

A Story With A Double Moral

By Susan Green

The House of Representatives has rebuked the President for "usurpation of legislative powers." That sounds like something worth rebuking a President for—until you get down to cases.

Then you find that the House of Representatives by a vote of 268 to 124 revoked the Executive Order of the President limiting salaries to \$25,000 per annum. Not so good!

The logical step would have been to extend that limit to all income, including interest, dividends and other gray soaked up by the rich. But no! The House lifted even the very limited limit on salaries alone, and it is predicted that the Senate will duplicate the action of the House.

These legislators—who are supposed to be representing you—would like you to believe that they are interested, purely and simply, in stopping Presidential usurpation of legislative powers. You see these politicians just got mad because the President had "assumed powers which Congress never intended to grant him." So—hurrah—they clapped the President down.

But there is a catch here.

Why is the limit on fat salaries alone a "usurpation of legislative power"? WHY NOT ALSO THE FREEZING OF WAGES?

For, be it remembered, that the same Presidential stabilization program which was supposed to limit salary to \$25,000, put wages on ice IMMEDIATELY. The workers are, naturally, finding this a bit too cool for them—and are demanding that wages be taken out of refrigeration. But the House of Representatives and the Senate—the so-called representative organ of the people—passed no law to unfreeze wages as a "usurpation of legislative powers," or on any other ground.

The same Presidential stabilization program that called for limiting salaries that have not been limited and for freezing wages that have been frozen still, also demanded that the workers give up their right to strike. This edict actually operated as a violation of the law which grants workers the right to bargain collectively—for without the right to strike the workers have nothing that the boss respects enough to make him bargain with them. What has in fact happened since the no-strike regulation is that collective bargaining has become an empty phrase.

But neither indignation nor any other sign of disapproval issued from the United States Congress or from any other body of politicians—not one of them has lifted a finger to restore to the workers their right to collective bargaining—and to strike. Presidential usurpation of legislative powers against the workers and in favor of the bosses has, on the contrary, received the blessing of both legislative houses—and they have continued where the President left off, as evidenced by the flow of ever more vicious anti-labor bills into both houses.

It is only when a Presidential order might curb the acquisitive instincts of the rich—when it might crack the knuckles of hands dripping with blood-money—that the "representatives of the people" see "usurpation of legislative powers."

This true story has a double moral.

First, "EQUALITY OF SACRIFICE" is only a phrase—a catch-phrase for morons, which the working people are NOT.

Second, many and devious are the ways by which a capitalist government serves the master class. So nicely coordinated is the system of checks and balances that an executive can order a limit on salaries of the rich, thus get himself a reputation for being a "liberal and friend of labor"—and at the same time be damn sure that the legislative branches of the government will not allow any infringement of the sacredness of the self-determination of profits.

The executive can be especially sure of this, if he himself has—as President Roosevelt has—given out the word that he will protect—to its last hair—the profit system.

LABOR ACTION

COAL MINERS ASK \$2 WAGE INCREASE!

Our Tax Program: Soak the Rich!

Taxes on Low Incomes Equal Wage Cuts

By GERTRUDE SHAW

While the workers are digging into their pockets and coughing up plenty for taxes, Congress is busy with its various new tax plans. There is quite a raft of them—the Ruml plan, the Carlson bill, the Robertson bill, to name a few. There is also talk of increasing the tax rates and of imposing a national sales tax—showing which way the wind is blowing.

All of these schemes and any of them will carry out the fundamentally unfair policy of saddling onto the working people the main burden of financing the war. Even the tax plans of the AFL and CIO accept that boss policy and offer nothing basic to lighten the taxes on the workers.

Basically there is no reason why the working people should bear ANY of the fantastic cost of this war. The working people should not be taxed at all—neither on their wages nor on what they buy as consumers. There are other sources for war taxation—much more ample than a worker's wages.

There are, first of all, the stupendous war profits taken in, hand over fist, by industry—about which readers of LABOR ACTION have a good idea. All profits are unclean because they come from the exploitation of labor. But war profits are of a particularly filthy character.

Every cent of war profits should be confiscated by the government. War profits must be abolished in toto. That is one source for financing the war.

An equally vast source is the accumulated wealth of America's "Sixty Families." These tremendous fortunes—comprising the ownership of perhaps ninety-five per cent of the total wealth—are absolutely scot-free of taxes. The Morgans, Rockefellers, Mellons, Fords, du Ponts and all the branches of their family trees, own the bulk of the banking, industrial and farming wealth, of the utilities, of wholesale and retail business, and whatever else you can think of.

But all these fortunes—the extent of which one cannot even imagine—running into hundreds of billions of dollars, are considered holy—in themselves never to be taxed (except when passed on in inheritance). It is only the annual profits on this enormous untaxed wealth that the tax collector nibbles at. THEREFORE, THERE MUST BE A YEARLY LEVY ON THIS ACCUMULATED CAPITAL. Let the Sixty Families disgorge—instead of working people getting themselves into debt trying to

pay taxes and to meet the cost of living, with frozen wages.

Another logical source for financing the war is the salaries of the "captains of industry"—RUNNING INTO SIX FIGURES. In 1941, Eugene Grace, president of Bethlehem Steel, "earned" (?) \$537,724 and Tom Girdler of Republic Steel got a "wage" of \$275,000—besides the income from various other sources.

But in July, 1942—IN THE MIDST OF THE WAR BOOM—16,000,000 American workers were still earning less than \$16 a week, and the average war wage was \$37 a week.

Which of these categories is better able to pay taxes—the "captains of industry" or the "deck hands of industry"? HEAVY TAXES MUST BE PLACED WHERE THEY BELONG—ON THE HIGH INCOME BRACKETS, including salaries and other sources of income.

The above three points form substantially the tax plan of the WORKERS PARTY and have the wholehearted support of LABOR ACTION. To abolish war profits by 100 per cent confiscation—to tax the six-figure incomes down to four figures—to levy yearly taxes on accumulated fortunes—this is a tax program for the whole working class. Such a plan carries out the eminently just principle that the workers should not be made to finance the war as well as bear its other burdens.

However, this just principle certainly does not appeal to the law-makers. If a true representative of labor proposed it in Congress, it would undoubtedly produce paroxysms of wrath. With congressmen—as with the National Association of Manufacturers—the Ruml plan is one of the favorites because it will "forgive" the 1942 taxes. Since profits in 1942 were a lush growth, the rich would be getting away with murder under the Ruml plan.

True, the workers would also be "forgiven" their 1942 taxes. But—

President Roosevelt has asked for \$16,000,000,000 additional taxes in 1943. And while he opposes the Ruml plan, his basic scheme is similar to that of Congress—hit low incomes as hard as possible. Already there is talk in Congress of increasing the income tax rates and of imposing a sales tax. With the influence that the National Association of Manufacturers has upon the "representatives of the people," you may be sure that they will see to it that the load of new taxation is put on labor's back just as was done in 1942. The "forgive-

ness" of 1942 taxes would very soon be forgotten by the workers—staggered under a new load made even heavier by the "forgiveness" to the bosses of their 1942 taxes.

The tax plan of the AFL and the CIO is very similar to the Robertson bill. The idea of this bill is to cancel only the 1942 normal and surtax on all incomes, and not the entire tax. This would "forgive" the workers the entire tax because they pay only normal and surtax, but would make those subject to higher taxes pay them.

As a temporary expedient, this plan seems to have something to recommend it. But it does not seek to solve the tax question on a principled working class basis. On the contrary, the AFL and CIO leadership are accepting the capitalist idea that it is just to tax the working people to pay for the war. Here is another instance of the class collaboration of union officialdom. It compromises with the powers that be—and gives labor the small end of the compromise.

All the tax schemes up for congressional consideration contain the pay-as-you-go feature. Superficially, pay-as-you-go looks like a plan to accommodate the workers. But is it? Isn't it rather a plan to get the workers' money while the getting is good? For politicians know—as well as you do—how uncertain a thing is employment.

To make assurance doubly sure, any tax bill passed will undoubtedly authorize the bosses to withhold at least twenty per cent of a worker's wages each week, to be applied on his income tax. To wait until 1944 for workers to pay taxes on their 1943 wages might be waiting for mass resentment to reach explosive form. This essentially is the intention of the Roosevelt Administration.

Such is the array of bills before Congress. While the tax question is up before the law-makers—who will, as usual, protect "sacred" wealth and profits, it should also be on the floor of every union local—for discussion from the point of view of the workers. LABOR ACTION suggests a rank and file discussion of the following proposition:

Why should the workers—whose wages are being squeezed in a pincer movement—bear an unsufferable tax burden when (1) war profits are enormous; (2) incomes in six figures are not taxed enough; (3) the hundreds of billions accumulated by the Morgans, Rockefellers, Fords, Mellons, du Ponts from labor's sweat, are not taxed at all, except for local realty taxes.

Mine Dispute Will Force Showdown on WLB Formula

By MIKE STEVENS

The negotiations now going on between the United Mine Workers and the coal companies present one of the tensest situations in the history of American labor. There have been very few struggles in the trade union movement with as many factors involved as in this one. Every man and woman in the labor movement is intensely interested in the outcome.

Although negotiations are



still going on, enough has happened in the first two sessions to predict that the government will step into the picture. The UMW has already announced that the miners will not "trespass" on mine company property after March 31, when the old agreement expires, unless a new agreement with the wage increase has been signed. The mine owners have not only refused to consider any of the demands of the mine workers but they have, in reality, already thrown the whole thing into the lap of the government by insisting that even if they had wanted to give a wage increase the War Labor Board's Little Steel formula would prevent them.

The mine workers are negotiating. (Continued on page 3)

Tax Bill Takes From "Have Nots" to Help the "Haves"

Bosses Reap Bonanza in War Profits in Spite of 90 Per Cent Excess Profits Tax and Other Taxes—By What Methods Do They Do It?

