

By David Coolidge

MASS ACTION:

JOTTINGS FROM A CROSS-COUNTRY TOUR

I have been trying to follow the transactions of the World Trade Union Conference, meeting in London, but this is extremely difficult when one is located in Los Angeles. There are no newspapers here that make any pretense at an adequate coverage of national and international events.

that a little "Japanese imperialism" in China, for instance, might not be so bad. American scrap dealers, for example, some day might find themselves with a surplus of scrap iron which the Japanese might be willing to take off their hands at a good stiff price.

U. S. AND JAPAN

IFTU AND FASCISM

At any rate, it seems that the London Conference, composed of the British Trade Union Congress, the CIO and Stalin's GPU, has been giving attention to the problem of what to do with Germany after the armies of Russia and the United Nations have pitched their tents in Berlin.

Carey, in his speech to the Conference, said that the CIO is in accord with the views of Citrine that "strong measures must be taken to assure the complete destruction of every vestige of fascism and of Japanese imperialism."



chain the workers to the private profit "free enterprise" factories of du Pont, Morgan, Stettinius and Rockefeller? Hitler organized a labor front, too, which chained the German workers to the private profit capitalist factories of Krupp and Goering.

Will Stalin say that he is destroying "every vestige of fascism" when he sends his bloody GPU to rule over the Romanians, Hungarians, Poles, Estonians and Lithuanians? Or when he transports hundreds of thousands of Polish workers to Russia and keeps them at forced labor?

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

These are things for workers in the U. S. to think about. This is something for Murray, Carey, Hillman and every labor leader to think over. They act as though the world and all its problems were only a vast taffy-pulling contest. They talk about wiping out "every vestige of fascism" by defeating Germany, just as though fascism were a private monopoly of Hitler, invented by him and never dreamed of by any capitalist in any other country in the world.

Murray has called for the revival of the PAC clubs and committees. Just ordinary militant workers might consider demanding a discussion on these important questions in the meetings of the national PAC, in every local union and in every local PAC committee.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Notes on the National Wage Crises

By WALTER WEISS

Back on October 11, at a "stormy" session of the WLB, public and industry members voted that they would make no recommendation at all to the President about the Little Steel formula.

Why not? Because they didn't have enough information as to the effects a change might have on prices. The President could rely on other experts for that, they said.

The labor members accused the public members of timidity, failure to do their duty, etc.

The problem for WLB public members was: how to explain away that ten per cent gyping workers are taking, even according to government figures.

Simple! Just add incentive bonuses, faster wartime promotions, night shift premiums and a few other things to base wage rates.

Now wage rates are up 36.7 per cent, and workers are seven per cent to the good, instead of ten per cent to the bad.

BOSSSES RAKE IT IN

WLB and other government agencies insist that wartime taxes should not be included in the cost of living (at least, not the worker's cost of living). BUT—night shift premiums, upgrading, etc., will largely disappear at the end of the war.

for the corporations and the rich?

According to the newspaper PM, the WLB report does mention, way back in an appendix, that profits are higher than ever before in history—even after taxes.

Corporate profits before taxes rose from about two and a half billions in 1938 to almost twenty-three billions in 1943, an increase of about 800 per cent.

Profits after taxes were one and a half billions in 1938 and nine billions in 1943, an increase of 500 per cent.

This doesn't even take into account the big tax refunds the companies—not you—are entitled to.

Yet the WLB is sure that wage increases would require price rises.

ACTING FOR FDR

During the past year the WLB's boss (we mean Roosevelt himself) made it clear again and again that

he was quite satisfied with the wage and price situation.

We'll gladly furnish exact references to anybody who wants them. His campaign speech was one example.

During this whole period he was supposed to be waiting for WLB reports before making up his mind.

The WLB public members say that workers are worried about the future and that this causes job shifting, which will become even worse later on.

They don't think that the way to remedy the situation would be by general wage increases, which might cause a terrible inflation.

