

AUTO BOSSES DEMAND MORE PROFITS

Fifty Billion Dollars A Year

An Editorial

Fifty billion dollars a year is the sum that the American people are being called on to spend for the war.

Most people, even if they were to sit down with pencil and paper, would find it hard to comprehend how much that sum really represents. We don't mean in terms of gold, or in terms of how many times it would stretch around the world if dollar were placed next to dollar — but in terms of how much human endeavor it takes to produce that wealth, and how much good it could accomplish if its use were devoted to socially progressive ends.

One or two examples will suffice: It is more than ten times the sum spent for unemployment relief during the whole period of the depression. It is more than a hundred times the amount spent by the government for slum clearance and low cost housing. It is a thousand times the amount spent by the government for prevention of disease each year.

Yet this sum of money, and the billions being spent by all the other contending powers, is only part of the price the world has to pay because the first world war did not end with the abolition of the economic and political rivalries which lead to modern war and with the establishment of a Socialist United States of Europe and a World Socialist Federation.

It is a staggering price to pay for every year of the war, and the masses have already been told that it will be a long war and they know that they will have to bear the burden of paying it both during and after the war. Yet they would pay it gladly, they would pay twice the price gladly and still consider it cheap, they would voluntarily and eagerly make sacrifices they do not today dream of, if they could be sure that it would lead to the utter destruction of Hitlerism and the kind of world after the war that would prevent the recurrence of other wars in the future.

But who can honestly assure them that this will be the outcome of the present war?

The mere military defeat of Germany and the replacement of Hitler by some other representative of the ruling class, is no guarantee whatever that Hitlerism will be destroyed. Unless the source of fascism, which is the decaying capitalist system, is also destroyed, we will live to see a new and equally bloody Hitler rising on the ruins of a defeated Germany in the space of a few years, aspiring to lead another struggle for world power.

Furthermore, which of the statesmen of the war can guarantee that even after defeating and subjugating Germany, fascism will not spread to those countries where it has not yet come to power?

Everyone knows that even if the United States wins, the war will be followed in this country by the greatest depression it has ever had. Millions of workers will be unemployed, the farmers will be unable to sell their crops, the middle class will be ruined by inflation, and the political situation resulting from this economic chaos will enable demagogues to arise, win a following and make an attempt to become American Hitlers.

The workers in this country who can look ahead, who understand that it is futile to attempt to destroy Hitlerism without at the same time eradicating its capitalist roots, who do not want to spend fifty billion dollars a year only to find that it has been wasted or used to enrich the soil of American fascism, will join the struggle to aid the German revolutionists in their fight to overthrow the system of Hitlerism in Germany, and support the movement to establish a Workers and Farmers Government and prevent fascism here.

Unions Face Run-Around From War Labor Board

By DON DORE

JAN. 6. — Complications and differences are rising thick and fast in connection with the establishment of the new War Labor Board.

Among the host of unsettled problems are questions of the composition of the board, its procedure, policies and powers.

A proposal by the AFL-CIO leaders that the new board be composed of four union men, four employers and one additional "public" representative already appears headed for the scrap-heap. Administration quarters last week let out the information that a tentative executive order calls for a board of 12, with four "public" representatives.

This recommendation is in close accord with the demands of the employer representatives, who have demanded a board of eleven.

It is the belief of the employers that the more so-called public representatives on the board, the more certainly there is that it will be predominately pro-employer in attitude.

'PUBLIC' REPRESENTATIVES
Experience has demonstrated that the "public" representatives tend greatly to lean toward the employers, as they are usually drawn from administration and professional circles closely tied to the upper class.

JUNGLES OF RED-TAPE
The proposed procedure includes the following series of steps, each one calculated to provide weeks if not months of delay in the handling of grievances:
1. Direct labor-employer negotiations until possibility of agreement is "exhausted"; 2. Further negotiations under supervision of the U. S. Conciliation Service; 3. Certification of the dispute to the War Labor

IWW Defense Committee and Pacific Coast Unions Aid 18

Contribute Money to Assist Appeal of Case To Higher Courts

The Civil Rights Defense Committee, the organization mobilizing public support for 18 Socialist Workers Party and CIO members convicted of violating the 1940 Smith Gag Law in the Minneapolis "sedition" trial, this week announced that the General Defense Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World and two West Coast CIO unions had contributed money in support of the defendants.

The General Defense Committee sent a contribution of \$100 with a letter expressing the hope that "this small donation will help you in your efforts to vindicate these fellow workers of any wrong doing against society."