By JOHN BERNE

LABOR ACTION has been publishing the huge war profits of the war babies of industry—PROFITS REALIZED IN SPITE OF A SO-CALLED NINETY PER CENT EXCESS PROFITS TAX. The question naturally arises: How could such large profits be realized?

First, a little congressional history will be enlightening.

Secretary Morgenthau had originally asked Congress for \$7,600,000,000 additional in taxes in 1942—\$3,200,000,000 of this to come from higher corporation taxes. Actually, the 1942 tax bill increased corporation taxes by only \$1,500,000,000—OR BY LESS THAN HALF OF WHAT

THE TREASURY WANTED FROM THE CORPORATIONS. It is not a coincidence that in March, 1942—when the 1942 tax bill was being discussed—the National Association of Manufacturers told the House Ways and Means Committee that all big business would be willing to tax itself would be an additional \$1,400,000,000. Thus, Congress acted pretty nearly in accordance with its master's voice.

In the December, 1942, issue of Current History Magazine is an article entitled "The Strange Story of the Tax Bill," which everyone should read. It shows, almost step by step, how every concession made by Congress to the bosses transferred a direct burden to the

worker. First, Congress lowered the taxable income; then it raised the tax and surtax on low incomes; then it lowered the allowance for dependents; then it slapped on the five per cent payroll tax. These measures "saved" the corporations \$1,700,000,000 in taxes—which the working people are now paying.

Still there is in the 1942 tax bill that 90 per cent excess profits tax—which looks so annihilating on paper—but which did not prevent 1942 from being a banner year for war profits. Most people do not know that big business itself preferred the 90 excess profits tax to the 75 per cent excess profits tax proposed by the Treasury. BUT big business also preferred a 40 per cent normal in-

come and surtax to the 55 per cent proposed by Mr. Morgenthau. Superficially it would seem that the 15 per cent more excess profits tax should balance the 15 per cent less normal and surtax. It does not—THIS ARRANGEMENT ACTUALLY "LIGHTENS THE TAX BURDEN" ON THE GIANTS OF INDUSTRY.

Again, the way excess profits are arrived at is itself a steal. They are not figured on a percentage basis—say, everything above 6 per cent to be considered excess profits and taxes as such. The bill permits profits equal to the 1936-1939 levels to be free from excess profits tax. In those years the profits of big business were already beginning to reflect war business

from a feverishly arming world—including Germany and Japan.

Therefore, they are not typical peacetime profits—BUT THEY ARE EXEMPT FROM EXCESS PROFITS TAXES.

Finally, the so-called 90 per cent excess profits tax is an outright hoax on the public. For—excess profits tax or no excess profits tax—the tax bill absolutely limits all corporation taxes of every kind to 80 per cent of net earnings. War orders being so voluminous and cost-plus profits being excellent—thank you—20 per cent of net profits adds up to a heap of money. That by no means implies that big business keep only 20 per cent of its net profits. It keeps AT LEAST that much.

So you see how in the 1942 tax bill the political masters very capably looked after the profit interests of the industrial masters—first, by obligingly lowering corporation normal and surtaxes; second, by exempting the high profit levels of 1936-39 from excess taxes; third, by allowing 20 per cent of all net earnings to be tax-free. That is why 500 per cent profit increases in the year 1942 were not barred by the tax bill.

But even such amazing profits as those reported by the corporations are far from the full measure of corporation profits—not by a long, a very long shot. For every corporation deducts an enormous amount of money from actual profits which it does not list as profits at all and which is absolutely free from taxes. The following gives a rough idea.

All corporations are permitted to use war profits to buy up their own outstanding bonds—THAT IS, TO

PAY UP CAPITAL DEBTS OUT OF PROFITS. Big business and the railroads have been doing this on a tremendous scale involving many hundreds of millions of dollars taken out of war profits—not even tagged war (Continued on page 4)

"Come And Get Me"

New signs of working class protest against the rising cost of living have appeared with the publication in the press of reports indicating difficulties in collecting income taxes from war plant workers in several areas. It is to be expected that the full extent of these difficulties will NOT be revealed; but some hints of the true situation have been let out by incautious government spokesmen. And quick denials that anything is wrong from government agencies in other sections will not satisfy anyone who has listened to the swelling chorus of gripes from workers swamped by income taxes, victory taxes, compulsory war bond purchases, compulsory "donations," and for a dozen other purposes.

The collector of internal revenue at Cleveland reports that "thousands of workers, approached on the matter of making out returns, have refused point-blank. They have replied: 'Let the government come and get me; I'm not going to file.'" A spokesman at the collector of internal revenue office at Philadelphia reports a definite "I won't pay" attitude. "The conditions exist among all workers," he states, "not only in defense industries. We have found cases where agents have been sent out to industries to assist employees making out their returns, and in which not one employee showed up."

No better example could be given of the workers' growing skepticism regarding the program of the capitalist politicians. Not only does this "tax revolt" reflect his discontent at the meager net returns his long hours of labor earn for him; there is also reflected an unwillingness to continue bearing the greatest burden of the war. Labor must fight the war and pay for it too; and for the privilege of so doing labor must give up its own weapons and help to boost into the seats of power the whole collection of big business swindlers that have fought labor every inch of the way. Increasing numbers of workers are beginning to see that it doesn't make sense!

Meeting on March 26 Will Protest Post Office Blow at a Free Press

A mass meeting to defend a free press by protesting the outrageous decision of the Post Office in lifting the second-class mailing rights of The Militant has been called for March 26, at Manhattan Center in New York City, by the Civil Rights Defense Committee.

Speakers at the meeting will include: Osmond K. Franekel, attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, who is actively participating in the legal defense of The Militant; John Finerty, well known attorney for the Workers Defense League, who

defended Tom Mooney and Sacco and Vanzetti; Louis Nelson, head of the Knitgoods Workers Union and a member of the New York Joint Board of the ILGWU; Emanuel Garrett, editor of LABOR ACTION; Albert Goldman, attorney for The Militant; and George Novack, secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee.

The Militant lost its second-class mailing rights which for a paper of national circulation is almost tantamount to suppression, in a decree handed down on March 3 by Post-

master General Walker. For several months before that, The Militant—as was the case with LABOR ACTION until last week—was held up before being allowed through the mails. Some issues were destroyed.

Action was started against The Militant, and presumably against LABOR ACTION, at the instigation of Attorney General Biddle. The crime charged against The Militant was that of HOLDING OPINIONS on the war, on Jim Crow, on labor rights—which Biddle and his associates do not ap-

prove of. Neither Biddle nor the Post Office authorities made even the slightest effort to prove that The Militant was guilty of any violation of law. The Militant could be charged with nothing but its working class opinions.

Even were this an isolated case directed only at The Militant, it would provoke the most serious concern as a dangerous violation of the rights of a free press—especially in the labor movement. However, the persecution of LABOR ACTION for (Continued on page 2)

Europe in Revolt

News from the Socialist Camp

FOREIGN WORKERS IN GERMANY AGAINST NAZISM

Gauleiter Fritz Sauckel, the Nazi Commissioner for Labor, said on February 9: "More than two-thirds of the workmen employed in Germany's armament industry are foreigners." In spite of the tremendous risk of entrusting Nazi armaments production to slave labor, the Gestapo has recently increased the manhunt in occupied Europe for fresh supplies of men and women to keep German industry going. The press has printed many stories that show the fierce resistance, especially among French workers, against conscription for work in Germany.

A tremendous army of Gestapomen is watching these millions of foreign workers in Germany. But even the most efficient Gestapo cannot force millions to work as the Nazis want them to work. We do not need any other proof of the spirit of passive resistance among foreign workers in Germany than can be found in the Nazi papers themselves. They have recently been full of stories complaining about the behavior of these foreign workers.

Says the Schwarze Korps of December 3:

"Our frontiers are cracked. Millions of foreigners are not subjected to our moral discipline."

And the Reich of November 22:

"From six to eight million men are strangers in our midst. They are tremendously active circulating all kinds of news."

Foreign workers cannot be controlled as easily as German workers. They promote discontent. Furthermore, they practice passive resistance and a systematic slow-down on a large scale. Das Schwarze Korps describes Belgian workmen "at work" in Germany: "At the end of the day the German foreman finds it impossible to figure out how so many men can do so little work." The paper then describes the road construction work, carried on under the direction of a Nazi foreman: "What a sight. The entire crew seems to have come to a tacit agreement to work as little as possible. They seem to have developed a method which on the surface gives the appearance of great activity, but which is actually only a camouflage to hide their inaction. As soon as the foreman turns his

back they straighten up and drop their shovels and picks. It is impossible to estimate the hours lost while they blow their noses, scratch their heads or stare at the sky. When a dozen of these fellows lift a steel rail or a piece of timber, it looks like a slow-motion picture.

But even more than passive resistance, the Nazis are afraid of the possible contacts between German and foreign workers. They use all sorts of devices to separate them, but they admit that they have not been successful. The Neues Wiener Tageblatt of September 29 says that "the manpower mobilization from the East is a positive danger from the political and social standpoint. On November 19 Sauckel declared: "The great number of foreign workers in Germany and their contacts with the German workers undoubtedly constitute a danger." The National Sozialisitische Zeitung of November 27 complains: "In certain factories friendly intercourse has been established between German girls and foreign workers. This is irreconcilable with the national pride of the German women. No relations with the foreign workers."

In a recent report from Austria it was mentioned that Austrian workers acted in a rather unfriendly manner toward foreign workers because they thought that these men and women had come to work on their own initiative. But as soon as the German worker discovers that the foreigners have come only because they were forced to by the Gestapo, the attitude changes. The way in which a man works conveys to the fellow next to him a good deal of what he is thinking even if neither understands the other's language.

