a conference between union representatives and themselves or their representatives, since they desire to see the Smith slave labor act passed and become a law.

The NAM seeks cleverly to bludgeon the labor movement into surrender by saying in so many words: "Don't antagonize us by any serious proposals or we'll walk out of the conference."

### AFL Blind Sheep

The AFL representatives, headed by William Green, will participate in the conference as blind sheep, having adopted by formal vote of the AFL executive board a peace at any price policy, which appeasement is certainly welcomed by the NAM and by Roosevelt.

The CIO delegation, headed by Phillip Murray, has as its major aim to press for the adoption of the so-called Murray Industrial Council Plan to settle production and labor problems.

Inclusion of John L. Lewis in this delegation is considered especially significant and everyone is watching closely to see what role Lewis has cut out for himself in the near future.

Having Julius Emspack of the Electrical Workers Union and Joe Curran of the Maritime Union on the committee likewise created a surprise since they indicate how closely the Stalinists are now working with the Roosevelt Administration, and what prominence is attached to their role!

Out of such a conglomeration of figures and conflicting interests, only a patchwork program can be expected, but one which may operate against labor's interests.

Most ominous proposal before the conference is one which will receive both AFL and the manufacturers' support, and the CIO has to be on guard against it.

The proposal is to freeze present union relations and organization in all industries. This means that the CIO would promise to give up organ-

izing the unorganized, especially in the South. And would also give up its efforts to obtain a union shop in the war industries.

This freezing order wouldn't bother the AFL as much since it already has closed shop agreements in fields vital to its present form of existence. Labor unity proposals, too, if from the AFL, also will be made only to put the CIO behind the eight-ball.

## NAACP Demands End of Jim Crow in the Navy

The United States Navy is continuing its policy of refusing to accept enlistments of Negroes in any branch of service except that of messboy, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People charged this week.

The NAACP sent a telegram to Secretary of the Navy Knox protesting against this Jim Crow policy and demanding that Negroes be given equal rights with whites in the Navy.

Knox, it may be remembered, is the gentleman who recently endorsed a statement of Rear Admiral Blandy which urged that union organizers be run out of town on a rail.

## "WE MUST ALL PULL TOGETHER"



Carlo

### A First Hand, Exclusive Interview

## What Is Happening Inside Hitlerland?

By Henry Judd

**Editor's Note:** Continuing its policy of publishing exclusive news dealing with the effects of the war, LABOR ACTION presents this interview describing real conditions in Hitler Germany. This interview is based upon information supplied by refugees from Nazi terror who left Germany as recently as October, 1941.

**What are the German people thinking about the war?**

Answer: There is absolutely no enthusiasm for the war! This is particularly true among the workers who detest the war and wish only that it would end. Since the beginning of the war against Russia they dislike the war more than ever

before. This is because they have great sympathy for the sufferings of the Russian people and also because of the fact that every single family is mourning at least one dead or wounded man.

**What has happened to those Jews who remain inside Germany?**

Answer: Since the beginning of the war against Russia the persecutions of the Jews have been worse than ever before. These Nazi acts are directed particularly against the 70,000 Jews who still live in Berlin.

They are sent by the hundreds in freight trains to Poland, to distant towns and villages. They are not allowed to take along more than a suitcase. Those who still live in Berlin have to be home each night at 8 o'clock. For a long time, this order was not strictly enforced but one evening recently

the Nazis visited all Jewish homes at 8 o'clock and sent to a concentration camp all those whom they did not find at home at this time.

The Jews are forbidden to eat any fruits. The remains of an apple found in the home of a Jew are sufficient cause for his arrest. All Jews able to do any kind of work are obliged to carry out forced labor for 12 hours a day. If they still have a little money left, they are not paid. If they are paid, the wages are far below the lowest standard of living.

**How do the German people behave toward the Jewish people?**

Answer: Most of the people—workers especially—are not anti-semitic! On the contrary, they attempt to help the Jews whenever they can do so. (Continued on page 3)

The war is here. It is a fact which cannot be denied. The problem which the American people—and especially its largest and most important section, the workers—face, is: How will the war be conducted and how will it affect us?

