

Work for a Workers World;
Join the Workers Party!

LABOR ACTION

SEPTEMBER 29, 1947

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIALISM

FIVE CENTS

Workers Party Asks Protest on Arrest Of Polish Socialists

The arrest and threatened execution of some thirty leading Polish Socialists by the Stalinist regime in Warsaw brings to the attention of the world labor movement the systematic campaign of police terror by which the Stalinists aim to eliminate all opponents of their plan to force Poland ruthlessly into a totalitarian straightjacket.

The men who have been marked as the victims of the first large-scale political frame-up represent that section of the Polish Socialist movement which has refused to be either seduced or browbeaten into support of the pro-Russian Quisling regime. As can be seen from the records of the eleven victims whose identity is known, the arrested Socialists represent years of active participation in the struggles of the Polish labor movement. Some have records that go back to the struggles against Czarism, while all have taken an active part in the anti-Nazi underground during the German occupation. As a result, their prestige among the workers causes the Stalinists to regard them as especially dangerous enemies.

The Stalinists have chosen to strike first at the most left wing sector of the political opposition because they are fully aware of the fact that their totalitarian plans can only be realized after they have crushed all working class opposition and succeeded in regimenting labor in a government-controlled labor movement.

This fear of the Socialist opposition was voiced in the *Robotnik*, organ of the pro-Stalinist Socialist Party which masquerades as the genuine Polish Socialist Party (PPS). Julian Hochfeld, chairman of the Government Socialists' parliamentary group, wrote as follows:

"The underground, including—perhaps even first and foremost—the underground, which masquerades as 'socialist' or infiltrates into the ranks of the working class movement—is an instrument of political crime which we are combating and shall continue to combat without quarter or respite."

The Stalinists also bank upon the knowledge that the execution of their Socialist opponents will not bring forth a protest movement led by the American State Department and supported by the reactionary press, such as would be the case if the victims were conservative opponents of the Stalinists.

The accusations against the arrested Socialists run the usual gamut of Stalinist police charges such as having "maintained close contact with the Anders' intelligence network," "supplied a foreign intelligence service with espionage material and cooperated in the organization of terrorist activities," and "provoked strikes of a diversionary character, sent agents into workers' mass organizations, caused unhealthy unrest, indulged in anti-Soviet whispering campaigns, provoked war-mindedness, etc."

A release from the London emigre headquarters of the Polish Socialists comments on the accusations as follows:

"Monstrous as they are, these accusations show the gravity of the case. The Warsaw correspondent of the Manchester Guardian has reported that these Socialists are to be brought most probably before a military court, despite the fact that they are civilians. Two years after the cessation of hostilities in Europe, would-be political offenses in Poland may be still brought before military tribunals, which usually hold their sessions in camera, within the prison walls. According to the same correspondent, the accused Socialists may be liable to capital punishment. This threat cannot be taken lightly. As was proved in the case of the two Polish-Jewish Socialist leaders, Henryk Ellich and Victor Alter, executed in Russia in December, 1941, under the shameful pretext of working for Nazi Germany, neither the absurdity of the charges nor the integrity of the accused constitutes a sufficient defense or guarantee that a crime will not be committed against these innocent men."

DEFENSE OF SOCIALISTS AN ELEMENTARY DUTY

The views of the Workers Party on the situation in Poland have been repeatedly set forth in considerable detail in these pages and in the monthly theoretical organ, *The New Internationalist*. It is our opinion that the revolutionary Marxists must give support to all popular and democratic forces in Poland that are engaged in the struggle against the Warsaw Quisling regime, while subjecting all these forces to political criticism from the point of view of the Marxist program. The crying need in Poland, today, as is the case in most of Europe, is the organization of a revolutionary Marxist party with wide support among the working masses. The most likely place where such a party can find its origin is in the independent socialist movement, in the form of its left wing.

For the revolutionary Marxists, therefore, the defense of the arrested Socialists is not only an elementary duty based on international labor solidarity and concern for democratic rights everywhere, but a defense of the movement in whose ranks lies the greatest promise for the re-creation of a genuine revolutionary Socialist Party in Poland.

The Workers Party calls upon all organizations concerned with the democratic and socialist struggle against Stalinist dictatorship to join their forces for a united protest movement on behalf of the arrested Polish Socialists.

Polish Socialists Appeal For International Help

The following is the text of an appeal we have received from the Polish Socialist Party Delegation for Abroad:

At the end of May and the beginning of June, 1947, arrests were carried out by the secret police in Poland of veteran socialist leaders—including some who had joined the Government Socialist Party. Among the victims were Kazimierz Puzak (secretary general of the Socialist Party before and during the war and chairman of the underground Parliament during the German occupation) and Jozef Dziegielewski (secretary of the Warsaw branch of the Socialist Party before and during the war).

All the names are not yet known, but the majority of these comrades have a record of long years of work and struggle under the banner of socialism. They were in the forefront of the resistance to the Germans carried out by the underground Polish Socialist Party which—for reasons of security—had at that time adopted the name of the WRN (Freedom, Equality, Independence). And today, it is these self-sacrificing and devoted leaders who are held in the cells of the Security (political) Police.

The slanderous and utterly false accusations of espionage brought against them by these Communist tools are intended to justify their arraignment before military tribunals and condemnation to penal servitude or even death. But they in fact betray the fear which Poland's present-day dictators feel toward men who have remained faithful to the ideals of socialism and democracy and who, though banished from political life, have yet remained a living symbol of independent democratic socialist thought and the embodiment of hope for the terrorized working masses of Poland. This is the true reason why the Security Police cover them with abuse and leave them to rot in their cellars—so that they may more easily strangle the Polish working classes and force them into subservience.

Are we facing an attempt to re-enact in Poland the Moscow "witch-hunt trials" and to liquidate the whole of the splendid old guard of Polish socialism? Let those who have not yet lost their sense of justice raise their voices before this crime takes place. Soon the prisoners will face the military tribunals which are often held in the prison cell, cut off from all possibility of effective defense. But there is still time for a common effort of socialist and democratic world opinion to stay the executioner's hand raised over the heads of the best sons of the Polish people.

We appeal to Socialists throughout the world to leave nothing undone to prevent this new crime against Socialist leaders, tried and true fighters for freedom and democracy.

Polish Socialist Party Delegation for Abroad.

Mass Action Is the Key To Real Price Control!

Hit Scheme To Keep WP, SWP off Ballot

By FRANK HARPER

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 20.—I. Jack Rader, Wene P. Le Compte and David H. H. Felix tonight charged that there is a Republican and Democratic conspiracy to keep independent labor candidates off the ballot in Philadelphia.

Speaking at a rally and social sponsored by the Provisional Committee for the Defense of Independent Labor Candidates, the two candidates of the Workers Party and Socialist Workers Party and their defense attorney recounted the details of the deliberate attack by the Democratic-Republican coalition which resulted last week in the sentencing of four participants in the election campaign on charges of contempt of court.

Originally charges were filed by the Democratic attorney, Thomas Minnick, claiming irregularities in the petition forms and signatures. The Election Board, headed by Republican Morton Witkin, only too glad to be of service to their alleged rivals, subpoenaed the WP and SWP candidates, pre-emptors and affiants. Before this hearing by the Election Board could be held, Minnick filed an appeal in the City Court. Since the latter court has precedence over the Election Board, Defense Attorney Felix advised his clients not to answer questions before the Election Board. This refusal to answer questions on advice of counsel led to charges of contempt of court being filed against the candidates and affiants by the Election Board. Hearing on these charges before Judge Harry S. McDevitt on September 12 resulted in the sentencing of the defendants, who were subsequently released on \$4,000 bail pending decision on the appeal to the State Superior Court next March.

ASK WRIT OF MANDAMUS

In the meantime and without any testimony being presented, the County Board of Elections rejected the Workers Party and Socialist Workers Party nomination papers. The two groups have requested Judge McDevitt to issue a writ of mandamus to the Election Board to reinstate the parties on the ballot. Hearing on this action will be held in the City Hall on Friday, September 26. During the legal proceedings the WP and SWP have worked closely together and carried out joint activities. The experience of the sentencing of the four comrades without

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Better Yet - - Eat Cake!

IT'S SIMPLE -
EAT LESS!



CIO, AFL Unions Pledge Aid to Hickman Defense

CHICAGO—Organizations representing tens of thousands of Chicagoans are still pledging their support to the fight to free James Hickman from the threat of death. The real issue involved in his case is becoming clearer daily.