In the melting pot of the German war factory, where workers of many different countries are together, ties of solidarity are established in spite of all Nazi efforts to the contrary. Hitler, who set out to keep Germany nationally and racially pure, is now forced to "denationalize" Germany. Most of Germany's war factories are actually breeding grounds for ideas of international solidarity rather than national hatred.

Europacus.

Milan Workers Demonstrate

On February 23 the Associated Press reported from London that a Reuters radio dispatch carried the news that the workers at the Fiat works in Milan, Italy, are demonstrating and demanding peace.

This outstanding news of the day—the demand by workers for peace—was given exactly one and a half inches of space on an inside page of the New York Times under a pin-point headline. Only those fine-combing the paper for such news would be likely to find it.

This deliberately underplayed report also stated that "troops had been called to suppress the disturbances" and added the general information that "the Fiat works, vital to the Italian war industry, have been a main target of RAF raids on Northern Italy."

Imperialist war fronts always collapse at their weakest points. In this

war Italy is undoubtedly the most backward of the Western belligerents—an economic pigmy in a ridiculous attempt to wage a super-colossal war. Overrun by Hitler's hordes, Italy has been able to carry on in a fashion only by inflicting the cruellest hardships on the Italian people. The RAF raids have climaxed sufferings beyond human endurance. The Fiat workers have had enough. They want an end to the imperialist war.

Buy LA and NI In Akron at:

News Exchange (near Palace Theater), 51 South Main Street.
 News Center "38" (near Colonial Theater), 38 E. Mill Street.
 National News Co. (corner East Exchange and South Main Street), 333 South Main Street.

News and Views from the Labor Front

Brewster Proves Action Gets Results

LONG ISLAND CITY—Fully five months after Brewster Local 365, UAW-CIO, voted to have its job evaluation and reclassification dispute with the company handled by the War Labor Board a decision has finally been handed down and put into effect as of March 1, 1943.

The original dispute goes back to a scheduled April 12, 1942, classification. The company, aware of the union's no-strike policy, stalled until the WLB was called in. The WLB acted with the same "speed" as the company until the workers refused for an entire week to do any work that was not in their classification. This caused a 95 per cent stoppage of production, proving that only a small group of workers was correctly classified. The stoppage of work speeded the tempo and without a doubt was responsible for the better-than-ordinary decision of the WLB.

Sperry Stalls On Contract

Local 450, UE-CIO, has reached a sharp crisis in its relations with the Sperry Gyroscope Co. The union, having won an NLRB election, began contract negotiations with the company on January 15. Since that time almost nothing has been accomplished.

The company, having hired a new industrial relations man with a National Association of Manufacturers union-busting background, is now playing a game of hide and seek with the union. Every proposal the union makes is either flatly refused, quibbled over or else answered with some impossible counter-proposal, such as family status being a factor in seniority. The company hopes to wear the union down to the point where it will be willing to accept the kind of contract the big-hearted Sperry Co. used to give its company unions.

To accomplish this they are depending on two factors; one, the fact that the union has pledged not to use its most effective weapon: the strike; and two, the expected weakening of the union by the hiring in the next few months of twenty thousand new employees who will, at first, not be members of the union. To keep these people from joining and to alienate the people who have already joined the union, Sperry is conducting an all-out campaign on social, athletic and other paternalistic activities, sparing no expense in the process.

To counter this campaign of the company, the union must turn away from its previously conciliatory attitude and talk the only kind of language a profit-gorged outfit like Sperry understands: ACTION.

This is the only way to rally the workers behind the leadership in the kind of fighting mood which will soon get Sperry down off its high horse, ready to talk turkey and negotiate the kind of contract the workers demand. This is the way the union can justify the confidence placed in it by the militants during their years of struggle to establish the union.

The attempt at establishing job evaluation, and the more-than-partial success in achieving it, is a victory in itself. Thousands of workers have been reclassified and are now receiving wages nearer to their actual rating.

The important thing to work out now is the exact type of work that must come under each classification. If this is not done immediately, the wage increases will become "personal" wage increases, and when these workers are drafted, transferred, promoted or leave the company, the workers taking their places will receive learners' and helpers' wages, and in a year's time most of the wage increases will have been wiped out.

When the WLB entered the picture it threw out the original classification that had been arrived at by the shop stewards and the foremen because it added too much money to the payroll. A new job specification, far lower than the previous one, was worked out. It is interesting to note that in the departments where the militant shop stewards stuck to their guns and disregarded the new job specifications, the amount of raises received by the workers is much higher than in other departments. Nevertheless, the WLB job specifications are officially in existence and will stand as a barrier in future promotional raises.

Although it was reported that the WLB decision amounted to about 16 cents an hour for each man, the facts do not confirm this. Grievances are pouring in daily. In the Newark plant, dissatisfaction was so high that special meetings were called for various departments. The workers called these meetings off only when they were assured that the WLB would reconsider many cases. In Long Island City the workers in the wing department circulated a petition asking for a different decision.

In the disputed cases the union received its worse licking. In many departments less than five per cent of the disputed cases were settled in favor of the workers. All work-

ers hired after October 4, 1942, did not receive a reclassification, nor are they to get any back pay. The WLB in a high-handed and arbitrary manner decided what it thought the company's payroll should be and threw out this group of over a thousand workers.

The reaction of the workers is revealed in the last issue of the union paper, which published three letters from Newark. The first writer says he spoke for forty minutes at his department, calling the decision a "stupid insult." The second letter refers to the "smelly way" in which the night shift was handled. The third says that "the men of the E department feel that the recent job evaluation was, to say the least, patrid. We could think of a lot of stronger words, but you wouldn't print them."

It, of course, should be obvious that it was impossible for the WLB

to protect the company's interests as much as it would have liked to; that is, to completely ignore the obvious inequalities and maladjustments existing in the plant. So acute and of such long standing were these inequalities that even a partial adjustment had to result in concrete, definite economic gains for the workers.

The union's Bushkill program, in which it advocated the retraction of the no-strike pledge, the extremely effective stoppage, the scathing attacks on the WLB in the local's paper, the hectic union meetings at which the WLB was denounced in language that could not be mistaken—all this served to make clear to the WLB that it was sitting on a powder keg and that it could not be too raw for fear of igniting it. The entire lesson of the job-evaluation is that labor gets only what it is in a position to fight for.

Interracial Club Gets Union Support In Anti-Discrimination Job Fight

NEW YORK CITY—Thomas L. Brown, president of the Interracial Club, 360 West 125th Street, announced in a statement issued to the press that "definite progress is being made in our drive to eliminate employment bias against Negroes in seven New York plants engaged in war production."

"Despite publicity exposing the discriminatory practices of these plants," said Mr. Brown, "they still persist in dodging the issue by means of the most obviously phony excuses. We have received a reply from Davis & Geck, Inc., Brooklyn, a firm producing surgical supplies for the armed forces, stating that their '... employment situation is as now constituted because... we have had no difficulty in securing new employees, as in general they have been readily available to us through relationship to or recommendations by those already in our employ.' The Interracial Club is demanding that

Davis & Geck, in hiring new employees, accept qualified Negro workers who will be referred to them through recognized agencies.

"Interviews with workers of the Hammarlund Mfg. Co., New York City, have disclosed a great deal of dissatisfaction by both white and Negro workers with reference to the reluctance of the company to upgrade Negroes. In addition, this company has refused to hire Negro women on the ridiculous excuse that 'colored women have exceptionally poor eyesight and couldn't pass our tests.' Various steps, which will be announced later, are being undertaken by the Interracial Club to insure upgrading of Negro men and employment of Negro women."

A most important aspect of the fight to secure equal rights for Negroes in employment, stated Mr. Brown, is the united participation of Negro and white workers in the labor movement. "In this connection," he said, "we welcome the replies we have received from Amalgamated Radio Local 430 and Machine & Instrument Local 1227 of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America, CIO."

Relating particularly to the Hammarlund Mfg. Co., James J. Conroy, president of Local 430, informed the Interracial Club of the efforts of the union shop committee in the plant to end discrimination within the plant as well as discrimination in the hiring policy. In offering support, Mr. Conroy wrote, "please feel completely free to call on me at any time if I can be of any assistance to your organization in our mutual fight against Negro discrimination."

"Militant action and relentless persistence are indispensable in carrying our fight to a successful end. A united movement of Negro workers, in collaboration with the progressive sections of the labor movement, will assure that success," Mr. Brown predicted.

The statement concludes with a call to various organization, churches, lodges and other groups to establish a committee of representatives whose sole aim will be directed to practical, concrete work in securing jobs for Negroes in war industries on an absolutely equal basis with white workers.

'Labor Action' Distributors Are Back at Bethlehem Steel Plant

BUFFALO—The LABOR ACTION distributors have once again taken their posts in front of the Bethlehem Steel plant in Lackawanna. This they have done in spite of the intimidation of the Lackawanna police.

The last time they distributed LABOR ACTION in front of this "arsenal of democracy," the distribution was stopped by the city police. No less a personage than the chief of police told the lie that the paper could not be given out without a permit. The attempt to deprive LABOR ACTION of its right of free press was instigated, so the police say, by a "complaint." It takes little imagination to guess that Bethlehem Steel was behind this complaint.

The Bethlehem workers are good militants, they fight for their rights and they like a paper that fights for workers' rights. Bethlehem workers like LABOR ACTION; Bethlehem Steel Corp. does not.

The attempt to stop LABOR ACTION is an attempt to smother the best labor paper in the country. It

is illegal and purely an attempt to intimidate our distributors. We therefore appeal to all union men, to all men who know and like our paper, to protest any action taken against LABOR ACTION, not only because the paper is your paper but because the rights of all labor papers are endangered.