And one of the burning, concrete forms which that question takes is: WHO IS GOING TO PAY FOR THE WAR?

LABOR ACTION wishes here to present some facts. These facts are taken from official government reports.

Since 1939, profits of American corporations have jumped 169 per cent!

## War Doesn't Hurt THEM!

The New York Times of December 10 announces that the aggregate net income of 137 Class 1 railroads showed an increase of 492 per cent in the first nine months of the year, compared with the same period last year. This was the first time these profits had shown such a sharp increase.

Aggregate net profits in the nine months of this year were \$359,710,000 as against \$60,713,000 in the same period last year.

Some weeks ago, when negotiating with the rail workers' union, the companies declared that their profits were insufficient to warrant raises.

It may be inquired as to exactly what the companies would consider sufficient profits warranting a raise for their workers. Or do they consider such a thing impossible?

In manufactured goods, prices have jumped 17 per cent. But costs of manufacturing goods have increased only 7 per cent. That means that the other 10 per cent went into profits!

The copper industry, which has increased its profits this year, even after payment of taxes, it is showing more than double its pre-war profits.

Corporations handling more than 85 per cent of the nation's steel output multiplied their pre-war profits 13 times during the third quarter of this year.

And the railroads, which were whining that they couldn't afford to grant increased wages, have increased their profits by 492 per cent during the last nine months!

Increased labor costs have hardly figured in the picture. For industry as a whole, a 3 per cent increase in labor costs (as part of total costs) has been more than covered by a 3.6 per cent decrease in overhead expenses!

While wages have gone up 32 per cent, most of it was not in wage increases, but in payment for additional services to men who are working longer hours or who were not working before.

These figures mean that, while labor has been just keeping pace with its increased productivity and higher living costs, profits have nearly tripled. Even after payment of taxes they have doubled!

When the big industrialists and coupon clippers talk about patriotism, all they mean is a chance to make a lot of profits. When they talk about defending democracy, all they mean is getting richer quicker!

The American people are going to suffer a lot in the coming months and years. They will be asked to sacrifice their money, their comfort, their sons.

If the people can make these kinds of sacrifices, we think that the bosses ought at least be made to sacrifice every penny of profit they make on war orders!

The thousands of lads who have already sacrificed themselves in the Far East, what do you think they would say if they learned that the same bloody tragedy as in 1917—the tragedy of war profiteering—has begun again?

We say: If the Roosevelt government is to prove itself in earnest about its claims about this war, the very least it should do is to impose immediately a 100 per cent profits tax on all war industries!

No profiteering on the war! Fortunes must not rise on the mountains of skeletons!

## Workers Party War Meetings

An enthusiastic audience of Negro and white workers attended a meeting held December 12 by the South Side (Chicago) Branch of the Workers Party to analyze the meaning of the war between the U.S. and the Axis. Michael Holman, speaker at the meeting, explained the nature of the war and pointed out the necessity for the working class to continue its fight here at home to extend and maintain democratic and civil rights for the right to organize and strike, and to eliminate Jim-Crow discrimination.

PHILADELPHIA—Over 60 persons attended a public forum last Sunday night here at which Jack Wilson spoke for the Workers Party on the subject, "Labor and the War."

## You Had Better Read This - - It Tells You How The War Is Going To Affect Your Pocketbook!

By FRANK DEMBY

If you own an airplane factory or some other factory producing materials needed for the prosecution of war, you may make a lot of money. If you own a lot of stocks and bonds, you may also make a lot of money. If you own some choice real estate, you may find it going up in value. In short, if you are a capitalist you may find that war CAN be profitable to some. But you must be a big capitalist. The small capitalists—the little business men and farmers—probably are going to be wiped out. Since, however, the vast majority of the population of these United States are workers, people who work for a living, let us examine, on the basis of past experience, what has been happening in other countries and what seems most likely to happen here: how your pocketbook will be affected by the entry of America into World War II.