On July 16 Hickman shot and killed his unscrupulous landlord, David Coleman. To Hickman, it seemed that Coleman was directly guilty of murdering four of the seven Hickman children who perished in their fire-trap flat last winter in one of the South Side Negro ghetto's worst fire disasters of the year.

The Hickman family of nine had found a "home" at 1733 Washburne Avenue in a 14-foot square third floor attic flat, without light, gas, water or protection from fire, where they lived "like rats in a hole." Landlord Coleman made all kinds of promises to Hickman, all of them broken. Witnesses later testified that Coleman had on numerous occasions stated that he wanted to evict the tenants of the building so that he could convert the flats into kitchenettes, thus considerably increasing his income. They testified that Cole-

man stated he would do anything to get the tenants out "even if it takes a fire to do it."

On the night of January 16, fire swept through the attic cubbyhole and the four youngest Hickman children were burned to death. They were Leslie, 14; Elvena, 8; Sylvester, 7; and Velvena, 3. The mother, Anne, 40, and two other sons escaped with serious injuries.

NO REPAIRS MADE

In its February 27 verdict on the death of the Hickman children, the coroner's jury castigated the owners of firetrap tenements, condemned vigorously the conditions where the Hickmans lived and condemned especially the landlord for permitting such conditions to exist. The case was turned over to the State's Attorney for investigation to see if the fire was of incendiary origin, since testimony indicated that an unknown man who warned of fire in the building was present just before the fire broke out, and an unidentified kerosene can was found by the Hickman's attic doorway.

Months of grief-stricken brooding over the death of his four children

and the injuries to his wife and son brought James Hickman to the point of shooting David Coleman, who, Hickman states, confessed to him that he actually set the fire. Mr. Hickman now is held in prison on the charge of "murder."

The tenants of the Washburne Avenue building have organized a tenants' union and have been on a rent strike since the day of the fire, struggling to force the landlord to put the building in a safe, sanitary and livable condition. But they still have no water, gas or light. The fire's damage to the roof has never been repaired. No fire escapes have been installed. The water department and utilities companies refuse to provide facilities until the wiring and water pipes are repaired. Four families, unable to find other housing, are forced to continue living under these miserable conditions. Coleman had repeatedly tried to force them to vacate.

A COMMON STORY

As the Hickman Defense Committee states: "The story of James Hickman is the story of millions of com-

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Government Plan Means "Eat Less!"

By SUSAN GREEN

While Republican Senator Taft was telling us to eat less to solve the price crisis, he was taking all the nourishment to which he is accustomed. While Democratic President Truman was leisurely wending homeward aboard the Missouri, hoping perhaps that God would solve the food situation, he was eating his three squares a day, plus no doubt the in-between snacks usual aboard ship. While the politicians of both parties, with their eyes on the 1948 election, pussyfoot and delay on committing themselves on the food question, their stomachs are satisfied and their bodies amply clothed.

They are far removed from the human deprivation that dollar meat, butter and eggs mean. Here, however, are some of the facts of working class life under stratospheric prices, which worry the workers.

As the CIO News points out, the constant rise in prices has been equivalent to constant cuts in wages. These wage cuts by the mounting cost of living are as actual and as serious as if the money were taken out of the pay envelope and made immediate wage increases imperative.

The high food prices have upset the family budget to such an extent that many families are now "eating their clothing." Money formerly set aside for clothing goes for food. Home economists report this alarming fact. Parents want to give proper food to their youngsters and are using clothing money for fairly nourishing meals, but they also ask: "Now what will we do when Junior's shoes wear out?"

It is not the new fashions in silhouette and hemline that bother the low-income family. The problem is how to keep warm in the coming fall and winter. Where will the money come from for blankets, for warm coats, for shoes, for overshoes? With so much of the budget used up for food, what is left for clothing is insignificant. Clothing prices also being much too high. What will happen inevitably is that such families will buy clothes on credit, paying more for it and getting inferior clothes, as is customary in installment buying. They will have this additional burden with no foreseeable means of getting out of debt.

But not all low-income families give up their clothing money for food. Some try to buy a little of both, with the result that serious undernourishment is evident.

Health Commissioner Weinstein of New York reports that high food costs are having a bad effect on the diets of expectant mothers and of children, both needing high protein foods such as meat, eggs and milk. A child health station physician reports that when he tells mothers

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Crisis Marked by Parallel Developments

Mass Discontent Rising in Italy

By IRVING HOWE

A general strike of the peasants of northern Italy has recently ended with a minor wage increase as the tangible result. Other strikes have broken out among the peasants of the Rome area and the steel workers of the North. The American press describes these strikes as provoked by the Italian Communist (Stalinist) Party in order to overthrow the pro-U.S. de Gasperi government. The Stalinists, in turn, speak of a threatening revolution, which they have done their best to hold back. What, then, is the relationship between these mass actions and the immediate political needs of the Stalinists?

We are here up against the central problem of European socialist politics. What is said for Italy applies,

with certain differences, to France as well. Italy is on the verge of bankruptcy; its economy has made no appreciable recovery since the war; its people have lived in a state of perpetual semi-starvation; its present government is unpopular among the masses. Were it not for the support of the U.S. dollar, the regime would no doubt crumble.

The Italian masses unquestionably desire the most thoroughgoing social changes—that is, a social revolution in which they will take over the economic and political life of the country. It would be idle to attempt from this distance to analyze the specific temper of the masses, whether they are ready for an upward swing of revolutionary activity or whether they are acting out of desperation in a downward swing of militancy. If there were an influential revolution-

ary socialist party in Italy, that would be of secondary importance: such a party could galvanize this vast discontent into aggressive action.

TWO DEVELOPMENTS

But the tragic fact is that the Italian masses, by and large, follow the leadership of the Stalinists. A smaller section follows the "left" Socialist Party of Pietro Nenni which is by now completely in the hands of the Stalinists. No matter how mistaken that belief may be, the Italian masses believe that the Stalinist party is a revolutionary party which will bring socialism for them. (This statement by no means exhausts what has to be said about the nature of the Stalinist party, but in this instance it is primary in importance.)

Consequently there have recently

occurred two parallel developments. On the one hand the situation of the workers has become increasingly desperate: rising prices, black markets, etc. Grumbling has spread through the factories and farms, outbursts of unorganized action. Sensitive as they are to the moods of the workers whom they mislead, the Stalinists have been aware that it was necessary to provide some show of action to convince the workers that they, the Stalinists, were still their most aggressive and militant leaders. And at the same time, the independent needs of the Stalinist bureaucracy have required a show of force against the de Gasperi regime. As the relations between Stalinist Russia and the Anglo-American bloc have worsened, Italy has become one of the battlegrounds in their conflict to con-

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Mr. and Mrs. Hickman and three of the children who were burned to death. See story by Willard Motley on page 2.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Reuther Blisters Addes-Stalinists Bloc

By WALTER JASON

DETROIT, Sept. 21—The pre-convention struggle in the UAW-CIO between the Reuther caucus and the Addes-Stalinist bloc began with a blistering attack by Walter P. Reuther, UAW-CIO president, on the record of his opponents, and a sharp rebuff by R. J. Thomas, one of the spokesmen of the Addes-Stalinist bloc.

In two fiery speeches before large caucus meetings on the East and West sides of Detroit, Reuther told his cheering supporters that the time had come for a showdown with the Addes-Stalinist forces and he urged the rank and file to throw them out

of office at the coming convention to be held November 9.

An article reporting the sessions of the UAW Board in Buffalo arrived too late for inclusion in this issue. Watch for it in next week's LABOR ACTION.

Reuther's speeches came at the same time he released a report to the entire membership through the medium of the United Automobile Worker, official union publication.

Without mentioning names, Reuther tore into the factional record of his opponents in his first real report to the union on the factional struggle.

The Reuther report presumably was read by Philip Murray, CIO president, before Reuther released it. Likewise, Murray came to Detroit and presented Reuther with the CIO national award for special recognition on FEPC work. This was an obvious, if indirect, endorsement of Reuther.

CONCEDES TO MURRAY

Reuther blasted the expenditure of \$500,000, ostensibly on the Thompson Products organizing drive, but actually used for "pork-chopping" by the Addes-Stalinist group. He outlined in more detail the terribly irresponsible and factionalist approach of his opponents on all questions facing the union in the past two years. He sharply attacked the Sta-

linist party for its reactionary role in the union movement. As he usually does, he added that he was against "all outside interference in the union movement."