Here are more facts about the case:

1. We had been distributing LABOR ACTION before the police "discovered" that we couldn't give out our papers without a permit. They only decided it was unlawful after they received a "complaint."
2. The police would not tell us what this ordinance was that says you need a permit to distribute papers, who passed it, how old it was, whether it applied to all labor papers, etc.
3. They told us nothing, but threatened to put us in jail if we didn't stop giving out the paper.
4. The American Civil Liberties Union has promised to back LABOR ACTION to the limit.

California CIO Fights Anti-Labor State Bill

The California CIO is mobilizing for a fight-to-the-finish against Senate Bill 290 (California), the Biggar-Fletcher bill, characterized by the State CIO Council as "one of the worst anti-labor bills ever introduced into any legislative body, national or state." State CIO Secretary Mervyn Rathbone warns that "enactment of this bill in its present form will mean virtual abolition of all free trade unions in California."

According to the Labor Herald, California CIO newspaper, provisions of the bill as submitted include the following:

1. All unions with more than 25 members must incorporate under the civil code.
2. A \$10 bond must be posted with the State Treasurer for each and every member.
3. Union audits must be filed with the Secretary of State and all financial and membership records would be open to the public.
4. Checkoff of union dues would be possible only by individual signature and not as part of a contract.
5. The closed shop would be illegal.
6. Local, county or state police and militia must act as strikebreakers in any strike which the bill defines as "unlawful."
7. Any person "negligently" failing to comply with the complicated and vicious provisions of the bill would be subject to a \$500 fine or one year of imprisonment.

The bill would also fix maximum amounts of dues and initiation fees; it would rule how and by what majorities unions must vote on a variety of issues; it would set up a rigmarole for filing charges against union members which draws in the Attorney General's office.

The measure would dictate how unions could spend their funds, by compelling a majority vote of the full membership for any donation, gift or loan above \$50; and would require a new membership vote every time that expenditures had to be repeated.

Assessments for political purposes would be outlawed by the provision necessitating written consent of every single member of the union.

Organization of new groups of workers would be hampered by the section forbidding anyone not working in a trade for more than six months to represent workers in that trade in any capacity, whether elective or appointive, paid or volunteer. "The Superior Court of the county could review any union findings."

This bill apparently hits a new high in vicious anti-unionism. As the demagogic of Army-big business men like Rickenbacker is displayed more and more prominently on the front pages of the boss press, moves are being made in state and national legislatures to enact the measures that will effectively crush the unions.

Rickenbacker and his pals behind the big mahogany desks THINK they see the dawn of a new era of "free enterprise"—for everyone but the workers. The right to strike, so reely surrendered by the labor big shots, will not be so easy to get back.

The Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor...

Aircraft Worker On Calif. Wages

To the Editor:

In your article in the March 8th LABOR ACTION on the Boeing demonstration and the War Labor Board decision on aircraft stabilization, you pointed out the fact that the WLB is sticking to the Little Steel formula, which means a 15 per cent increase in wages in spite of the fact that the cost of living has gone up about 30 per cent. This, of course, means a 15 per cent wage CUT. If they continue to grant "increases" which are half or less than the increased cost of living, by next year our pay checks will be HALF or less than they are this year, even excluding greatly increased taxation.

You didn't make it very clear that despite the obvious rooking we get under the Little Steel formula, the Southern California plants DIDN'T EVEN GRANT INCREASES IN ACCORDANCE WITH IT. Davis, chairman of the WLB, stated that there had been an increase of about twenty-seven per cent in the average straight time earnings in the last year, in California plants, and that therefore no increases would be granted under the Little Steel formula. The important thing to note about this increase is that it doesn't constitute a GENERAL increase in wages for all the workers in the same categories but largely an increase due to individual merit raises which is abnormally large because of tremendous plant expansion and the immediate necessity of training new workers for higher skills. The Little Steel formula takes into account only the general increases granted in all categories, not increases due workers for doing more skilled work.

The bulk of the workers, therefore,

did not get wage increases to meet the rising cost of living but got the normal wage increase any worker gets at any time when he is classified into more highly skilled work.

Another very clever way the companies have of cashing in a little extra on the workers' sweat is by refusing to reclassify workers who are doing work that belongs in a higher classification, thus keeping them at the wage paid for less skilled work. They manage to get away with that by the phoniest system of classifications ever conceived of by the sly "captains of industry." And believe me, the WLB did very little to help the situation, except to make the "classification" list a little smaller so that it is now easier for us to see just exactly HOW we're being gypped. If the foreman like the worker and the general foreman likes the foreman and the company deems it proper and in accordance with their "merit" system, MAYBE somebody in the department will get a raise.

Another important thing to remember when they throw figures like 27 per cent around, is that wages in aircraft were so low to begin with that they didn't come near wages in the shipyards in the same area, which wages are also far too low to meet the rising cost of living. In California, we know that one of the main reasons the Boeing workers got a slightly higher wage increase was because they got together, opened their mouths and let the WLB know that they meant business.

If some of the people who were around during the North American and Vultee strikes think back, they'll remember that the original wage increases granted in Southern California came AFTER THE STRIKES, not after politely waiting for the WLB or any other representatives of big

business to hand it to us on a silver platter. If we wait, "We'll all be a-waitin'" till judgment day; we'll all be buried."

Hats off to the Boeing workers! Next time we hope California will join with you and do more to get more.

R. S. (Los Angeles.)

C. of C. Wants Poor To Pay Taxes for Rich

Dear Editor:

In an editorial entitled "Refunding Sales Taxes," this morning's Chicago Sun (March 8) advises us that: "The Legislature this week will receive a bill sponsored by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce calling for the use of sales tax receipts to reduce property taxes in the counties." The bill, it is reported, would turn over twenty-five per cent of the state sales tax revenues to the counties, with the proviso that the funds be used ONLY to reduce property tax levies.

The Sun points out that "in Cook County this would mean using the sales tax paid by roughly 4,000,000 people to reduce the property taxes paid by fewer than a million." But the Sun fails to point out that the Illinois sales tax, like all other local and state sales tax, was originally introduced as a relief measure to aid the unemployed. And that it was then and remains today one of the most unfair taxes in existence because it puts the heaviest burden on the backs of the poorest people.

Now the Chamber of Commerce, apparently seeing no need for the sales tax moneys for the purpose originally designated, proposes to lighten the "burden" of the property owners by using sales tax receipt to cover part of their tax bill. That's

real nice—for the property owners! But what about the bulk of those the sales tax hits—those other 3,000,000 people the Sun mentions? Is the Chamber of Commerce really serious in proposing that those poor workers pay the taxes for the property owners? It's hard to believe, but it seems to be true!

The Sun says that "it may be expedient to relieve property tax payers of part of the cost of local government, or to assess that share against the larger group which pays the sales tax." Why? Doesn't the mere fact that they are financially capable of owning property indicate that they are the group most financially capable of carrying the tax burden?

L. Tours (Chicago).

Longshoremen Back Indian Independence

Dear Editor:

At their last meeting, the San Pedro longshoremen's local passed a resolution giving full support to India's fight for independence.

The resolution followed a talk by Lahl Singh, editor of the India News. Brother Singh started out straight from the shoulder: the workers all over the world are the ones who understand India's problems and her fight for freedom. He pointed out that the British have over 30,000 leaders and members of the India National Congress in jail.

But then came the rub. Singh changed his tune, and the rest of his speech sounded like he was trying to convince a bunch of waterfront employers why they should be for India's independence. He argued that free India would put raw materials and manpower at the side of the Allies. He completely ignored

the role of British imperialism. His whole argument boiled down to "free the Indians so they can fight Hitler." He forgot that Churchill is fighting to preserve the British Empire, not to bring freedom to India.

His line of argument has been heard on the waterfront before. It is the People's World-Bridges line. (People's World is the West Coast Communist Party newspaper.—Ed.) It is the argument of the Communist Party that this is a "people's war," etc.

Because the class-conscious worker is for complete freedom of India, the

Stalinists put up a big front and try to corral that progressive sentiment behind imperialist war aims. It is time the worker got wise to these phonies who come out with radical arguments but end up by sacrificing everything the working stiff has for the imperialist war.

Let's get behind the fight for India's freedom. But the Indian won't find his friends in either imperialist camp—British or German. The workers of the world are the ones who will support the colonial peoples in their struggle for freedom.

G. Ordo (San Pedro, Calif.)

CRDC Meet--

(Continued from page 1)

several months indicates that this is an attack on the free press of sweeping importance. As we said in last week's issue: "The at least temporary suspension of the persecutory procedure followed against LABOR ACTION in the past months might be considered a decisive victory for the protest made against the anti-democratic activities of the Post Office were it not for the simultaneous decision made against The Militant."

Attorneys for the ACLU and The Militant will contest the decision in the courts. It is not difficult to imagine what will happen if the courts uphold the Postmaster General's decree. The reactionaries in the government—including those, like Blidge, who parade as liberals—will be encouraged to take similar action against the labor and liberal press in general, and, above all, against such papers as LABOR ACTION which bow to no intimidation in the presentation of the truth and of a working class program.

Walker's decree is, in effect, a warning to all papers that they must toe the line, hush up the facts about the war, about Jim Crow and about labor's struggle, or face the consequence. It is, therefore, the elementary duty of every working man, and more generally of every person interested in the defense of democratic rights, to rally to the defense of The Militant. This is a matter of self-protection. A victory in the courts for The Militant will be a victory for the entire labor movement, and for the free press in particular. LABOR ACTION therefore urges you to turn out for the meeting in Manhattan Center on Friday, March 26.

Step Up the Sub Drive!

SUBS RECEIVED

March 7-13—First Week

New York City	12
National Office	3
Buffalo	6
Akron	3
Reading	3

Total for Week

27

To keep the record straight, March 7-13 is being counted as the first week of the LABOR ACTION Sub Drive. So the first official week of the drive, with 27 subs, falls slightly BELOW last week's total of 30 subs, which represented the first response to the drive. Not so good! We need to get down to work.