### GUNS, NOT BUTTER

"Guns—not butter." This is the slogan that Hitler used to launch his so-called four-year plan in 1936. This was, in reality, his declaration of war to the world—a declaration that German imperialism was dissatisfied with its secondary position and was going to demand its "real place in the sun." For the German workers, who already had had their trade unions smashed, their democratic rights violated, their leaders slaughtered and tortured in the concentration camps, there now began a period of unimaginable slavery. Hours of work were lengthened to at least 10 hours a day, and in many armament industries to 14 hours a day.

Wages remained stationary while prices began to creep up—not very much because the totalitarian government controlled

them, but still enough in the case of essential products, like potatoes, to hurt. Then came the taxes and the "voluntary" contributions. On top of these came the ration cards, which meant one egg a week, when you were lucky, a half pound of meat and similar starvation rations. To make matters worse, most of the commodities that could be obtained were more and more of the "ersatz" variety—miserable substitutes that didn't even take away the pangs of hunger or protect the body or the home against cold winters.

### LABOR CONSCRIPTED

Malnutrition, disease, poverty became the daily lot of the German worker. Finally, the insatiable war machine demanded not only cannon fodder in various parts of Europe and Africa, but it demanded workers. Even Hitler, powerful as he is, cannot ignore the fact that without workers nothing can be produced—not even armaments. So the German workers were conscripted to work in any part of the country. And not only the German workers, but a recent estimate shows that at least 2,000,000 foreign workers, French, Spanish, Italian, etc., have been conscripted to work in German war factories. Forced labor is slavery, as the German workers and the workers of the countries conquered by Germany have discovered.

But war is still profitable for some. While the German workers have been starving, they have been watching the big bosses, the Nazi bureaucrats, government officials and leading manufacturers still getting fat on rich foods while the workers have been living in homes calculated to give pneumonia even to the strongest, they have had to watch their leaders living in palaces and thriving in relative opulence.

Pretty much the same story has been true in England. There the workers not only had to shiver in the subways during the

air raids while the big bosses retired to well constructed bomb shelters that took on the appearance of night clubs, but they also had to suffer the indignity of working and starving while the rich lived off the fat of the land. Our returning travelers from England, the congressmen and college professors, love to expatiate on the new spirit of "equality" in England, of how everybody is made equal by the ration card and huge taxes, but they always forget to mention or slide over in silence the scandalous fact that if you have a large pocketbook, you can still get all the good things in life. For there still flourishes the "black market," the illegal paradise of the speculator and profiteer, where, for a price, you can buy as many chickens as you want.

### VERY LOW LIVING STANDARDS

It has been estimated—and these are very, very conservative estimates—that the standard of living of the average German worker today is well below what it was in 1932 at the worst point of the depression. In England, it has been estimated that the standard of living of the average British worker has declined by one-third since the outbreak of the war. The chances are it is nearer one-half. This is the picture of every country at war. It is as true of Japan or Russia as it is of Germany and England. Will it also be true of the United States?

Judging by what has happened under the defense program and by what the new Victory program calls for, there can be no doubt that the answer is "yes." That is, as long as the industrialists and bankers are allowed to run the war, it is bound to be the same in this country as in every other country. The masses will suffer—a few will profit. After all, if everybody suffered from war, what sense would there be in having war?

(Continued on page 4)

## Mass. Election Shows Need of Labor Party

SALEM, Mass.—The congressional seat of the Seventh District left vacant by the death of Congressman Lawrence J. Conroy is being fought for by 15 candidates. Nation-wide interest is focused on the election, as it is the first since the war.

Most of the candidates have come out for Roosevelt's policies except for the America First candidate, who is now for the war but against FDR's policies. The test will be in the size of the vote the Administration's candidate, State Senator T. J. Lane, receives.