IWW PERSECUTED DURING LAST WAR

The Committee, which rallied support for the IWW members persecuted in the Palmer witch-hunts during and after the first world war, is together with the American Civil Liberties Union and the Workers Defense League supporting the work of the Civil Rights Defense Committee in appealing this case to the higher courts.

Local 9 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, CIO, of Los Angeles, contributed \$25 toward the support of the appeal.

Lodge 1845 of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, CIO, of Huntington Park, Cal., also donated \$10 to aid the defense.

The Civil Rights Defense Committee is the authorized national organization for collecting funds and mobilizing public support for the 18 convicted defendants. Its national headquarters is at 160 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Board; 4. Mediation by a War Labor Board panel, without power to make public recommendations; 5. Voluntary arbitration through an arbiter selected by agreement of the board, or if that is not possible, by an arbiter chosen by lot from a panel named by the President; 6. Final arbitration by the full board, empowered to make binding "determinations" and "awards".

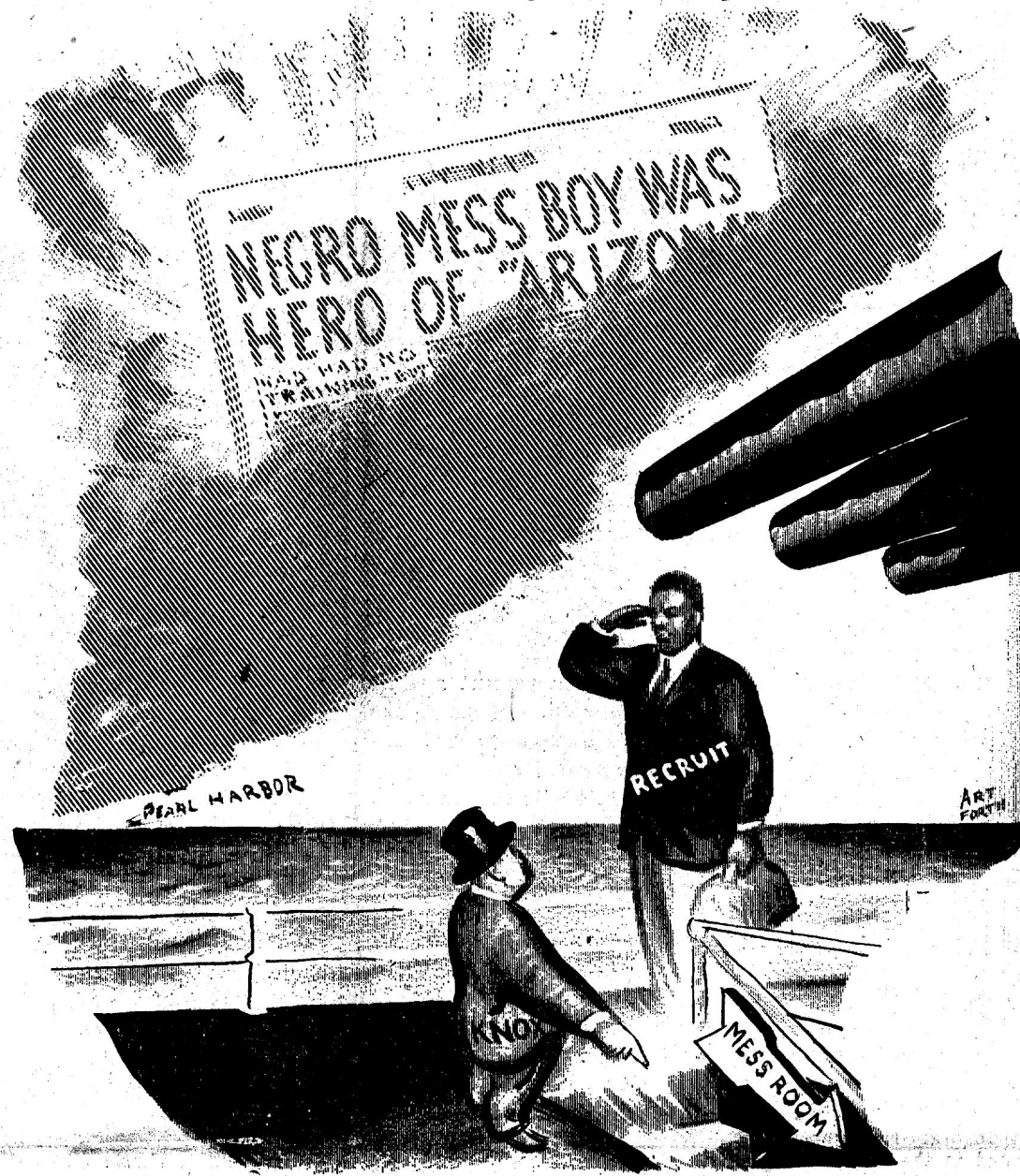
It is easy to see where this type of procedure will lead.