Spread your quota over fifteen weeks and figure out what WEEKLY quota you must meet. Even New York City has started off with only about HALF its weekly quota. We ask Workers Party members to take up the sub drive at their next branch meeting; put it FIRST on the agenda; and make detailed plans for giving every single member responsibility for his or her share of the quota.

As an individual subscriber, you can get subs from your friends, and, above all, from fellow members of your union or other workers organization. Remember what you can tell them: that NO OTHER PAPER will give them what L.A. will! And by the way: did you ever stop to think that we have the BEST LABOR CARTOONS, bar none, of any publication in America?

One thousand new subs by June 15! Let's have a big upturn in next week's total!

J. P. Morgan Dies; Public Overwhelmed

A representative of the Labor Action Institute of Public Opinion calls on Mr. Joe Sbranko, 32, molder, married, two children, to get a rank and file viewpoint on Mr. Morgan's death.

Time: 10 p.m. Place: (Omitted in order not to give information to the enemy.) Visibility: Poor. (LAIPO representative enters Mr. Sbranko's front yard, feels his way to front porch, and puts his foot through the front steps into something unpleasant underneath. After extricating himself with only minor damage, he knocks at Mr. Sbranko's door. After a long silence, the door opens about two inches and a voice issues.)

Voice: Whatcha want?
LAIPO Rep: I am a representative of...

Voice: I told you guys I ain't got nothin' to do with that phony brother-in-law of mine, an' I'm tellin' you once an' for all to quit botherin' me about him. I ain't responsible for his lousy debts.

LAIPO Rep: I'm not from the finance company. I'm from the Labor Action Institute of Public Opinion. I merely want to ask you a few questions. It's a survey.

(Door opens a little wider; Mr. Sbranko appears in his long underwear.)

Mr. Sbranko: Okay. Whatcha wanna ask me?
LAIPO Rep: What comment have you to make on the death of J. P. Morgan, Jr.?

Mr. Sbranko: MORGAN? That louse! Look: My wife's havin' a kid, I gotta fight with my own commiteeman at the plant about the raise I shoulda had six mont's ago, an' you ask me what I think about that?—dyin'! Well, I LIKE it—get me. The idea appeals to me. I think he lived too long?—-long. They shoulda... We oughta... Look: I like your paper. But don't come askin' me crazy questions like that when I just got off work. I gotta get some sleep so I can put in some extra time tomorrow—I hear they've dreamed up a coupla new deductions this week.

(Mr. Sbranko shuts the door violently. His complaints continue in muffled tones from the interior as the Labor Action Institute of Public Opinion's representative departs.)

For lack of space this issue does not cover the Roosevelt Social Security Plan. A complete analysis will be published next week. Be sure to read it.

Miners' Wage Demands Will Force Showdown on Roosevelt Wage Policy

(Continued from page 1)
tating simultaneously with the Northern soft coal operators (Appalachian Wage Conference), who employ 200,000 miners, and with the Southern Coal Producers Association, who employ 135,000 soft coal miners. A new agreement reached by the union with these owners' associations serves also as the basis for the union contracts with the West and Midwest soft coal mines, which employ an additional 100,000 miners.

The union is demanding a \$2.00-a-day basic wage increase for all workers. The wage demand also calls for an additional eighty-five cents a day for the workers receiving sub-standard wages, such as slate pickers, greasers, flaggers and throwers. This formula will tend to equalize the wages of all the workers in the mines. Under the present agreement the miners receive \$7.00 a day and the helpers \$5.08 a day.

A one year agreement instead of a two year agreement as in the past is another union demand. The union does not want to be tied to a long agreement, for this will prohibit it from reopening the wage question, across a negotiating table, a year from now. And, with the speed at which the cost of living is rising, the union is sure that whatever wage increase is received now will be wiped out in less than a year.

Another change that the mine workers want in their new agreement is that all foremen and supervisory employees in and about the mines must become members of the union. This involves about 45,000 such employees in the soft coal mines.

PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS

John L. Lewis opened the negotiations by presenting the demands of the union and followed this by launching an attack on the War Labor Board and suggesting that it resign. The suggestion was addressed particularly to the labor men on the board, whom he referred to as "labor zombies." He contrasted the government's policy of cost-plus profits in industry and the Little Steel formula for labor as a policy of "fattening industry and starving labor," and an attempt to establish the prin-

iple of "slave labor" in the United States.

Lewis declared that the Little Steel formula had outlived its usefulness and that he was out to break it by refusing to compromise on the wage question: "\$2.00, not any more, not any less. We are not trying to sugar-coat anything. I want to break the news so that the WLB will hear it."

The attack on the WLB by Lewis on the very first day of negotiations had a threefold purpose behind it: (1) To convince the mine owners that a deadlock in negotiations would not automatically mean that the union's fight was over and that the WLB would be permitted to step in and take over. (2) A warning to the WLB to keep hands off, thus forcing Roosevelt's hand. (3) Playing for the support of the American workers. Lewis knows that every thinking trade unionist is against the Little Steel formula and disgusted with the WLB.

MINERS NEED WAGE INCREASE

The owners' answer to the wage demands was "an absolute no." They wept that they might as well give the mines to the miners as to grant this increase. "Mr. Lewis is trying to take us over, lock stock and barrel."

The truth of the matter is that the wage increases asked by the United Mine Workers are really very modest and conservative. The average soft coal miner earns less than \$1,400 a year, out of which he must pay about \$1.00 each day for materials and equipment. In addition, he must pay the outrageously high prices for food and clothing that prevail in the mining communities. The cost of living on food essentials in the average mining town has increased 124.6 per cent between August, 1939, and February, 1942. In addition, the Department of Agriculture estimates that during 1942 the farmers will receive an average of 20 to 25 per cent more for their products than in 1942. Taxes and the price of clothing will also be higher.

The owners' arguments that the industry cannot stand a wage increase and the boss politicians' talk on inflation are a lot of poppycock. Labor costs in coal mining have gone down. During 1942, in the anthracite mines, production was increased by four million tons over the previous year with thousands FEWER workers. The basic wage rate for 1942 in the coal mines was fifty cents LESS each day than it was twenty years ago. In addition, technological advances have reduced labor costs and thereby increased profits. AND the government has already granted

the owners a price increase on their coal amounting to twenty-two cents a ton.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT?

The person who is really on the spot in these negotiations is F. D. Roosevelt. To insist that the Little Steel formula be maintained would mean no wage increase for the miners and an immediate cooling off of Roosevelt's support among all the workers. And it courts the threat of the miners going on strike anyhow. On the other hand, permitting a wage increase would rebuild Lewis' prestige at the expense of Roosevelt's labor allies whose unions have been forced to abide by the decisions of the WLB.

With the national elections not too far away and with trouble in his own party, Roosevelt cannot afford to take any chances of losing the support of any section of the working class. No matter what decision Roosevelt makes he is bound to wound the WLB. Roosevelt might choose as a way out the appointing of a commission to "investigate" conditions in the mine areas and then grant a wage increase, thus indirectly getting credit for it. However, if he should be compelled by the min-

ers to do this he would confront similar and irrepressible demands from every industry and section of the country.

LABOR IS WATCHING THE MINERS' STRUGGLE

The miners are in a fighting mood. They proved that a few months ago when they decided to strike. At that time Lewis' district leaders told the miners that Lewis was opposed to a strike, that he would condemn it and would not grant them any strike funds. The miners answered by forming their own rank and file committee and working out their own wage demands. They refused to continue to pay fifty cents monthly to the strike fund as long as they could not benefit by it when they needed it—and they went on strike!

Today the miners are more determined than ever to get their wage increase, and no lengthening of hours, "take home" policy, or incentive-pay speed-up system will be satisfactory to them.

To the extent that they succeed every working man and woman will have won a victory. Labor is everywhere clamoring for higher wages. And right now it has its eyes on the miners—to follow in the path of a miners' victory.

Anti-Poll-Tax Bill Getting Another Senate Run-Around

By M. WILSON

At the close of the last session of Congress, the poll-tax senators and their reactionary allies filibustered the anti-poll-tax bill right back into committee, where it is now peacefully resting. President Roosevelt, at a press conference at the close of the session, claimed ignorance of the bill, the filibuster and the poll-tax.

When will Senator Pepper introduce his bill on the floor of the Senate? He claims he is ready to do so, but is waiting for an opportunity to discuss it with the President.

Various senators who have stated their willingness to co-sponsor the bill find that there are "other things" which they must do first. Senator Barbour of New Jersey feels that he has to devote his time and energies to fighting racial discrimination in the District of Columbia. A worthy cause, but insufficient reason to neglect doing something against racial discrimination in the entire country.

There have been several other senators who have declared their readiness to co-sponsor the bill, but have then declined without reason. Senator Guffey of Pennsylvania claims that he will vote for the bill if it ever reaches the floor, but he'll sup-

port it "very dubiously" because he believes that any debate on the bill will split the Democratic Party. (It is important to note here that a substantial part of the representation of the Democratic Party is made up of poll-tax senators elected by a very small percentage of the population in their respective states. If these poor workers and farmers, who have been denied the vote by the existence of the poll-tax, were given their constitutional right to the voting ballot, these senators might quickly lose their posts, and the possibility of the election of the candidates of a rival party would become a serious threat.)

However, the real reason these senators are unwilling to sponsor and fight for this bill is that it might drive a wedge into the entire system of Jim Crow, of which the poll-tax is just one manifestation. Although the Republicans may give lip service to the bill and at times even press for it, they are wary of a real fight against Jim Crow.

This system of racial discrimination perpetuates the cleavage between the white and Negro worker, and the longer such separation exists in the ranks of the working class, the longer the boss class will be able to pit the workers against each other.