A month ago, Labor's Non Partisan League of the Seventh District held a meeting to decide on policy for this election. The North Shore CIO Council delegation pointed out that a Labor Party was not only an immediate necessity, but that in this particular case it could even win the election. The district always elects a Democrat by tremendous majorities, therefore the Democratic Party primary decides the election. There are 12 Democrats running against each other. The voters in each city will vote for the "local boy" unless there is a Labor Party in the field which will rally all the workers' votes around its program and candidate. A few textile delegates wanted the America First candidate endorsed, while the handful of Stalinists present were interested in only one question, to be shown the candidate who was "all out" for immediate entry into the war and they would support him. The meeting adjourned by passing a motion to endorse no one.

But the State CIO Council, headed by J. Salerno, international vice-president of the Textile Union, made a deal with FDR's Administration candidate, Senator Lane, and announced that the CIO would support Lane 100 per cent.

### Lane's Record

Senator T. J. Lane has represented the Lawrence area in the State Senate for years. On February 20, 1935, he voted AGAINST the Child Labor Amendment and on February 12, 1936, he voted AGAINST the bill raising the compulsory school attendance age for minors from fourteen to sixteen years. At one other time he very carefully absented himself when the vote was being taken on the question of a state fund for the protection of those persons en-

(Continued on page 2)

With the Labor Unions On the Picket Line

By David Coolidge

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PROFITEERS

One aspect of the war that workers need to pay more attention to is the millions of dollars going to the "profiteers" and war contract "brokers." First we want to talk about the "profiteers" because Leon Henderson, price administrator, has been having some rather harsh things to say on this subject and he ought to know what the facts are.

done nothing about this racket! No more has been done up to now than was done during the last war. A question to be asked is: who are these "profiteers" and speculators? Virtually all of the items in the list named are products that are controlled by the big packing companies: Armour, Swift, Wink, Cudahy and a few others.

SOME STERLING PATRIOTS: DEFENSE BROKERS

The "defense brokers," sterling patriots, are getting theirs also. By "defense brokers" we are not referring to the "dollar a year men" in the various government bureaus such as OPM. They are a "higher order" than the fellows we are talking about right now.

paid out by Remington to a "contract broker." Now let's see what this means in hard cash. Remington Arms Co. put out \$65,000 for shell dies for "national defense."

HERE'S A STORY THAT'S EVEN BETTER

The above however is small potatoes in the "brokerage" fees for getting "defense" contracts. The best story concerns one Charles West, who at one time was a big shot in the New Deal.

influx could West wield that was denied to the officers of the Empire Ordnance Corp.? Who were West's "contacts" in Washington? There is one other question that must be asked. West began his connection as "business consultant and adviser" to the Empire Ordnance Corp., a private business, in November, 1940, but in March, 1941, according to the New York Times, "he received his latest appointment, being named to a three man board to study and report on the nation's existing rail, water and truck facilities."

Big Rally Hits Minneapolis Convictions

The Bill of Rights and the Minneapolis Convictions

By Max Shachtman

(The following is the text of a speech delivered at a mass meeting in the Hotel Diplomat, New York City, on December 15.)

Within less than one month the calendar has recorded three events of great importance to us, and each of them is intimately and symbolically connected with the others.

The first was the conviction of the 18 militants of the CIO and the SWP in the Minneapolis case. A very few days later, the United States found itself up to its chin in the Second World War.

The Bill of Rights is the show-piece of American democracy.

It is aimed at guaranteeing a whole series of fundamental and irrevocable democratic rights of the American people. It was adopted, we were taught in the public schools, as an unconquerable bulwark against the encroachments of tyrannous and arbitrary rule over the people.

That was 150 years ago, and since then a lot of water has gone over the dam. In the eyes of the authorities, the Bill of Rights has become a venerable and precious antique, a document of priceless value.

A PRICELESS ANTIQUE And as is the case with all priceless antiques, it is kept under lock and key all year around, and taken out for public inspection once a year, or even less often. On such ceremonial occasions, you can examine it under heavy plate glass, and with a strong guard around it. And, again, as is the case with precious things, there is a big sign saying: Do not handle. This is not for public use. Take one quick look, and pass on.