What, then, is to be done? They don't mention it, according to newspaper reports, but they doubtless have in mind the labor draft.

LISTEN TO BUNKUM

Monday through Friday, J. Raymond Walsh, big research brain of the CIO, gives a news commentary over Radio Station WMCA, New York, 7:30 p.m. He was boiling mad about the Little Steel report.

They ought to resign from the WLB, he said. Who? Believe it or not, the public members! (Not a word about the CIO members.)

Why the public members? Perhaps because they're capitalist agents? No, they're fine, "honorable" men, but Byrnes and Vinson have put terrific pressure on them. They shouldn't stand for it.

They have become objects of ridicule. Not the labor leaders, mind you, but the public members. They should have resigned some time ago, when Vinson took their power to pass on fringe demands from them.

Say, Brother Walsh, who's being paid by the workers to fight for them—the public members or the labor members?

HELEN JUDD

The sad news of the death of Comrade Helen Judd has just reached us from Chicago. This seventy-one-year-old revolutionary socialist died of a heart attack en route to a meeting. Her death is indeed a great loss to the socialist movement.

Comrade Judd was well known in the workers' movement of Chicago. During the last war she was ousted as a teacher in the public school system because of her outspoken anti-war views. Her case became widely known and received strong support from the entire labor movement.

She was in the left wing of the Socialist Party, an early member of the Communist Party at a time when it was truly a workers' organization. In 1929 she was expelled from that party for demanding a democratic discussion on the views of Leon Trotsky. Helen Judd thereafter became a charter member of the Communist League of American and continued ever since as an active participant in the political movement.

At the time of her death she was a member of the Socialist Workers Party, an organization adhering to the views of Leon Trotsky.

The working class movement will miss this fine comrade—a devoted and honest fighter in behalf of socialism and world freedom.

They're Kidding About War Criminals--

(Continued from page 1) criminals. They consistently hold up the Soviet government as a model, using that country's very aggressive statements as proof that they do have the intention of punishing war criminals.

A little closer attention to the facts, however, reveals that the Soviet regime is just as indisposed to bring war criminals to trial as are the other imperialist partners in this war. The Russians have whole crews of the most famous top generals of the Nazi regime in Moscow. What have they done with them? Put them up in fine Moscow hotels and organized them into a "German National Committee" and if Stalin finds it necessary plans to present these highly placed fascists to the German people as their "new" rulers.

Russian aggressiveness toward the German people has, in fact, quite another purpose. It is aimed not at the top fascists, but is rather a deliberate campaign to whip up mass hate and hysteria against the German workers so that the "democratic" world can be influenced to tolerate the Russian plan to enslave the German workers and ship them off to Russia.

As has been pointed out before in LABOR ACTION, the Allies, Russia included, are more frightened about what the European workers will do than they are about leaving the war criminals where they are now—in key positions. They need the war criminals and ex-collaborationists to carry on as before for the Allies. The Allies have emasculated the War Crimes Commission which they themselves set up a few years ago in the honeymoon of the Atlantic Charter period.

A dispatch from Germany reveals the pattern that Allied occupation of that country will take: "The military government is carefully weeding out those with Nazi Party affiliations

among the Germans it must employ, but the conviction is growing among officers who have been on duty in occupied territory that such affiliation is not necessarily the most vital criterion. . . . No attempt whatever is being made to back any ostensibly anti-Nazi group, however; nor are attempts at widespread re-education in Germany likely until after hostilities cease and the United States-Russian-British-French Central Control Commission, which is to sit in Berlin, takes over the military government. Serious pursuit of war criminals will also probably have to wait until then."—New York Times.

WLB Holds to FDR Wage Freeze--

(Continued from page 1) from the WLB. The union's executive board has released part of the membership from the no-strike pledge. These long overdue steps were taken even before the Little Steel report, mainly in protest against Vinson's holding up the WLB's fifty-five cent minimum and other small concessions to the textile workers.