In one major point the written report of Reuther to the membership constituted another retreat from his previous position, and this one was against the decision adopted at the national Reuther caucus. At that meeting, the statement of policy on political action spoke clearly on the need for independent labor political action. This was dropped for vague and even more opportunistic formula

Key to Real Price Control - -

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they should include eggs in their children's diet, "they either shrug or laugh bitterly at the advice." From similar sources we learn that the consumption of milk is going down. Furthermore, high prices have reduced the buying power of government appropriations for school lunches, so that children suffer there too.

"VOLUNTARY RATIONING"

"Let them eat less" doesn't seem as good a remedy to those who are forced to eat less by high prices, as it does to well-fed Senator Taft. Nor is Taft alone in advocating this quick cure-all. Aside from such inadequacies as meatless days and the silly talk about victory gardens—for the fall and winter, no less—Washington seems to favor what they call "voluntary rationing."

This is another way of saying "Let them eat less." The Departments of Agriculture and of Commerce have come out for tightening the belts of the people. The congressional committee is now "investigating" in New York, and in Washington President Truman's cabinet food committee is "advising" him—probably along the line of "voluntary rationing" or "eat less."

The assorted left-over New Deal-

ers, the AFL and the CIO have taken a stand for price control and ask for an extra session of Congress to pass a law. Arthur Krock, hard-headed Washington columnist for the New York Times, thinks the chances of an extra session are slight, in spite of Secretary Marshall's view that a special session is necessary to provide some immediate aid for Europe.

Krock is of the opinion that calling Congress together now will stir up a witch's cauldron, with unpredictable results for the 1948 election, by which all politicians are today guided, and Truman won't take a chance. The Republicans are also not eager for a congressional reshuffle of the price situation now, since it is this very Republican Congress that ended OPA, inadequate as it was. It is foolhardy for the working people to place all their hopes on an extra session of Congress. Indeed, let the AFL, the CIO and all working class organizations demand price control and an extra session of Congress to pass such a law. But self-reliance is the best bet for the working people. Really curative action

can come only from the workers and consumers themselves.

RELY ON OURSELVES

Again, LABOR ACTION urges the formation of neighborhood consumer committees cooperating with the unions. Together they can make a buyers' strike work. They could temporarily fix prices by deciding what they will pay and what they won't. They can picket and boycott. With neighborhood education, they can develop solidarity among housewives and efficiency of joint action by housewives and workers.

Demands upon the government by such acting mass organizations will carry weight and give substance to the necessary provision that any price control law to be effective must be carried out in the neighborhoods by consumer and worker committees, not by politicians.

Such active mass organizations would also show by example that workers' committees could control the food industries under a plan for socialization, which is the only complete solution for this food problem.

DETROIT NEGRO FIRST ASSAULTED BY COPS, THEN ARRESTED ON TRUMPED-UP CHARGE

DETROIT—The Police Department of Detroit need no longer go unaided in intimidating and insulting people within city limits. It seems to be open season for brutality. The only requirement: a policeman's uniform.

Two squad car policemen from the neighboring city of Ecorse stop a worker driving through Detroit and demand to see his driver's license. When he does not respond quickly enough, they seize his wallet from his hand and tear his license to bits. He protests. The two pounce upon him, handcuff him and begin to beat him with their fists. Then they arrested him on a trumped-up charge of drunkenness and throw him into jail.

This little incident took place in Detroit at the corner of Ethel and Peters on Saturday, September 13, at 6:00 p.m. In order to give a partial legal justification to their criminal assault, the Ecorse policemen falsified their records and reported the

incident as taking place several blocks away, within the city limits of Ecorse.

Darby Barber, the victim of the assault, who works at the U. S. Rubber Company, has been subjected to a constant campaign of intimidation by these policemen, Sergeant Campbell and his aide. Several months ago Campbell stopped Barber in Ecorse and gave him a ticket for an alleged minor traffic violation. Barber was not humble enough to the insulting policemen. At that time, they threatened to beat him if he didn't keep his mouth shut. Ever since, these policemen have followed Barber's automobile whenever they saw it enter Ecorse limits. Finally they took their long awaited and long planned revenge.

Barber is a Negro. The two cops who practiced criminal assault upon him are also Negroes. There is a little lesson in this unprovoked police brutality: A cop is a cop...white or black.

Noted Writer Presents a Picture of James Hickman

"Coleman Murdered My Kids!"

Willard Motley is the author of the best-selling novel about Chicago's West Side, "Knock on Any Door." His article was released by the Hickman Defense Committee. The picture referred to below appears on page one of this issue.

By WILLARD MOTLEY

The picture above is of a man whom the State charges with murder. Pictured with him are three of his children who, with a fourth, were burned to death in a fire. James Hickman did kill a man!

Today I talked with Hickman. Today I felt that perhaps I, too, or almost any other man, would have done the same thing as he has done, given the same circumstances.

LANDLORD THREATENS FIRE

Look at Mr. Hickman, pictured above with his wife and three of his children—a common enough picture. When you look at it you can't see death in the children's eyes, nor grief in the mother's nor desperation in the father's. That came later.

Look at Mr. Hickman and examine the facts. These are the facts: Like many Negroes, Jim moved from the South to find more opportunity for his family—a better home, better wages, better schools. Jim found his job in the steel mills. And then there was the problem of a home. He found that too. After many months of searching he found that

To Jim Hickman he said, "I'll burn you out."

AND THE FIRE COMES

The fire came. One night last January the fire started at the door of the attic room. Willis, the 20-year-old son, pushed his mother to the window, lowered her down the brick wall and dropped her to the hard pavement below. There were flames all around him by now. He could not get to the others nor to the stairway. He jumped from the window, seriously injuring himself. His arm will never be right again.

Charles, nineteen, awakened in a daze. He fled down the flaming stairway before he realized the others were still back there upstairs. But then it was too late. In the smoky, firey room were still the four youngest children. Awakening, they crawled from the bed, secure there, they felt, from whatever threatened them. Leslie, fourteen, protectively shielded his brother and sisters with his own body. And they waited. No help came. There was no way up to them. Just the fiery steps, swaying now, and ready to fall in flames. When the fire was extinguished the charred body of the fourteen-year-old boy was found, still shielding his brother and sisters, aged nine, seven and three, from the death that came horribly. These are the facts:

And further facts: A kerosene can was found sitting outside the attic door. No one had ever seen it before. A stranger had run through the house warning the tenants of the first and second floor that the building was on fire. No one ever saw him again.

Had Coleman started the fire as he threatened? Jim, when he came home, found the fire Coleman had promised him. He found the charred bodies of his four youngest children. Had Coleman done it? The question nagged him as he moved in a daze around the ruins of what had been a

home and a family. It nagged him. Over days and weeks it nagged him. Over months it nagged him. No, no human being could be so cruel to another human being. To a child! To four children. . . . They had done nothing. . . . The question pursued him.

He couldn't talk to his wife. He couldn't talk to anybody. He couldn't think. . . . The question nagged him. It itched inside him until he knew Coleman had killed his children. At the coroner's inquest Coleman was reprimanded for violating fire ordinances. But he had been reprimanded before—and even fined. Coleman murdered my kids, Jim told himself. The law knows it.

It was not a question any more. It was a certainty. And the certainty itched and nagged, nagged and itched, and Jim remembered only one thing: "I'll burn you out," Coleman had said.

So this is a picture of a man who has killed another man. You have seen many pictures of men who have killed. You have seen the photographs of the returned soldier. Perhaps next door lives a boy who killed some other boy during the war. In the war millions of men killed other millions of men because they believed they were a threat to their homes, their wives, their children. This threat was thousands of miles from home. These were strangers killed, with whom there had been no personal contact. James Hickman killed the man who had threatened his wife and children with a death more horrible than the Nazi gas chambers. And carried it out. This is what I was thinking of as I sat talking to Hickman today.

Hickman needs help. There are three children left who need him. A wife who needs him. Will you help us help him?

Hickman Defense - -

(Continued from page 1)

man people who are victims of the scandalous housing shortage and of landlord greed. His action was not an answer to the problem, but it was an expression of the frustration and resentment of the underprivileged against those responsible for their misery.

"The real criminals are real estate interests who, put profits above the welfare of the people. The real criminals are those who foster racial segregation and condemn millions to the congested, vermin-infested firetraps of the black ghetto. The real criminals are the public officials who permit landlords to violate all safety regulations and refuse to launch a public housing program to relieve the shortage.

"Demand an end to firetraps, slums and rent gouging.

"Organize tenant leagues!

"Demand an end to racial segregation.

"Demand a large-scale, low-rental public housing program!"