The war in which the United States now finds itself is connected with the Bill of Rights. It too is aimed, or so we are reliably informed, at guaranteeing and preserving a whole series of fundamental democratic rights of the people, not only in this country, but throughout the entire world.

It is true that these rights, expressed in Mr. Roosevelt's four freedoms, and in the Atlantic Charter of Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill, are not meant to apply literally to every single man, woman and child throughout the world. There must be a few minor exceptions to every good rule, and so there are here, too.

There are more than four hundred million Indian subjects of the British Empire who have been officially notified that the "freedoms" do not apply to them. There are several dozen million East Indian subjects of Dutch oil and rubber barons—excuse me, I meant rubber barons—who have not even been given such an official notification because it is taken for granted that the "freedoms" do not apply to them. There is more than 10 per cent of the population of the U.S.A.—the Negroes—who are generally exempted from the benefits of any one of the freedoms or all of them put together. And there are millions more like them throughout the globe.

But, after all, they are not more than 75 per cent of the population of the world. So I suppose it can still be said that the war we are now engaged in is being fought to guarantee the Bill of Rights or its equivalent to the entire world—with the insignificant exceptions already noted.

IN DANGER OF DESTRUCTION

But there is another problem faced by the ancient and venerable Bill of Rights. Like all precious things—paintings, works of art and the like—it is in danger of destruction in the course of the war. Modern warfare is total warfare, and there is no longer a distinction, for artillery and bombing planes, between military targets and civilian targets, including public buildings which house works of art and priceless documents like the Bill of Rights.

This afternoon, an editorial in the New York Post called attention to the need of preserving the liberties

guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. It is proud of the American government's record in this field, and also insists on this record being maintained. It wants the Bill of Rights protected during the war.

Well, there is every reason to believe that the government is going to give the Bill of Rights all the protection within its power. From all we can see, it is going to protect the Bill in a thoroughgoing way. Like a work of art endangered by bombing, the Bill is being taken out of the showcase and buried deep in some underground vault, at least for the duration of the war. No one will be able to get it, above all, no one among the people whose rights it is supposed to preserve.

The first people to find out that the Bill of Rights is being protected in this thoroughgoing way are the members of the most militant, the cleanest and most honorable union in the United States, Local 544 of the CIO, and the members of the Socialist Workers Party.

FIRST VICTIMS OF BURIAL

The 18 leaders of these two organizations who were convicted in the Minneapolis trial are the first victims of the burial—for its own protection, you understand—of the Bill of Rights in the United States. They are the first living evidence of the fact that the primary sacrifice we are called upon to make in the war for democracy throughout the world, is our democratic rights here at home, in the United States itself.

You can't help admiring the efficiency of Roosevelt's government in the war crisis, how well it has prepared the struggle for democracy, how far-sighted it has been, how alive it has been to every possibility and every danger.

Of course there are some defects and shortcomings in its work, but nobody can be perfect. It's true that Mr. Frank Knox was really a little previous when he declared that the Navy is ready, just about a week before the attack in the Pacific—but then again, he didn't say what it was ready for.

It is true that New York is ready, too, even though it may not have any anti-aircraft guns to speak of, and no air raid shelters and not even an air warning siren that you can hear a block away.

But there is one thing the government is on the alert about, for which it is fully prepared, on which it acted even before the formal declaration of war.

And that's the labor front at home. It wants to make absolutely sure—and with the aid of the reactionary labor bureaucracy, it believes it will have an easy job—that labor gives up its rights, its standards of living, its just aspirations and ideals, during the course of the war.

And the first step in this direction, organized and taken before the war broke out, was the indictment and conviction of the militants of the CIO and the SWP in Minneapolis.

A CYNICAL, BARE-FACED FRAME-UP

They had to be put out of the way—in one of the most cynical and bare-faced frame-ups in modern times—in order to break off the spearhead of the American working class, to deprive it of its defensive weapons, to blunt its fighting power.