My Stake in Capitalism

By Clock No. 3809

For years now I have gone about with a terribly wrong idea in my mind. I thought I had no stake in capitalism. Rockefeller, Ford, Morgan, yes. But me, what did I own besides my clothes, a few pieces of furniture and the old dollar alarm clock that I curse six dark mornings out of seven?

But how wrong one can be! I just finished reading an article called "Your Stake in Capitalism" by Mr. Johnston, the President of the United States Chamber of Commerce. It left me breathless. I had a new vision of myself. No longer was I just Clock No. 3809. No longer "Machinist, Department K, Building No. 3, fifth floor." No longer just a social security number, a cipher, a nameless cog in a huge corporation, putting in my ten hours and glad to drag my tired limbs home at night. Then what am I? I am my boss' partner in the business!

Getting It Straight

I know that most of the boys down at work won't believe it. Some will even laugh at me. Think me nuts. But if they would read the article it would show how little they know. After all, it's just working stiffs like them that it's written for. You don't have to write an article to convince the boss that he has a stake in capitalism. He knows it, particularly four times a year when the dividends are paid. But it's you and I that need some education on the subject. It's hard for us to grasp it. Unless we read up on it we just stay in the fog and keep thinking that capitalism is a racket by which the boss rooks us.

But Mr. Johnston, this president of the Chamber of Commerce, explains it all. What is it that built up this country? Most of us think it was done by engineers, draftsmen, farmers, iron puddlers, machinists, miners, railway men, scientists, accountants, common laborers and such. Which proves exactly how little we know. This country was built up by capitalism.

God didn't only make coal in the earth, grain in the fields, forests on the hills, and merely say, "Let there be light." He also must have said, "Let there be capitalism, and let there be capitalists to run it." How else could they have come to own everything—the land and everything below it and everything above it? From there on they proceeded to build up the country.

For instance, take a railroad. How does it get built? You think you start with blueprints, tools and workmen? Again it shows how little you know. First you need some capitalists. They get together and form a corporation and make themselves the board of directors. Then come the stocks and the bonds and the franchises. When all this gets or-

ganized you are ready to start building. But where would we have been without the capitalists? Still riding in covered wagons, no doubt.

And once you get a railroad or a factory built, who runs it? I suppose you think the workers and foremen and superintendents? But where would they be without the board of directors? For instance, if the board of directors didn't meet to declare a dividend what would happen to the profits? Just keep piling up in the bank and going to waste with idleness. Or what if the board of directors didn't see that profits were slipping and never met to declare a general wage cut? The workers would just keep getting the same wages and pretty soon the capitalists would hardly get any profits at all for their troubles and worries about the business.

From this it's plain to see that a factory cannot be run unless capitalists own it. Every time I read in the society page that Mr. J. Witherpoon Pennypincher, one of the big owners of our plant, has left for another vacation down in Florida, I begin worrying how things will manage to keep going. Or every time I hear of Barbara Hutton going on a new honeymoon I begin wondering what a mess the Woolworth chain will be in.

What Is Our Stake?

But just where does my stake come in? Well, let's take it this way. Let's say the boys in Department K got to worrying how Mr. Pennypincher was getting along down in Miami and we scraped up enough train fare to go down to pay him a week's visit. Boy, would there be hell to pay in the plan. Department K is mostly turret lathes. If we didn't show up on Monday morning the whole building would be shut down by Tuesday and the whole plant by Wednesday. Which just proves what important partners we are to Mr. Pennypincher.

And that's just what Mr. Johnston meant in his article. He tells us that we need the capitalists and they need us. And he's trying to explain that if we had factories and no capitalists we would starve to death. Just like a mule in a field of clover without someone to show him what to do. And if the capitalists had factories and no workers it would be like San Francisco during the general strike.

So you see, fighting with the boss for a raise makes no sense at all—if you learn your lesson well from Mr. Johnston. Once you understand that you have a stake in the future of the business you certainly don't want to hurt it just in order to buy an occasional steak for the table.

Thanks, Mr. Johnston, for telling us workers how indispensable you are to our happiness.

Fourth in a Series of Articles: "WHAT IS A WORKERS GOVERNMENT?"

How the Soviet Government Worked Before Stalin Crushed It

By SUSAN GREEN

Like the Paris Commune, the second workers' government in all history, the Soviet Government under Lenin and Trotsky was born out of war, World War I. Unlike the Commune, which encompassed only the city of Paris and remained isolated from the rest of France, this second workers' government included 180,000,000 people and an entire country three times as large as the United States. Without the lessons of the Commune and without the preparatory 1905 revolution in Russia, the Russian people would not have had, in 1917, their wonderful governmental weapon—THE SOVIETS.

First a word about the background from which the Soviet Government emerged.

THE WEAKEST LINK IN CAPITALIST CHAIN

During World War I Czarist Russia was the most backward nation, the one least able to sustain its part in modern imperialist warfare. The insatiable demands of the war fronts sapped the nation of manpower and supplies. At the fronts, soldiers were exposed to the enemy without adequate clothes, food, arms and equipment. At home the starving and war-weary workers and peasants could

no longer stand the strain.

Soldiers deserted, working men went on strike, women stormed government offices demanding food. Rebellion swept the land. The cry arose for peace, bread and land. Spontaneously the workers, peasants and returning soldiers formed Soviets—which had already been tried out in the 1905 revolution. FORCING THE PEOPLE TO FIGHT BEYOND HUMAN ENDURANCE COST THE CZAR HIS HEAD. THAT WAS THE REVOLUTION OF FEBRUARY, 1917.

The Kerensky government put up by the Russian capitalists did not fare any better. Ignoring the sufferings of the people and their demand for peace, Kerensky continued the war. Large numbers of soldiers and sailors began to side with the Soviets. Even the notorious Cossacks were sympathetic to the revolutionary masses. The Kerensky regime hung on for a few months and was overthrown by the November revolution led by the Bolshevik Party.

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT OF WORKERS, PEASANTS AND SOLDIERS TOOK POWER—WITH LENIN AND TROTSKY AT ITS HEAD. Like the Commune, the Soviets had to fight both its domestic and foreign enemies. However, the counter-revolutionary forces of the land-

lords and capitalists at home would have collapsed immediately had they not been supplied with money, arms and armies by nearly every capitalist country on earth, including the great western democracies. On all its borders Soviet Russia was attacked by armies of intervention sent to crush the workers' government.

This time the count was called with the capitalist forces on the mat. The Soviets were triumphant. War-weary, in a war-ravaged country, against superhuman obstacles, the Russian workers, peasants and soldiers rose to superb heights of human endeavor—not to "sacrifice" for the benefit of another class, but to save their own Soviets. Military force could not conquer the Soviets. It took the internal counter-revolutionary treachery of Stalin to take away from the Soviets everything that had made it a workers' government, leaving nothing but a meaningless, empty name.

What made the Soviets under Lenin and Trotsky a government of the workers, by the workers and for the workers?

THE SOVIETS—AND HOW THEY WORKED

There was a Soviet in every city, village, district and county of Russia. The delegates to the Soviets were elected right from the shops and unions. The peasants of a district elected their delegates. The soldiers and sailors of a regiment elected theirs.

It was an industrial republic with an occupational vote for everyone who worked. It, therefore, included clerks, teachers, engineers, scientific workers. It excluded from voting capitalists, coupon clippers, parasitic politicians, all the exploiters of labor. Still, 95 per cent of the Russian people could vote in the Soviets—which reveals that prior to the November revolution 95 per cent of the people had been under the heel of 5 per cent. In the United States, which enjoys so-called "universal suffrage," what with one restriction and another—including the poll-tax—approximately only 65 per cent of the people can vote.

How did the workers control their delegates in the Soviets? Very eas-

ily. The factory whistle sounded to call a meeting of the workers. They met to instruct their delegates as to their wishes or to criticize their conduct in the Soviet or to replace them by electing new delegates. The All-Russian Assembly of Soviets was made up of representatives from all the local Soviets—representatives coming directly from the factories, farms and regiments—and subject to similar control by the workers, peasants and soldiers.

The highest salary of any official in the Soviet Government was 600 rubles a month—or \$60, plus \$10 for each non-earning member of the family. Thus, for instance, Trotsky, as Commissar of War and head of the Red Army, received \$90 a month for himself, his wife and his two children. His long imperialist war and the exhausting civil war had reduced the whole country to abject poverty. Under the Soviet Government of Lenin and Trotsky nobody was going to eat cake before everybody had bread. There were no political plums to pick in the Soviets—NOT UNTIL STALIN TOOK AWAY THEIR BASE IN THE FACTORIES AND UNIONS, LEFT ONLY THE MISUSED NAME, AND MADE OF THEM THE HUNTING GROUNDS FOR CARRERISTS.

From barren bedrock, the Soviet Government began to function in the interests of the workers and peasants. It made peace. It made public the secret treaties of the lying, double-faced diplomats of the old regimes. It gave self-determination to the national minorities subjected to the Czar. The land went to the peasants who tilled it—THE IDLE RICH LANDLORDS BEING EXPROPRIATED.

In weeks the Soviet Government effected more social reforms than capitalism—even at its zenith—could accomplish in decades. The thousands of palaces, fine homes and public buildings theretofore reserved for the rich and for their politicians were opened as living quarters for the crowded people. Women were given the same rights as men, plus special care as mothers. People's courts were set up in place of the former courts of class rule. To spread knowledge into minds dark-

ened by ages of poverty and oppression, the Soviets opened thousands of schools, libraries, workers' theaters and published Soviet newspapers in the remotest parts of the vast country.

LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR SOCIALIST SOCIETY

Finally the Soviet Government under Lenin and Trotsky took decisive steps to end capitalist economic power and laid the groundwork for a socialist society—which is the conclusive test of a workers' government. All natural resources, forests, mines, waterways, all means of transportation and communication, were nationalized under the Soviet Government. Foreign trade—out of which capitalists make profit and for which wars are fought—was taken over by the workers' government to serve the general good. Many basic industries, factories and shops became the property of the Soviets and were placed under workers' control. Those factories which for good reasons were not immediately taken away from their private owners, were also placed under workers' control.

In those early days of the Soviet Government, Trotsky explained workers' control as follows:

"I mean by control that we will see to it that the factory is run not from the point of view of private profit, but from the point of view of the social welfare.... For example, we will not allow the capitalist to shut up his factory in order to starve his workmen into submission, or because it is not yielding him a profit. If it is turning out economically a needed product, it must be kept running. If the capitalist gives it up, he will lose it altogether, for a board of directors chosen by the workmen will be put in charge."

"Again, control implies that the books and correspondence of the concern will be open to the public, so that henceforth there will be no industrial secrets. If this concern hits upon a better process or device, it will be given to other concerns in the same branch of industry. Thus the public will promptly realize the utmost possible benefit from the find."

These were all measures of a socialist nature. All were giant strides toward the socialist society of peace and plenty for all. Only a workers' government—from which capitalist exploiters and all their ilk are excluded—can kick profits down the stairs and ascend to the higher social level of human needs. THIS

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT UNDER LENIN AND TROTSKY DID.

The next article will tie up the lessons of the two workers' governments of the past with our problems today. A later article will contrast the Stalinist government with a real workers' government.

Seamen Receive Another Wage Cut

The men who furnish the supply-line for this global war at the price of their own lives have just received their second wage cut within the last six months. The War Shipping Administration was issued a directive, eliminating the \$125 port bonus for ports which are considered dangerous for shipping and subject to air attack. Instead, the WSA has ordered the payment of the bonus only if the port is bombed while the ship is there. In other words, you have to practically die or suffer injuries before you get your \$125. In place of this bonus, the WSA has instituted a \$5.00-a-day bonus. This followed another slice taken out of the seamen's envelope when the WSA combined single ports into "areas" with bonus paid only for sailing to the "area."

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Editorials

Karl Marx

On March 14, 1883, Karl Marx died. Today, sixty years later, the influence of this great teacher is as potent, as alive, as it was on the day of his death—in fact, immeasurably more so. That Karl Marx's teachings today haunt crumbling capitalism with the specter of their revolutionary inspiration to the toilers of the world is proof of their indestructibility and truth.

It is impossible to convey in a single issue, or even in a dozen issues of LABOR ACTION, the vast heritage of socialist teaching and imperishable guidance that Marx left the working class. There were socialists before Marx. There were great leaders of the people. But Marx, one of the greatest creative thinkers of all time, built the edifice of scientific socialism. Other socialist teachers have enriched the heritage of Marxism, but they were able to do so only by drawing on the fertile ground of Marxian knowledge and methodology. It is itself a tribute to the everlasting richness of Marxism that new generations can draw from it new harvests of socialist thought to meet new experiences and problems.

With an unsurpassed talent Marx subjected capitalist society to penetrating and painstaking analysis. In his great work, Capital, Marx delved into the very workings of capitalist society, discovered its laws of operation, traced its pattern of development, subjected it to withering scientific criticism, demonstrated unchallengeably that the only way forward for society is through socialism, and constructed the program of its victory.

Countless champions of capitalist thought and exploitation have attempted to destroy the Marxian edifice. More books, articles and speeches than can be counted have been written in a vain endeavor to destroy the teachings of Marx and his great co-worker and co-thinker, Friedrich Engels. Invariably, except as they live in academic cloisters, these books have been forgotten, their theories found incapable of standing up against the Marxian logic. To this very day, the presses keep grinding out "answers" to Marx, but not one is any more effective than the thousands that have preceded it. Nobody has yet been able to produce a more scientific, more satisfactory, more unassailable explanation of capitalist society, how it works and what it lead to, than Karl Marx.

More and more, capitalist economists and historians have borrowed from the wealth of Marxism. Of course they often deny the debt and always withdraw from his conclusions—but these conclusions are not a separate part of his work. They are intertwined and inextricable from his investigation of society. Yes, Marx was a great scholar. But he was more than that. He was a fiery socialist agitator—because socialist agitation was the fruit, the meaning and the lifeblood of his scholarly investigations.

As a young man, Marx hurled his brilliant Communist Manifesto at the tyrants and exploiters of the world. And these ty-

rants and exploiters have not ceased quaking yet. Millions of copies of the Manifesto have been spread and read by succeeding generations who have been fired with proletarian courage and revolutionary hope by the wealth of material contained in its few pages. The Communist Manifesto spoke the program of man's struggle against want and oppression. And it spoke it in the language of deepest knowledge and fervent conviction.

So long as society is fettered by misery and oppression of any kind, workers of every race and nationality will look to Karl Marx's teachings for guidance. And long after the social system of exploitation has given way to the beauty of emancipated humanity, will men look to the work of the creative genius of scientific socialism for the weapons of social analysis.

It frightens the rulers of the world, frightens them because the teachings of Karl Marx go thundering down through history with the message of human emancipation in socialist victory.

"You Have Nothing to Lose but Your Chains. You have a World to Win. Working Men of All Countries, Unite!"

Oil for Fascism

The character of this war is best revealed by the bed-fellows it brings together. The North African scandal was one instance. Another is the Spanish scandal.

It is a fact that supplies from the United States are going to Franco. Among them are cotton, food and oil. Also from North Africa, ores and other materials for war production continue to be sent across the Mediterranean to Franco—in spite of United Nations control of North Africa. Unquestionably, at least some of these supplies eventually get to Herr Hitler himself.

Presumably it is the policy of the United States to "appease" Franco—to keep him "neutral" even at the expense of giving material aid to fascism, and Nazism. Presumably also it is part of that policy for Carlton Hayes, Ambassador to Spain from the "arsenal of democracy," to throw bouquets at Franco, the fascist murderer of the Spanish people.

We also know from reading the papers that Edgar A. Mowrer, on resigning his job in the Office of War Information recently, accused Robert Murphy, the President's diplomatic representative in North Africa and more or less boss of that region of the world, of being one of America's pro-fascists. No wonder he favors Franco.

Furthermore, our memory is good enough to recall that the United States government maintained a strictly "neutral" policy in the Spanish civil war that really aided the Spanish fascists while they were getting plenty of guns, tanks and planes from Hitler and Mussolini. Many of the State Department officials, "neutral" in 1936-39, are still in the State Department—still "neutral" and implementing their "neutrality" with oil for the tanks of fascism.

Sparks in the News

By Everett Weston

"Goebbels has banned Germany's recent song hit, 'Es Geht Alles Vorueber' (It'll All Be Over, Some Day). Citizens made up new lyrics in which they comforted themselves that what would be over some day was Hitler and his party."—Time.

Time, and the boss press generally, ought to make up their minds about the German people. They pick up eagerly such indications of anti-fascist or incipient revolt. But the conclusion they draw is that the Germans are a militaristic "race," that they have been planning world conquest since before the Crusades, that this time the job of extinguishing them must be done thoroughly.

"Heinrich Himmler, head of all German police, has prohibited the use of unsuitable names for police horses... A Swiss farmer had given his ox the name of Adolf and this created quite a diplomatic situation. It seems this dangerous practice is now found even among the mounted German police."—New York Times quoting the Swedish newspaper, Trots Allt.

What about donkeys?

"An international bank of cooperation, with an international cartel or monopoly on the world's critical materials, was suggested today by Representative Charles S. Dewey, as a solution for lend-lease debts and post-war rehabilitation problems... The United States would control 51 per cent of the shares in the bank and the rest of the Allied nations 49 per cent... An American would be head director. The central headquarters would be in the United States and the stockpiles of critical materials would be moved to the United States 'as rapidly as possible.'"—UP dispatch.

Dewey said that Herbert Lehman, director of rehabilitation, knows of his plan, but he does not know whether it has yet received government approval. Mr. Lehman is a member of Lehman Bros., international banking firm.

Bills have been introduced into both houses of Congress for post-war compulsory military training at 18. One difference between this war and the last is that you never hear the slogan, "The War to End All Wars."

Bausch & Lomb, accused with reason of collaboration with the Nazis, was one of the first firms to receive the Navy "E." It recently received a third star to add to its pennant.

"Approximately 500 employees of the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyards... were suspended for a day. The company had posted a warning that men who punched out within one minute of quitting time would be suspended, on the assumption that they had been standing around waiting for the exact quitting time... The penalty imposed involved the Saturday time and a half rate, but the general manager said that the additional compensation did not enter into the company's decision to take action today."—AP dispatch from Baltimore.

"The increasing probability that Mr. Roosevelt will submit to drafting for a fourth term..."—The Nation.

"The recent strike in the tin mines of Bolivia, which caused a national stage of siege and even involved our State Department, resulted chiefly from the company's refusal to double the workers' wages by paying them four cents instead of two cents an hour, although the mines have returned at least \$500,000,000 to their owner."—Collier's.

"Wheat Prices Rise to a 14-Year Peak."—New York Times headline.

"Rumania has offered to transfer 70,000 Jews the United Nations may provide for them... Already excuses for delay are being offered: shortage of shipping, danger of spies. But Rumania agrees to provide the shipping and... each case can be examined... The shocking fact about Rumania's offer is that although it was made well over a month ago, no reply has yet been given to it. The very news of the offer was held up for five full weeks—weeks during which the Nazis have continued to butcher their victims at the rate of many thousands a day..."

"If the United Nations fail to an-

swer promptly and unequivocally now, they will make themselves, morally, partners in Hitler's unspeakable crimes."—New Republic.

The phrase "partners in Hitler's unspeakable crimes" would have been impossible in the New Republic only a few months ago. Pearl Buck, Mowrer, Koestler—the list of pro-war liberals who have found India and North Africa too bitter to swallow grows.