COMMITTEE NEEDS SUPPORT

The Hickman Defense Committee, chaired by Willoughby Abner, vice-president of the Chicago CIO Coun-

cil, has in the few weeks of its existence won the support of the CIO movement, a significant section of the AFL in Chicago, particularly in the Building Service Employees Council, the NAACP, CORE, and numerous churches.

On Sunday, September 28, it plans to hold a defense rally at the Metropolitan Community Church at 41st and Southern Parkway, with prominent speakers, such as Tallulah Bankhead, actress; Willard Motley, author of the best-selling novel, "Knock on Any Door"; Ralph Helstein, president of the United Packinghouse Workers of America, and Henry McGee, president of the Chicago NAACP.

Considerable interest has been expressed by wide segments of the Chicago population in the Hickman case because it stands as a symbol of what can happen as a result of the desperate housing crisis. These persons who desire to aid the Defense Committee's work financially may do so by sending their contributions directly to the Hickman Defense Committee, 4619 Southern Parkway, Chicago 15, Ill., or to the committee through the Chicago Local of the Workers Party, which supports the Defense Committee.

With the Workers Party

All readers of LABOR ACTION are invited to attend meetings, class lectures and socials sponsored by local branches of the WORKERS PARTY. Visit our headquarters listed below to purchase Marxist literature, the NEW INTERNATIONAL and LABOR ACTION. For information of WORKERS PARTY activities in cities not listed below, write to WORKERS PARTY, 4 Court Square, Long Island City 1, N. Y.

- AKRON: Write to Box 221.
BALTIMORE: International Fellowship House, 21 West Preston St., 2nd floor.
BUFFALO: 633 Main St., 2nd floor.
CHICAGO: 1501 W. Madison Ave., 2nd floor.
CLEVELAND: WP Branch meets Sundays, 8 p.m.
DETROIT: Election rally: Friday, September 12, 8 p.m.
LOS ANGELES: 3314 So. Grand, Los Angeles 7, Cal.
LOUISVILLE: Write to: Robert Durant, Box 1181.
NEWARK: 248 Market St., Newark 2.
NEW YORK CITY: CITY CENTER: 114 West 14th St.
BRONX BRANCH: Thursday, 8:15 p.m.
YOUNGSTOWN: Write to J. P. Walters, Box 606.

Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor . . .

Taft Proposes We Eat Less

Dear Comrades: I am sending along a clipping from the capitalist press that is really a gem. Perhaps you can make use of it; the original I am keeping because I intend to read it at my union meeting. In the September 12 issue of the Seattle Times, page 5, there appeared the following:

"EAT LESS TO BEAT PRICES, TAFT URGES"

"SANTA CRUZ, Calif., Sept. 12 (AP)—Senator Robert A. Taft, Republican, Ohio, predicted today that the high cost of living may be a prime issue in the 1948 political campaign. He called on Americans to eat less food as a means of combating soaring prices.

of Elections in Philadelphia. My thoughts flew back to 10:30 a.m. Had I been wrong in flinching under Martin's rhetoric? A sample of some of his statements deserves attention.

Thoughts Inspired By Freedom Train

Dear Friends: Today was an auspicious one. Martial music filled the air, political heulers waxed eloquent, and Kate Smith's "God Bless America" blared forth from all the radio stations.

"Taft, here for two appearances before the state bar of California, told a news conference rising prices may be far more important to the average American next year than the controversy over the Taft-Hartley Labor Law.

"We have a Constitution and a Bill of Rights. We have our civil liberties." The Senator would deem it impertinent to challenge that—but. . . Just what are civil liberties if they are not allowed to function? Why pay lip service to something which is yanked back like a bone on a string when the time comes to exercise those liberties? Further: "If people here talk dangerous foolishness we guard against it not with slave camps or firing squads but with intelligent education with our great channels of free expression and with even-handed laws" (emphasis supplied).

Dangerous foolishness means the public's comprehension of tweedledum and tweedledee politicians and the growing awareness of the need for independent labor action. Intelligent education in Martin's sense means merely that 99 per cent of our "free press" educates us by misinformation, distorted information, and no information. "Even-handed" apparently are those laws which are even-handed to citizens of doubtful "Americanism," but which are withdrawn at the precise moment they would like to benefit by them. Laws which aren't applied to them, as say, to a giant corporation or a financial tycoon.

"Guard these precious civil liberties for all," he goes on. "If we permit them to be wiped out for some minorities—political, racial or religious—then we shall lose them for all the people." Disallowance from the ballot of a minority such as the

side of the bar. No strong feelings about that, eh Senator?

The method of "hooded men," etc., is not the way to beat Communism. (Or any other disfranchised party, he might have added.) "Persecuted people will turn in bitterness from Americanism, (enunciated from deep down in the abdomen with a sanctified look on the face) to Communism" (with horror, pleading and disdain mingled in the voice).

What Americans must do, according to this pundit of high capitalism, is to file docilely through Freedom Train and imagine themselves back in the eighteenth century, adamantly believing that the men who promulgated these documents intended the kind of America which "duly elected" administrators such as Martin tell us we must have. He, a mere tool of employing capitalism, voiced his lesson well, and hoped fervently that his employers gave him a passing grade for his work. They should.

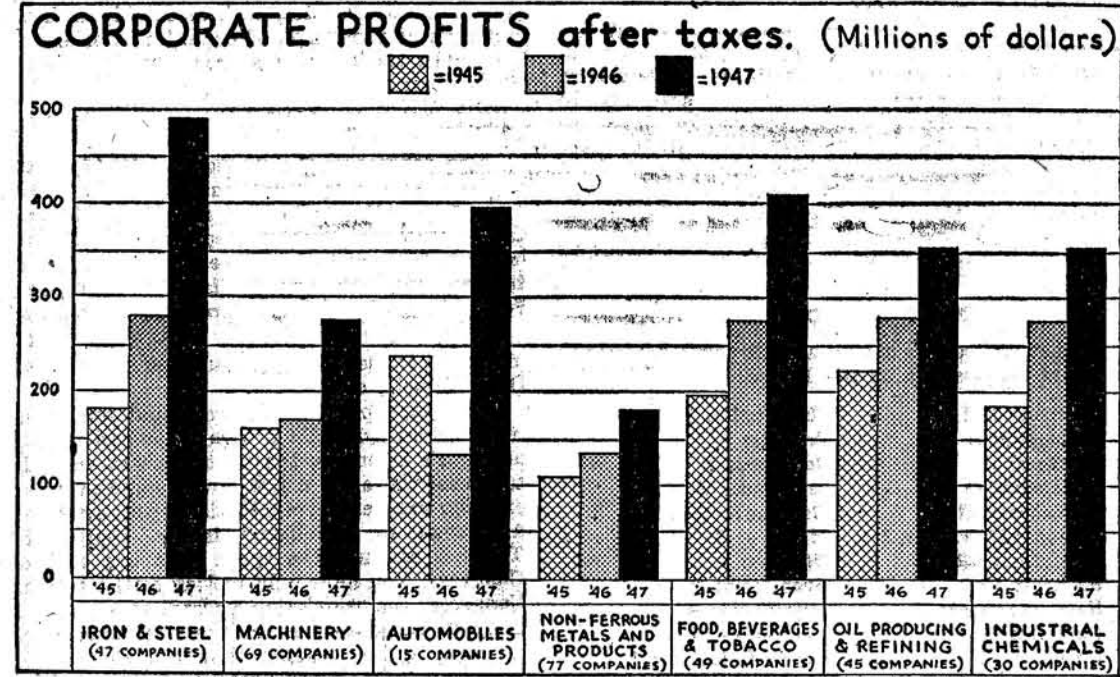
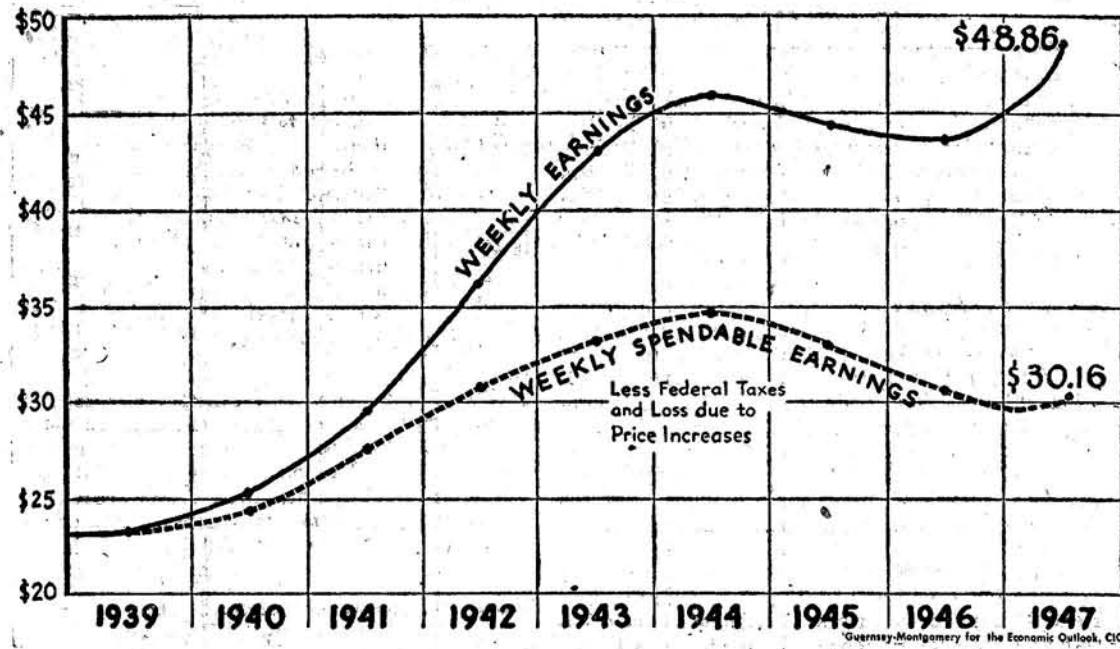
The American Committee for European Workers Relief Philadelphia Chapter presents a benefit performance of "NATIVE LAND" with PAUL ROBESON and a large cast in the mighty, moving, dramatic film of America and Americans Saturday, October 11 8:30 P. M. New Century Club Auditorium 124 South 12th Street Subscription: 75 Cents Tickets available at ACEWER, 1303 Girard Ave., or call STE 4-5820 or at the door