These men are revolutionary socialists, and they proudly avowed their views during the trial. But the attack on them is not merely an attack on revolutionary socialism, it is an attack on the whole working class. By imprisoning these militants and setting the precedent with their imprisonment of depriving all others of the rights they should and must have, the government hopes to achieve the aim of reducing the working class in this country to a docile, unquestioning, obedient mass, ready to follow wherever it is led.

All our experience, especially in modern times, shows that the ruling class almost always starts its attack on the working class as a whole by attacking first the vanguard elements in the working class movement. Once (Continued on page 3)

New Bliss Contract Seen as Inadequate

Workers at E. W. Bliss Co. in Brooklyn gained a "union shop" and wage increases ranging from a flat 10 cents an hour to 12 1/2 per cent when the company signed a new contract with Local 475 of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (CIO).

In view of the rapidly increasing cost of living, the wage raise is disappointing. Only workers receiving under 80 cents an hour, exclusive of trainees, get the 10 cent increase, with the trainees and skilled workers getting 12 1/2 per cent. This is decidedly against the lower paid trainees, especially as it will be deducted from their regularly scheduled tri-monthly 5 cent raise.

The original demands of the shop were: (1) The closed shop. (2) A 10 cent general increase for the entire shop. (3) Nine paid holidays. (4) Two weeks vacation with pay. These demands could not be considered excessive by the Bliss Company, loaded down as it is with juicy war contracts. In comparison with gains already won by other UERMW shops in the New York area (notably at Ford Instrument) the original demands were moderate indeed. When it is remembered that only last October Local 425 won for its members in Ford Instrument Co. the closed shop, wage increases ranging from 10 to 25 cents an hour, nine paid holidays, sick leave, vacations, etc. (see LABOR ACTION, Oct. 6), it is easy to understand why many Bliss workers are puzzled and dismayed by the weak agreement their leadership urged them to accept.

Local 475, unlike the Ford Local 425, is under the control of the Stalinists. As Stalinists, they are opposed to any form of militant action in the war industries. To avoid this they proposed original demands so weak-kneed that they hoped to get the company to accept, without action by the workers. When the com-

pany refused even those moderate demands they proposed a strike vote—a phony strike vote. This strike vote was taken to force the company to submit the closed shop to arbitration.

Not a strike to win decent wages, paid holidays, vacations or any of the other pressing demands of the union membership! And that it was a phony strike vote even then was proved when expiration of the old

Elections In Mass.--

(Continued from page 1) gaged in extra-hazardous employments. As one newspaper puts it: "Child labor in Lawrence fattened the graveyards of the Merrimac Valley. Child labor filled the tuberculosis hospitals with its helpless, hapless and hopeless victims." The mill owners and overseers have a real friend in Lane.

Lane has consistently voted against all birth control bills, so that today Massachusetts stands as the only state in the country where a physician is not permitted to give advice or take any action if birth of a child means the life of its mother.

The campaign manager for Lane in the city of Lynn is Judge Kiely, who six years ago indicted for the grand jury a score of union men for alleged violence while on strike.

Passing up the opportunity to create a Labor Party at this time and one that could have won is a tragic mistake.

Most Disturbing Aspect

But the most disturbing aspect of this campaign is the number of genuine anti-war trade unionists who became members of America First. The main reasons for this were (1) the State CIO insisting on endorsing

Unions Repudiate Lane

All the unions are up in arms at the State CIO for endorsing Lane and whenever a union leader speaks at a rally or over the radio for Lane a paid advertisement by his union appears in the newspapers the following day repudiating the support. The North Shore CIO Council at its membership meeting voted unanimously to "go on record as protesting the action of the State CIO in endorsing the candidacy of Thomas J. Lane."

A capacity crowd that filled the ballroom of the Hotel Diplomat heard defendants of the Minneapolis trial and other speakers at the first mass protest meeting held in New York since the conviction of 18 trade unionists and leaders of the Socialist Workers Party under the notorious Smith gag law.

Held on the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the Bill of Rights, the meeting gave convincing proof that labor is not only interested in honoring the Bill of Rights but in preserving these rights against the pressure of present-day reaction.