These steps were taken, as Rieve said, in response to tremendous pressure from the ranks.

At the time this is written, there are reports that the CIO executive board will soon meet. Philip Murray is quoted as describing the situation as "simply intolerable," but, at the same time, as calling for careful observance of the no-strike pledge "now, more than ever."

Their whole record indicates that our ever-so-patriotic labor leaders will be satisfied to have "power" restored to the WLB—power to grant "fringe demands." They hope either for this or some other cheap compromise to save their faces.

immediate, minimum program:
1. Resignation of all labor members from the WLB.
2. Unconditional scrapping of the no-strike pledge.
The workers should organize, as the Rank and File Caucus in the United Auto Workers has already done, to bring back fighting unionism and put an end to disastrous retreats.

Out of the Past Samuel Gompers, Labor Lieutenant of Capital

By RUTH PHILLIPS
In December, 1886, at Columbus, Ohio, a number of national trade union representatives came together and founded the American Federation of Labor, with Samuel Gompers as its first president.

under Gompers' leadership by utilizing the division and prejudices in the ranks of labor.
The left wing in the labor movement called Gompers "labor skate" and "sell-out artist." Most apt of all, the socialist, Daniel De Leon, called him and his kind "the labor lieutenants of capitalism."

in modern industry, industrial union organization became a crying necessity for the growth of the labor movement. Gompers continued to ignore the growing army of unskilled and unorganized workers. Instead, he devoted his attention to such projects as the National Civic Federation, of which he was vice-president, while August Belmont, a leading capitalist, was president. There Gompers fostered "harmony" between labor and capital.

But Gompers, a shrewd and energetic man, was essentially a conservative, completely lacking in that social vision which distinguished his two chief contemporaries and rivals in the labor movement, Gene Debs and Bill Haywood.



A UNION OF CRAFTSMEN
In the 1880's, when the AFL was formed, industry was not yet organized on the mass production basis of today. A big percentage of the workers were craftsmen, proud of their skill and able to command higher wages and better conditions than their unskilled brothers.

Perhaps the most flagrant sell-out of all was in 1919, when Gompers, by withdrawing his support and conniving with President Wilson and the American Federation of Labor in the eighties would have created a powerful union movement in America. Instead, the two organizations fought each other. The K. of L. perished in the struggle.

IGNORING UNSKILLED WORKERS
Gompers saw his chance in the division between the skilled and unskilled. His aim was to organize powerful craft unions whose concern was simply with getting higher wages and better conditions for the skilled minority.

From 1900 to 1914 the AFL grew from 600,000 to 2,000,000 members. But already the progress of modern industry was passing the AFL by, as craft skills became less of a factor

NEW YORK FORUM
SUBJECT: ROOSEVELT VERSUS LABOR
PROSPECTS FOR LABOR IN THE FOURTH TERM
THE MEANING OF NATIONAL SERVICE
SPEAKER: REVA GRAINE Organizer of Workers Party, Local New York
Irving Plaza Sunday, March 11
15th St. & Irving Place 8:15 p.m.
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION
Auspices: Workers Party, Local New York Adm. 25 Cents

SAN PEDRO HARBOR AREA
Month Calendar of Events
by Friends of Labor Action
SPEAKER
DAVID COOLIDGE
LABOR ACTION COLUMNIST
Labor Secretary of the Workers Party
March 9th 8:00 p.m.
A MILITANT PROGRAM FOR THE TRADE UNIONS
March 23rd 8:00 p.m.
SOCIALISM AND A WORKERS' GOVERNMENT
ADMISSION FREE
March 31—Saturday Nite Party
Celebrating
APRIL FOOL'S DAY
AT 1039 S. MEYLER—Cor. 11th—SAN PEDRO

L. A. Business Manager's
PRESS ACTION
By Sol Rayo
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