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Editorials Profits, Wages and Prices

WEEKLY TAKE-HOME PAY IN MANUFACTURING, 1939-1947 (FAMILY OF FOUR)



The graphs which appear above are from the July issue of the CIO's Economic Outlook which will shortly be republished as a pamphlet, "What's Ahead?" We think the facts make sufficient editorial comment on the price situation.

Parallel Developments Mark Rising Discontent in Italy --

(Continued from page 1) trol Europe. The Stalinists have not decided as yet to attempt to capture power in Italy...

Hence the Stalinists have been able to utilize to their own advantage the discontent of the Italian masses. Where in the past they had to risk losing their hold on the masses because of the dictates of international Stalinist policy...

"HUNGER MARCH" FAILS But this is not an automatic process, not a vicious circle. For a point is reached where the interests of the Stalinist bureaucracy and the needs and desires of the masses clash.

Now the masses had responded enthusiastically and overwhelmingly to the call for a general strike which had preceded the "hunger march." Instances were reported of peasants seizing lands and workers taking temporary control of the factories.

Here, then, is the weak spot in the Stalinist armor, through which a wedge could be driven between them and the workers. Here is the point where the legitimate interests and desires of the workers conflict openly with those of the Stalinist apparatus.

SIGNIFICANT SIGNS Now the undeniable truth is that the worsening of relations between Russia and the U.S. has resulted in the Kremlin allowing its puppet parties "more rope."

to the opposition and withdrawal from the cabinets has strengthened their position among the workers, to whom they can now again appeal as "anti-government" parties.

There are, to sum up, two extreme, and extremely wrong, ways of looking at the present situation in Italy. One is to see the whole strike wave merely as a Stalinist maneuver, with the working class as merely a passive tool in the hands of the Stalinists.

says, in effect, that the Stalinists can do whatever they want with the workers. That is simply untrue.

The other and equally wrong view ignores the Stalinists or at most admits them as an unimportant and temporary impediment.

The truth is that the masses of Italy are in motion, but at the moment the Stalinists are still in a position to control the speed, direction and intensity of that motion.

That is the lesson of current events in Italy, as it has been the lesson of all contemporary European history. Neither the masses alone nor the vanguard alone; only the two in close relationship can achieve that basic transformation of social life without which Europe will perish.

These Are the Men Arrested By Stalin's Police in Poland

We print below a brief summary of the records of some of the Polish Socialists who have been arrested by the Stalinist totalitarian regime in Poland:

Kazimierz Puzak: Joined Polish Socialist Party in 1904. Sentenced to eight years of hard labor by the Czarist government. Spent seven years in irons in solitary confinement at the notorious Schlussburg fortress.

Tadeusz Szurm de Strem: Outstanding scientist and writer on political economy. Deputy secretary general of PPS underground during German occupation.

Adam Obarski: Journalist. Active in resistance.

Played key role in resistance movement. Gestapo, unable to capture him, shot his wife, Elizbeta.

Ludwik Cohn: Chairman of National Executive of Socialist Youth Organization at time of Pilsudski coup d'etat and active in struggle against dictatorship.

Stefan Zbrozyna: Outstanding socialist expert on local government. Previously arrested by Security Police in October, 1945.

Wiktorek Krawczyk: Lodz trade union leader.

Adam Obarski: Journalist. Active in resistance.

Issues in the Santo Hearing

The muck contributed by both sides in the hearings initiated by the federal government to secure the deportation as an "undesirable alien" of John Santo, organization director of the CIO Transport Workers Union, has so far served to obscure the real issue.

The Department of Justice claims that Santo is a Communist, and therefore an undesirable alien. When it first undertook action against Santo some years ago, it claimed that he had entered the country illegally.

Now, Santo may well be a member of the Communist Party; he is certainly a Stalinist fellow traveler who carries into the union of which he is an official the poison of Stalinism.

at issue. Stalinism, its party and its agents are abhorrent enemies of the working class. The labor movement must, therefore, be vigilant against these servants of Kremlin despotism.

There is no contradiction in that whatsoever. Victory for the government in this case will mean defeats for labor in other cases. It will mean that the government can determine the political views of any worker.

The alien aspect is especially important. Stalinism is objectionable. There is nothing whatsoever objectionable in being an "alien."

PCI Pursues Revolutionary Work Among German POWs

By A. CALVES BREST, France.—Among the tasks of the Trotskyists in France, "proletarian Fraternization" is one of the most important.

The German occupation and Nazi atrocities naturally increased chauvinism in France. The Stalinist Party did not fight this chauvinism. On the contrary, it reinforced it.

During the occupation, the Trotskyist group of Brest succeeded in organizing cells comprising 27 anti-Nazi German soldiers. Many were members of the German Communist Party before 1933.

the underground Trotskyist organization of Brest. Twelve German soldiers were shot. Our French organizer, "Robert Craun," was shot by the German police.

Today, the thousands of German prisoners at Brest have two principal enemies.

1) The French officers who forbid them to hold meetings or read antifascist papers... even Stalinist papers...

MEET REPRESSION This activity was dangerous. In October 1943, the Gestapo destroyed

German and French. Our work has borne fruit. Since a month ago, we have had regular contact with two former German Communist functionaries of Dusseldorf.

These two prisoners organized secret meetings on socialism in their camp. They have influence over many of the prisoners. They distribute our papers and have decided to remain active when they return to Germany.

Today, one can say that thousands of war prisoners in France know the Fourth International.

Read and Subscribe to LABOR ACTION and THE NEW INTERNATIONAL



By JACK RANGER

WHAT TO CALL IT? What shall we call this present economic phase which the nation endures? Production is at an all-time high, employment is at an all-time high, profits are at an all-time high, farm income is at an all-time high, foreign trade for the year is at an all-time high.

Viewed from the ruling class throne, it undoubtedly does. But viewed from the standpoint of the masses, it certainly does not. It is a strange sort of prosperity when prices are so high relatively that automobile workers cannot buy the cars they produce.

If it is not prosperity for the masses, neither is it a depression. You cannot call it a depression when over 60,000,000 people are employed, many of them at the highest peacetime wages they ever received.

Perhaps a more accurate term would be FEAST-AND-FAMINE... a feast for the bosses, a famine for the masses.

EUROPEANIZATION OF U. S. WORKERS If we have not yet become "Europeanized" politically—that is, attained the level of political understanding where we at least have our own political party of labor, separate from the boss-controlled parties—we are well along the road to becoming "Europeanized" as to our diet.

Butter today is approximately one dollar a pound in most cities. Margarine, the poor man's butter, if they are fortunate, they use olive oil; in north Europe, lard or some other form of shortening.