Chief speakers of the evening were James P. Cannon, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party and leading defendant of the Minneapolis trial; Albert Goldman, defendant and chief defense counsel at the trial, and Max Shachtman, national secretary of the Workers Party. Roger Baldwin, national director of the American Civil Liberties Union; Dr. Carl Raushenbush, chairman of the Workers Defense League, and Dorothy Schultz, one of the ten acquitted defendants, were other speakers.

The chairman of the meeting, George Novack, secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, briefly reviewed the history of the Bill of Rights and the bitter opposition to it by reaction, beginning with the Alien and Sedition

Closed Shop Is Stumbling Block In Projector Cont.

The Negotiations Committee of seven representing the 700 employees of the International Projector Corporation organized in the United Electrical & Radio Workers Union are, after six weeks, still negotiating with the management. The stumbling block seems to be the "formulation" of the clause dealing with the closed shop.

The original contract presented to the management included a 10 cent general increase, closed shop, 2 weeks vacation with pay, 60 cent minimum hiring rate. About a week ago, when the 30 day period after the end of the contract had been exhausted, the management finally presented the union with a tentative contract consisting of a compromise when the Union had already set a day for the strike and amassed a strike fund.

The compromise was greeted as a victory by the union leadership and their only objection was over certain formulations. On the matter of a general raise the union leaders were very vague, stating that the Company had not granted a general 10-cent raise but had granted "substantially that." The 60-cent minimum was granted, as well as 2 weeks' vacation with pay for men employed longer than two years, 1 week for men with 1 to 2 years, and 3 days for those with less than a year's employment.

The Union's demands were modest enough to begin with. A tough attitude was displayed by the boss, despite the fact that the Union is well established and has some 95% of the employees signed up. This was due to three factors: Congressional action against labor and the sanction of the administration for anti-labor agitation; the attitude of the Union that strikes should be avoided even when decent gains could be made without them, and lastly, the failure on the part of the Union leadership to educate the membership on the matter of the closed shop.

Symbolic Coincidence

"It was a symbolic coincidence," said Cannon, "that the day of judgment for us was the day of declaration of war by Congress," for much of the trial revolved about the attitude toward war carried on by capitalist governments. He declared that the defendants still held firmly the convictions that they held before the trial, during the trial and since the trial.

Shachtman declared that the conviction of the Minneapolis defendants was the first blow of a government well prepared to go into action on the "labor" front, and if it were not repulsed, ever-widening attacks against labor and liberal organizations of all kinds were sure to follow. Albert Goldman spoke on the salient points at issue in the trial and reminded the audience that the chief factor in the prosecution was the denial by the government of the Brandeis and Holmes doctrine of "clear and present danger" in cases alleging "advocacy of forceful and violent overthrow of the government."

James T. Farrell, well known author scheduled to speak, was unable to attend because of illness but sent a message in which he stated that the Minneapolis convictions had instituted the theory of the Japanese law of "dangerous thought," making "all thinking dangerous."

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Fund Drive Past Half Way Mark!

By ALBERT GATES Director of Party Building Fund

There was quite a spurt in the last week in payments to the Workers Party Building Fund. We received \$790.06 during the week, bringing our total to \$3,504.22, or 62.8 per cent of our goal. We are in the home stretch now, and if every branch and every friend digs in we should certainly make our goal. It is true that our quota is close to \$5,600, but that should not make too great a difference with the splendid spirit which pervades the whole movement.

This is the week to do it in, too. Some of you may recall the plan of the Akron branch to make a special Christmas donation to the drive. This is the plan which should be adopted by every branch and by all our friends. A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DONATION TO THE DRIVE! LET'S PUT THE PARTY BUILDING FUND OVER!

Table with columns: Branch, Quota, Raised, Percentage. Lists various branches like YPSL, Nevada, Akron, Rochester, Youngstown, Buffalo, Washington, Boston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Chicago, National Office, New York, Worcester, Cleveland, Lynn, San Francisco, St. Louis, Columbus, Detroit, and Totals.

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