"I have a thousand letters asking me to return to being chairman of the National Democratic Committee. Thirty per cent of these are from Republicans."—Edward J. Flynn.

"One thing that can be predicted with confidence about 1943 is that the war will dominate the current business picture."—Editorial in Business Week.

"New Masses is planning a special issue in connection with the 200th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson on April 13. We are offering a prize of \$25 for the poem which best expresses the spirit of Jefferson in terms of the issues of the day."

For our readers who would like to compete, we offer an excellent beginning:

1. No one has been Jeffersonier since the 22nd day in June...

"The attempt to draft labor is... impossible and dangerous... As long as our present industrial organization maintains, industry is in the hands of millions of private employers. It is operated for profit to them. The employee therefore serves in private industry operating for gain. Enforced and involuntary service for a private master is and has been clearly and repeatedly defined by our Supreme Court as slavery."—Bernard M. Baruch in 1931.

Sweden called up part of her army on March 1.

"Amendment of the National Labor Relations Act was urged today by the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce as a means of preventing the United Mine Workers from absorbing supervisory coal company employees into the union. The Chamber termed the UMWA's announced plan to sign up all mine foremen and clerks on April 1 as a 'threatened catastrophe' which would leave only mine managers and superintendents responsible to the employer rather than to union leaders."—AP dispatch from Charleston, W. Va.

STALINISM:

The Murder Machine Adds Two Victims

By R. Fahen

Stalin has added two additional victims to the long list of working class leaders whom he has murdered—this time, Ehrlich and Alter, the Polish-Jewish socialist leaders. It has become a sort of gruesome roll of working class honor, this list of martyrs who fell before Stalin's firing squads. And anyone with a spark of socialist idealism still burning inside of him, or anyone with just a bit of plain human decency, must have been filled with a sense of indignation when the news of this latest of Stalin's murders was broadcast. The death of Ehrlich and Alter has, of course, a significance far beyond the fact that they, the two individuals, the two leaders of Polish socialism, are no more. (That, too, let it be said, is important: human life, we socialists must reassert, DOES have value, is not merely the pawn of omnipotent states and rulers.)

The special significance of this latest frame-up and murder is in the fact that it comes at the very time that the popularity of Stalin's regime with the liberals and intellectuals of this country is at its peak, at the very time when there are whole brigades of apologetic whitewashers painting the Stalinist regime as the model of socialism and democracy and depicting Stalin as a mellow, wise and silent genius.

The murder of Ehrlich and Alter interrupts the completion of the movie, "Mission to Moscow," which is scheduled to be the apology par excellence for the Moscow Trials specifically and the Stalinist dictatorship generally.

BIGGER AND MORE FANTASTIC THE LIE

The details of the Alter-Ehrlich case have been reported previously in this paper. All that needs concern us is this: Alter and Ehrlich were two internationally known socialist leaders, men of unquestioned integrity. When the Polish government fled they organized workers' resistance to the Nazis. Captured by Stalin's armies, they were thrown into one of the concentration camps which the "workers' state" has established. From THERE—how ironic in retrospect—they urged the Polish workers to support Stalin's war effort. Part of their manifesto was even printed in Pravda. Yet, last winter they were murdered by the Stalinist state. The partial political capitulation which their support of Stalin's war represented availed them little; it was double or nothing with Uncle Joe.

Ambassador Litvinov and his American parrot, the Daily Worker, now say that they were agents of the GPU and "pro-Nazis." (When Stalin was still in league with Hitler, Alter and Ehrlich were accused of being agents of the Sikorski Polish government!)

Why were Alter and Ehrlich killed? It is difficult to give a categorical answer. Undoubtedly they knew too much; they had seen too much of the erstwhile collaboration of Stalin and Hitler. Of course, no one, including the Stalinists themselves, takes seriously the nonsense about Ehrlich and Alter being Nazi agents. That kind of propaganda is based on Hitler's principle: the bigger and more fantastic the lie, the more people will believe it.

A more fundamental reason for the murder of these two Polish socialists is, we believe, this: They were ideological opponents of Stalinism within the working class movement, the existence of which opponents Stalinism refuses to admit. The Stalinists refuse to admit the possibility of honest, sincere disagreements within the working class. Either knuckle under to Stalinist domination, that is to say, give up the right to think for yourself or else face slander, calumny, assassination and, if you happen to reside in the "workers' state," imprisonment and death. Those who dare to dissent (there is no such word in the Stalinist dictionary) will be called pro-Nazis or some such drivel. What does the truth mean to such people? ... There is always the firing squad to fall back on.

Despite the appeals of the American labor movement, of Wendell Willkie and many others, Stalin found it necessary to slaughter these two socialists. He has shown here once more for all to see—and let us not be the last to learn this!—that his regime has nothing in common with decency, justice or democratic methods, not to mention socialism. There wasn't even a pretense at holding a trial or presenting evidence in this case: the "Holy Father" has spoken—and that should be enough for the faithful.

STALINISM—A PRODUCT OF CORRUPTION

Stalin has shown here that his regime, in its political methodology, differs in no essential respect from fascism and Hitlerism. They are both the products of decay and corruption. Only, fascism is utilized by capitalist society as a means of survival while the working class must destroy Stalinism if it is to survive as a free movement. Both have developed similar methodology, ethics and totalitarian approach; even though they differ with regard to the structure of their economic organization and their social origin.

Alter and Ehrlich apparently stood up as men, choosing death rather than the prostitution of their ideas. For that, despite the gravity of the differences which we have with those ideas, we cannot pay them too high honor. Let their tragic death be a lesson to those who allow themselves to be swept away by the military victories of Stalin's armies: Stalinism is the corruption, the totalitarian poison which has grown up in a working class disheartened by an epoch of defeats. Stalinism is not socialism; it is its very opposite. Stalinism is not a "workers' state"; it is a workers' prison, a prison of both the workers' bodies and minds.

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Tax Bill--

(Continued from page 1)

profits and scot-free of taxes.

Again, allowances for depletion are taken off profits. These have no relation to actual depletion. As an illustration, for the year 1941 a number of big oil companies claimed \$30,000,000 for depletion against profits, when the actual depletion carried on their own books was only \$6,100,000, or about one-fifth the amount claimed.

And here is a miscellaneous list of how profits are tucked away under various categories and not taxed:

Utility companies are permitted to make deductions from profits for dividends—WHICH ARE PROFITS—on their preferred stock.

No excess profits tax at all is paid by companies producing antimony, manganese, tin and other scarce materials.

Lumber mill owners, coal and iron mine owners receive a tax rebate on profits out of increased production.

Because of fancy exemptions, insurance companies with \$30,000,000,000 of assets and over \$1,000,000,000 of income pay a mere \$700,000 in TOTAL taxes.

All corporations will get a 10 per cent post-war rebate from the government on excess profits taxes paid for 1942 to tide them over the lean years.

The above shows how the 1942 tax bill continued the good old practice of letting the HAVES get more—while the HAVE-NOTS are permitted to give more.

THIS IS THE UNPRINCIPLED PRINCIPLE MOTIVATING THE LAW MAKERS NOW IN A Huddle OVER THE NEW 1943 TAX BILL.

Let 'Em Eat Tallow!

By MELVIN STRONG

AKRON—A serious meat shortage was "relieved" here recently by a large packer from Chicago, who sent to the local butchers 160,000 pounds of hamburger, which, upon analysis, contained fifty per cent tallow.

This tallow sells to the local rendering plants at about four cents a pound, but when it was sold to the local meat dealers it brought twenty-six cents a pound. A nice little gouge game for the large packer.

The remaining fifty per cent of this "hamburger-hamburger" was the cheapest of meat, shank, flank, brisket and belly walls.

The story, as related in the Akron Beacon Journal, led one to believe that it was the butchers who were being gypped, but it must be perfectly obvious that it was the housewives and workers and consumers generally who were the ones who paid a high price for this concoction, for, after all, the dealers still expected to get their profit out of it.

Situations such as this are not at all unusual; similar steals have been made in other types of foods and other communities.

The Akron Industrial Union Council has asked the government to halt the sale of such inferior meats in the Akron area and the council's committee on rationing and price stabilization is advocating the establishment of ceiling prices on livestock.

The point of this whole matter is that any shoddy food will be shoved off on the workers and consumers to make as large a profit as possible; and the workers and consumers must organize themselves into committees to enforce price ceilings and health standards and quality of foods.

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- Wage increases to meet rising costs. No wage or job freezing! Equal pay for equal work!
- For a greater share of the increasing national income. For a higher standard of living!
- No sales tax on consumer goods! No tax on wages! Against forced savings!
- For control of price fixing and rationing by committees of working class organizations, housewives and farmers' organizations. Freeze rents and consumer goods prices at the 1940 level to stop the rise in the cost of living.
- No government contract without a union contract! The closed shop in all war industries!
- Maintain and increase all government social services!
- SOAK THE RICH—LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!
- A government levy on capital to cover the cost of the imperialist war. Confiscate all war profits!
- Conscript all war industries under workers' control!
- Expropriate the "Sixty Families"—the three percent of the people who own 96 per cent of the national wealth!

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- The right of free speech, free press and free assembly for the men in the armed forces.
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- The right of all youth, male or female, to vote at the age of eighteen. Old enough to fight; old enough to work; old enough to vote!
- For adequate dependency allowances paid by the government with NO deductions from the soldier's pay.

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- Down with Jim Crow and anti-Semitism! All discrimination against Negroes in the Army and Navy or by employers in industry must be made a criminal offense!
- For full political, social and economic equality for Negroes!

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- For an Independent Labor Party and a Workers' Government! No political support to the Roosevelt government!
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- For a World Socialist Federation! Only a socialist world will destroy capitalist imperialism and fascist barbarism!