Already, margarine is outselling butter 2-1 and 3-1 in some stores. A chain store official in Boston reports that margarine sales have jumped 50 per cent to 100 per cent in three weeks.

Stefan Zbrozyna: Outstanding socialist expert on local government. Previously arrested by Security Police in October, 1945. Feliks Misiorowski: Accountant. Active in resistance. Wiktor Krawczyk: Lodz trade union leader.

Adam Obarski: Journalist. Active in resistance.

Adam Obarski: Journalist. Active in resistance.

Back in 1939, the country ate about 303,000,000 pounds of margarine. In 1946 they ate 540,000,000 pounds, and indications are that 1947 consumption may go over 700,000,000 pounds.

Margarine is made almost entirely from vegetable oils—cottonseed and soybean oils principally. In recent weeks the prices of both these oils have been rising, and just the other day the government announced sharply increased allocations of oils to Europe.

Steadily we are becoming Europeanized. Margarine instead of butter... meat substitutes instead of meat... jalopies instead of new cars... bicycles instead of automobiles... deteriorating housing standards... poorer qualities of clothing... shoddier goods...

NEW YORK MEETING

Henry Judd

Just Returned from Europe Will Speak on

"Germany and the Future of Europe"

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 8:00 P. M. New York City Center, 114 W. 14 St.

NMU CONVENTION The National Maritime Union is meeting in convention as we go to press. It is too early to predict the outcome of the convention.

A Paper in the Interests of Socialism Published Weekly by the Labor Action Publishing Ass'n 114 West 14th Street, New York 11, N. Y.

PHILADELPHIA: Dance and Election Rally Entertainment - Refreshments Speeches - Dancing SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 8:30 P. M.

WORKERS PARTY INFORMATION BLANK I am interested in joining the Workers Party of the United States. Will you please send me all information as to your Program and how I can become a member.

Philadelphia Eviction Cases Mount; 1,300 Await Hearing

By JACK RADER, WP Candidate for City Council, Fifth District. PHILADELPHIA—Evictions continue to rise. Last week the City Rent Commission had 1,300 eviction cases in its files waiting for hearings. In the first week of its existence the Rent Commission has handled 1,107 cases. In most cases the eviction was granted after some slight delay. But the new eviction notices are piling up more rapidly than the Commission can deal with them.

The only possible conclusion is that the City Rent Commission is a failure. It does not prevent evictions. It has no authority to prevent them. It is a body controlled by the Republican and Democratic Parties, which are tied to the Real Estate Board of Philadelphia.

From the beginning of the rent and eviction crisis, the Workers Party has pointed out the commissions are no good. They are frauds, established to fool people. They do nothing to solve the desperate crisis.

CHAIN-REACTION EVICTIONS

The chain-reaction evictions are still continuing. Each eviction notice starts a whole chain of evictions in which sometimes as many as a dozen families are forced to move. That is an indication of how desperate the housing shortage is here. Witness, for example, the case of William Lord, whose family of eleven faces eviction after living in the same house for ten years.

Richardson Dilworth, the Democratic candidate for mayor, began his campaign this week. He has delivered about a dozen speeches. Thus far he has exposed corruption, the tie-up of vice and gambling with the Republican machine. He has named Sheriff Justin Husband and County Commissioner Witkin as Republicans guilty of connections with bookies and dice-game protection from which the Republican machine gets a rake-off.

All these accusations are no doubt true. The Republican machine has been in control of this city's politics for many years. And its friends among the crooks and racketeers are an essential part of its political control. The Democrats are involved just as deeply in all these shady deals, as the Republicans will no doubt prove before the campaign is over.

Dirty connections with the underworld, police protection for houses of prostitution, gambling—all these are the normal stock in trade of these two parties in every American city. REAL ISSUES

But these are not the issues. The people need homes. We must stop evictions. We must stop rent increases. These are desperate and immediate necessities. On these urgent and crucial problems Dilworth, for the Democrats, is just as silent as Samuels for the Republicans. He cannot have much to say because during the past year the Democrats on

Hit Scheme - -

(Continued from page 1)

benefit of trial by jury brought sharply into focus the need of a permanent Defense Committee for Political Rights of Independent Labor Candidates. The two socialist groups have set up a provisional committee which sponsored this evening's rally and social.

Over \$300 in donations and pledges was contributed by the audience of 100 friends and members. One hundred dollars of this sum was set aside by the provisional defense committee as a part of the necessary financial pool for the permanent committee. Labor, liberal and other socialist organizations have been invited to join the committee and ac-

ceptance by several important groups is anticipated.

SEEK PERMANENT COMMITTEE
Irene P. Le Compte, Socialist Workers Party candidate for councilman in the Seventh District, stated that the election campaigns were being continued by both groups. Write-in campaigns will be run in the event the ballot is barred. She emphasized that the fight now being waged is a vital one for all groups intending to run independent labor candidates in the future.

In elaboration of the technical charges lodged against his clients, Attorney Felix stated that the election law and its court interpretations are so contradictory and complicated that it is impossible not to violate one or more technicalities. An examination of the nomination petitions on the members of the Election Board themselves show enough violations to rule them invalid even though they were circulated by paid city employees and endorsed by such public servants as the Hon. Judge Harry S. McDevitt.

Commenting on the contempt of court charges, Felix said that he intended to remind the Superior Court of the serious lapse of Anglo-Saxon judicial procedure in the denial of a jury to the four defendants charged with contempt of court.

"I always say that the court is right until proved wrong by a higher body. I make my living working in the courts. However, I do not make my living writing laws, therefore I can say that the Pennsylvania Election Code is the most damnable piece of legislation ever concocted by the two parties to keep minority parties off the ballot."

"Since the Democratic Party is in reality a 'kept woman' of the Republicans here in Pennsylvania, it results in a totalitarian ballot. This law has only been enforced for the last several years. It must be broken now. However, not only the Republicans are to blame. Let's give the Devil his due credit. The law was passed by the Democrats in 1936 during their one and only brief stay in power. At the same session at which it was passed it was amended five times in one session, all five amendments being contradictory. That is the law that still stands."

Felix commended the Workers Party and Socialist Workers Party for their united stand on the issues and expressed the hope that the united front of the two groups could be expanded to include other organizations and transform the Provisional Defense Committee into a permanent one.

PROGRAMMATIC CAMPAIGN
Workers Party Candidate I. Jack Rader said that the conspiracy to keep the ballot monopoly was aimed at preventing the working people of Philadelphia from becoming class conscious, conscious that the ruling class (the Democratic and Republican machines and their big business backers) will not and cannot do anything in the workers' interest, conscious also that the working class must elect its own candidates on its own program.

Rader emphasized that the Workers Party will continue its campaign on a programmatic basis. The Workers Party is little interested in how Mayor Samuels or Democratic Mayorality Candidate Dilworth divides the spoils of City Hall offices, bookies and numbers rackets, but it is interested in showing to the people of the Fifth District and elsewhere in Philadelphia that only a working class candidate can fight for the interests of the working people.

Following the speakers, Al Rose introduced to the audience the prominent jazz artist, Sammy Price, who included among his piano numbers the Victory Boogie, his own composition written for and dedicated to the Workers Party and the Socialist Workers Party. Later in the evening the Fat Man and his troupe pleased the audience. Dancing and the serving of refreshments completed the evening.

the City Council and in the State Legislature have prepared no program on housing which is essentially different from that of the Republicans. As a matter of fact, Dilworth's law firm was the legal representative for the Philadelphia Hotel Association at the City Council rent hearings.

Congressional Directory Makes Instructive Reading

What Kind of People Are Congressmen?

By JACK RANGER

WHAT kind of people are they, anyway, who compose the 80th Congress which recently adjourned—the Congress which, through a majority of both Republican and Democratic parties, dealt so harshly with the people of the United States? Who removed federal price controls with the promise that prices would not thereafter rise? Who dealt a staggering blow to the union movement through the Taft-Hartley act? Who put money into the hands of the real estate operators through the easing of rent control? Who approved a foreign policy which, everywhere in the world, acted on behalf of the international slaveholders and against the slaves?

What kind of people are they? The answer to that question should be quite revealing. I have part of it. I got the information simply. I obtained a copy of the red, cloth-bound Official Congressional Directory. The directory opens with a section entitled: BIOGRAPHICAL. There, from pages 3 to 142, are the official biographies of all the members of the 80th Congress, as written lovingly by the members themselves.

That is why I said above that I have PART of the information as to who are the members of Congress. The other part of the information is not in the directory—the part that would list the hidden connections linking the members of Congress with Big Business—with the bankers' lobby, the real estate lobby, the food trust lobby, with the railroads, the steel trust.

Very well. Let us see what we can make of the information which the Congressmen reveal freely about themselves.

COMPOSITION OF THE SENATE

Who are the Senators? What did they DO before they entered the Senate. I constructed a box, and at the left listed various occupations: Lawyer, Businessman, Banker, Publisher, Worker, etc. As I read through the biographies, I made a check after each occupation. At the end of my task, here is the box score:

- Lawyers: 61
- Businessmen: 10
- Bankers: 6
- Publishers: 7
- Brokers: 1
- Newspapermen: 2
- Farmers: 3
- Educator: 1
- Embalmers: 1
- Plain politicians: 4
- Workers: 0

There they are, 96 men, tried and true, 51 Republicans and 45 Democrats, and you can't tell the players without a scorecard. NOT ONE SINGLE WORKER AMONG THE WHOLE GALILEY OF RASCALS.

I ask a friend to pick a state at random, for a close-up view of two Senators. "Rhode Island," he says, and I turn to page 115, and read this to him:

Theodore Francis Green, Democrat, of Providence, R. I.; born in 1867; educated in private schools . . . received A.B. degree at Brown University in 1887, and A.M. in 1890; Harvard Law School, 1888-90; Universities of Bonn and Berlin, Germany, 1890-92; admitted to Rhode Island bar in 1892 . . . engaged in the practice

of law at Providence since 1894 . . . received a commission as lieutenant during the Spanish-American War . . . delegate to all National Democratic conventions from 1912 to 1944, inclusive; during the World War was prominent in many patriotic activities; director, National Exchange Bank of Providence; J. & P. Coats, Inc.; officer, director and receiver of various railroad companies and many other business corporations; president, Morris Plan Bankers Association (national); trustee, Brown University; chairman, board of directors, Morris Plan Bank of Rhode Island; director, Bankers Security Life Insurance Society; etc., etc.

Senator Green's colleague from Rhode Island is Senator James Howard McGrath. His pedigree is fully as distinguished: Six honorary degrees; attorney; former U. S. district attorney; member, J. J. McGrath & Sons, real estate and insurance; president, First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Providence; director in the following companies: Lincoln Trust Co.; Mortgage Guaranty & Title Co.; Pawtucket Broadcasting Co.; Lonsdale Co.; Flightex Co.; American Octonator Co. He is a sociable cuss, being a member of the Patrons of Husbandry; Royal Arcanum; Friendly Sons of St. Patrick; Knights of Columbus; Ancient Order of Hibernians; Elks; Eagles; Westchester Country Club; Clover Club; Turkeys Head Club; Town Criers of Rhode Island; Kiwanis; Rhode Island Yacht Club; Metacommet Golf Club; University Club, and 16 others.

Like Senator Green—and like Philip Murray and Dan Tobin and hundreds of other indomitable leaders of labor—Senator McGrath is a Democrat. Either Rhode Island must be entirely composed of bankers and other wealthy citizens, to elect two millionaire bankers as Senators, or else the poor people there are being misled by their leaders to support political company unionism.

What chance do you think any decent social and labor legislation has with such Senators as Green and McGrath?

COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE

Let us look at a similar box score listing the social composition of the House:

- Lawyers: 241
- Businessmen: 37
- Realtors: 8
- Accountants: 4
- Personal Managers: 2
- Educators: 22
- Bankers: 17
- Newspapermen: 7
- Farmers: 3
- Preacher: 1
- Stage Star: 1
- Just politicians: 48
- Pharmacists: 1
- Brokers: 5
- Ranchers: 7
- Insurance: 7
- Contractors: 3
- Military: 2
- Doctors: 4
- Architects: 2
- Missionary: 1
- Veterinary: 1
- Public Relations: 1
- Ex-Union Official: 1
- Workers: 0

The above total adds up to 447, there being some duplication, as a Representative may list himself as both lawyer and businessman, or rancher and banker, etc. Of the 434 members of the House in the 80th Congress, 245 are Republicans, 188 are Democrats, and one is an Ameri-

can Labor Party man. AGAIN THERE IS NOT ONE SINGLE WORKER AMONG THE RASCALS.

A visitor from another planet, sitting in the halls of Congress and studying the Congressional Directory could not be convinced that fairly universal suffrage exists in the United States, or that the overwhelming majority of the American people are workers and farmers. Instead, he would reason that the majority of the population must be lawyers, and that the rest of us are business men, real estate operators, brokers, publishers, ranch owners, bankers and professional politicians. Or that the only people permitted to vote were those in the above categories.

It would be necessary to lead this stranger aside and explain very gently to him that there are today only two political parties represented in Congress; that Big Business operates impartially through both parties; that though the majority of the population consists of people who work hard for a living, they are shunted aside by the two-headed boss party; and that the reason the workers and farmers haven't been able to do anything about the situation yet is because their union leaders are political company men who play ball with the old parties and refuse to launch a labor party or let the workers launch one.

HOW MICHIGAN IS "REPRESENTED"

To show the really pitiful effects of this treacherous policy, one could choose one of the great industrial states, such as Michigan, having hundreds of thousands of organized workers who have built the most progressive union movement in the country. Yet, IS THERE ONE WORKER FROM MICHIGAN IN CONGRESS? Of course not.

Who represents the workers of Michigan then. In the Senate, two Republican states, both attorneys, Arthur H. Vandenberg and Homer Ferguson. Of the seventeen Michigan representatives, ten are lawyers, two are business executives, one is a contractor, and four fall to list their occupations. Fourteen are Republicans, three are Democrats.

Approximately the same proportions hold for other big-industry states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, etc.

But perhaps these lawyers and businessmen in Congress sympathize with labor and take care of labor's interests, the visitor might ask. "It is true that there are a few lawyers and even bankers who are very sympathetic to organized labor, and even to socialism," is the reply. "BUT THESE are not the types that are elected to Congress. You have only to look at the actions of Congress, the legislation passed, to see the hostility of Congressmen for the American people."

It is quite a story that the Congressional Directory tells. The Directory fairly shrieks to the American worker: Force your union leaders to break their political alliance with the boss parties. Don't take any more legislation weakening the unions and forcing up prices and rents. Get out the ax and use it on those who dare to keep you helpless suppliants of the Big Business political machine. Now, begin to build the Labor Party.

Capitalist Politicians Agree to Do Nothing About Detroit Rents

By HERMAN BENSON, Workers Party Candidate for Mayor of Detroit.

DETROIT—The president of the Detroit Common Council, the oh-so-liberal George Edwards, introduced a motion to the Council to discuss the passing of a municipal rent control ordinance. The not-so-liberal Corporation Counsel of the city weighed the matter very carefully for many days, during each of which 150 new eviction cases were filed by landlords, and he finally advised the Council that it did not have the legal power to pass rent control legislation. This despite the fact that the Detroit chapter of the National Lawyers Guild cited twelve long pages of precedents which indicate clearly that the city does have such powers.

Mayor Jeffries, who is now hanging in limbo—"Is he a liberal or is he not?"—pondered over the advice of his Corporation Counsel and told the Council that just to be on the safe side it would be best for the Council to drop rent control from its agenda and to pass the matter on for consideration of the Republican Governor Sigler.

George Edwards, exhausted from these mighty labors on behalf of the common people, quickly agreed to the suggestion made by Jeffries, the man whom he is supporting for reelection as Mayor just to "pay off a political debt."

AID STRIKE-BREAKING

And so nobody has lost anything. Edwards will recount his last ditch struggle for rent control. Jeffries will explain very patiently how he must obey the laws although his heart bleeds for the poor evicted tenants. The only losers, as rent control is allowed to be snarled in the red tape of legal opinion and counter opinion, are the hundreds of families who must leave their homes and look for new dwelling places where there are none.

Meanwhile, a bitterly fought strike of UAW garage mechanics is taking place in the city. Like most strikers, these men are fighting to raise the level of human existence one little notch higher, to make the world a little better place for themselves and their families to live in. Jeffries and his police department have been very efficient in protecting the right of scabs and strike breakers to enter

the shops and many fights have broken out in the vicinity of the struck plants. NO LEGAL SNARL PREVENTS POLICE ASSISTANCE TO STRIKE-BREAKERS.

We have here a lesson in city government by liberal, and not so liberal, capitalist politicians. A workers' Common Council would do everything necessary and possible to advance the struggle of the working people. It would immediately pass a law providing for a moratorium on all evictions. It would call upon the people to organize themselves in every neighborhood to enforce this law by their own mass action.

And when the people by the tens of thousands were aroused and organized to enforce such a law, you may be sure that the political agents of the boss class would have to think ten times over before they dared to declare such a law unconstitutional. It was just such a struggle in the days of the depression which began in 1929 that compelled the government to pass laws for the protection of peoples homes.

And a workers' Common Council would close every garage which is operated by scabs and strike breakers. To those who complain of "disorder" at shop gates, it would reply: Violence and "disorder" is caused by scabs and strike-breaking employers.

PAC POLICY

The bankruptcy of PAC policy in the Detroit elections is clearly exposed. After a big campaign urging the workers to get out and register for the October 7 primaries, the Detroit and Wayne County Council has decided not to endorse any candidate for mayor. At the meeting of the Council one of the very "radical" members of the Executive Board introduced a motion against any endorsements. Such a motion would have been equivalent to a passive endorsement of Jeffries, whom the CIO opposed for the last four years; not to oppose him now would be simply a passive endorsement. An amendment to the motion made it more palatable by stating: this is not to be construed as an endorsement of Jeffries.

A motion was made from the floor to repudiate and denounce Jeffries as anti-labor and anti-Negro. This motion was carried in several votes. But the Stalinists and their fellow travelers finally woke up and after a confusing debate over parliamentary technicalities succeeded in taking a last in which this motion was at least defeated.

PAC policy on Jeffries is therefore as follows: we do not support Jeffries but we refuse to attack him. The only thing which prevented an honest and open endorsement of Jeffries by the local CIO leaders was the hostile reaction of the rank and file to the feelers put out early in the campaign.

Detroit Readers:

Hear: HERMAN BENSON

Workers Party Candidate for Mayor of Detroit

Over Radio Station WJLB On "Stop the Enemies of the Working People"

Thursday, Oct. 2, 8:15 P. M.

Bolivia: On the Road To Dictatorship

By J. ROBLES.

The government of "national unity" which consists of President Hertzog's Republican Union and the Liberals and Stalinists of the Liberal-Stalinist coalition is, in spite of parliamentary appearances, a "strong government," much stronger than its nationalistic predecessors. This Bolivian government knew how to put down the Indian uprisings with an iron hand, and how to prop up the feudal regime on the big estates of the Bolivian country-side marks the general reaction, and the ebb of the revolutionary tide, at the same time exposing the fakery of all the mystifications about the bourgeoisie-democratic revolution in Bolivia as an independent phase, which even penetrated the circles of the Fourth International.

In the recent crisis of the government of National Unity, precipitated by the agreement among all the capitalist parties to exclude the Stalinists from playing a leading part in the Bolivian Congress, the contradictions of this coalition were revealed, as well as the part played therein by the Stalinists. When the Stalinists presented their resignations from their cabinet posts after being slapped down by their capitalist colleagues in Congress, President Hertzog reiterated his confidence in them, declaring that the government of National Unity had to continue until it completed its tasks.

CAPITALIST RULERS AIM AT POLITICAL DICTATORSHIP

What are these tasks? To overcome the sharp economic crisis of this semi-colonial country, the crisis of the mining industry caused by an increase in prices which has not been accompanied by an increase in the price of minerals, the Bolivian feudo-bourgeoisie wishes to depress the already low living standards of the mine proletariat still further. The powerful Patino mining enterprises proceeded to fire its "demoralized" workers in order to replace them with "submissive" workers at lower wages. The Rothschild enterprises closed the San Jose mine firing the entire labor force. All of this takes place despite the continued demand for Bolivian minerals in the international markets.

The mine bourgeoisie wishes to introduce its absolute rule in the mines, a capitalist dictatorship which was relaxed and weakened a little by the revolution. The intervention of the trade unions, of the trade-union militias, of the miners deputies in parliament, of the trade-union secretaries,

"hurt" the bourgeoisie a great deal, hampering its program of capitalist rationalization and the transfer of the burden of the crisis onto the shoulders of the proletariat. But the bourgeoisie of the mining industry cannot do this without first destroying the defenses the workers have created, the trade-unionists, the union militias, the parliamentary representation, the Fourth Internationalist movement, etc.

The bourgeoisie cannot introduce its absolute capitalist dictatorship in the mines without the political dictatorship of the government, without the destruction of the miners' parliamentary representation, the miners union and the Revolutionary Workers Party, the POR. Opposing the bourgeoisie-Stalinist National Concentration, the miners movement, acquired an enormous political importance as the potential expression of the rebelliousness of the masses against the government. Hence the need of having the Stalinists in the government to take over the job of executioner of the workers' movement. The government of National Unity, therefore, is to continue "until it finishes its tasks."

USE STALINISTS AGAINST FOURTH INTERNATIONALISTS

The bourgeoisie is preparing to deal a mortal blow to the mining proletariat and the Fourth Internationalist movement, the strongest in South America in terms of influence over the masses. The first step will be the destruction of the parliamentary representation of the mine workers, which has eight deputies and senators. The capitalist-Stalinist majority is readying its preparations to exclude the mine deputies, among them two members of the POR, from Parliament, using the provocative pretext that they insulted the Congress by calling it "domesticated." The Government prosecuting attorneys are asking for permission to initiate criminal proceedings in the courts against the mine workers deputies for "instigating the masses to revolution."

In one locality, the sub-prefect and the police force invaded the home of the deputy Salamanca with machine-guns, not accomplishing its mission only because of the accidental absence of the deputy. The Stalinist Minister of Labor, Mendisabal, attacks the "Nazi-Trotskyists" when the opportunity presents itself. Notwithstanding all of this, the task is somewhat difficult, given the weakness of the capitalist police apparatus, and the strength of the proletariat, which possesses arms it seized during the revolution. The bourgeoisie uses the

Stalinists as shock troops against the organized workers' movement. When this job is done, the historic task of Stalinism in Bolivia will be finished. When it has destroyed the workers' movement, it will have undermined as well the base for its own participation in the government.

The Bolivian feudo-bourgeoisie in its backward march wishes to install a Bonapartist dictatorship, thereby balancing the various social and political forces. The political and social reaction, the massacre of the peasant movement, the offensive against the proletariat, this is the real content of the "bourgeois-democratic revolution" proclaimed by the Stalinists in Bolivia.

The final stage is the creation of a Bonapartist dictatorship in the Peron style, adapted to the feudal conditions of Bolivia. Given the international conjuncture and the Yankee pressure against them, the Stalinists can have no great hopes, no great perspectives under this dictatorship. Their mission exhausts itself in clearing the way and opening the gates to the dictatorship by destroying the revolutionary and anti-Stalinist workers' movement.

TASKS AND PERSPECTIVES OF BOLIVIAN REVOLUTION

Some comrades of the POR had illusions about the possibility of the bourgeoisie-democratic revolution in Bolivia as an independent stage in its own right. The isolation of the workers' movement of Bolivia in South America, and the internal evolution of the country completely wipes out this perspective.

The task of the Bolivian proletariat is limited to defending step by step the social and economic aspirations of the working-class and the democratic rights of the laboring masses against the Bonapartist intentions of the bourgeoisie. To venture any other policy, that is to say, the conquest of political power by the proletariat in an isolated country, economically weak, and without the support of the international working-class, would be to expose the proletariat to defeat and bloody massacre. The social revolution in South America must be an event of international scope, a common labor of the South American proletariat in alliance with the North American workers.

August 15, 1947

Translator's Notes:

News reports last week confirmed Comrade J. Robles' analysis of the reactionary political trend in Bolivia, as well as his prediction that

the Stalinists would be forced out of the Hertzog government of "National Unity." Associated Press dispatches from Bolivia's capital, La Paz, stated that the Stalinist Ministers had resigned from the government; that a purely bourgeois government had been formed, and that this government was continuing the offensive begun by the "National Unity" regime against the workers. Thousands of miners are being fired by the large mining corporations and rehired at lower wages with the permission of the government.

The revolution to which C. Robles refers in his article is the popular uprising which overthrew the dictatorial Villarreal regime in the summer of 1946. An account of how the Stalinists managed to give the power back to the bourgeoisie and joined the government as "executioner of the working-class" will be found in the August issue of the New International under the title "Stalin's Agents in Bolivia."

A. F.

COMING IN LABOR ACTION:

Jack Ranger does a job the equal of his story on Stassen in "Henry Wallace—the Big Wind from Iowa." Also articles on the telephone union, UAW, etc., which have been omitted through lack of space.

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