To begin with, the employers are starting to stall around with even the most minor grievances in the shops. They are under no compulsion to yield anything to labor, enfeebled by the loss of strike rights. Thousands upon thousands of complaints of every type are bound to pile up. Not a tenth of the complaints will even be discussed by the board.

ANTI-LABOR LAWS

Even so, the employers intend to take no chances with the board. They are continuing to demand that it be guided in all its decisions by a set of predetermined policies favorable to the open shop, fixed wages, etc. If the new board fails to adopt such policies of its own volition, the employers hope to enforce

Jim Crow Policy Unchanged



Navy Department (after Dec. 7): "There has been no change (in this Jim Crow Policy)... and for the time being no change is contemplated."

Red Army Wins Victories With Armed Workers Aid

Worker Detachments Helped to Drive the German Armies Back On All Fronts

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

The Red Armies continue to advance along the entire front. In several sectors the German armies have been driven back more than 100 miles.

For a period of five months the Red Army had known nothing but defeats and grave reverses. Vast areas and strategic centers had been yielded to the enemy. The losses in equipment and manpower were staggering. Yet precisely at the moment

when it seemed that nothing could stem the onward surge of the Nazi armies, the tide suddenly turned.

The troops which had been so badly beaten in the entire preceding period proved capable not only of withstanding the largest offensive yet launched against them, but of assuming the initiative themselves. For more than a month the Red Army has been scoring a series of successes along the entire 2,000 mile front. To our knowledge, such a development had not been foreseen by anyone.

The Nazi High Command in addition to blaming the severity of Russian winter, the difficulty of maintaining long lines of communication, etc., acknowledges that the enemy had proved far stronger than realized. The opinion of the Allied experts coincides by and large with the German alibis.

The Kremlin, after a period of reticence which is an ample commentary of its own astonishment, has finally dared to advance its own ritualistic explanation, to wit, — that the successes are entirely due to Stalin and his "military genius." Thus, if the Red Army advanced in the Stalino-gorsk area, it was because Stalin had called the headquarters in that region on the telephone. Stalin "personally planned and directed the operations" which led to the encirclement of the Nazis in the Solnechnogorsk area, northwest of Moscow. (*Daily Worker*, Jan. 4). Similarly, in the case of Crimea.

Dispatches from Moscow or Kuibyshev, which are issued by the official Stalinist agency TASS but which appear abroad as Associated Press or United Press dispatches, contain an ever increasing number of "announcements" that the victories are the fruit of Stalin's "personal planning." The interesting thing about these ritualistic and ridiculous boasts is not that Stalin is being credited with successes but rather that he is given credit for so little, and furthermore only for victories in the most recent period.

But whatever their source, the tenor of the explanations, is the same — in every case the answer in sought on the military arena alone. Naturally, climatic conditions, length of lines of communication, etc., play an important role in military activities. But they are not at all decisive.

Thus, during the Finnish invasion in 1939-1940 the Soviet troops had very short lines of communication and yet were unable to advance against a foe vastly inferior to the German Army. We might point out in passing that Stalin's "genius" was

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Seek 'Business As Usual' At OPM Conference

Corporation Heads Ignore Union Plans to Convert Auto Industry for War Production

JAN. 6. — OPM and auto corporation officials have been kicking up a cloud of dust in Washington the past few days to conceal their failure to prepare for the conversion of the auto industry to war work, which has resulted in the cessation of virtually all auto production and in unemployment for no less than 450,000 auto workers.

A month after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the OPM, yesterday convened a conference of auto labor and corporation leaders to discuss plans for "conversion of the automobile industry from a peace status to an all-out defense basis."

The conference began the same day as large CIO and United Automobile Workers advertisements in leading newspapers put the finger on the OPM and auto-

mobile moguls for refusing to consider plans, offered more than a year ago, to prepare the auto plants for a transfer without any break from civilian to war production. From the word go, the conference has shaped up as nothing more than window dressing to quiet agitation about the "business as usual", "patriotism with profits" attitude of the auto corporation owners. It is also being used to silence union leaders who have been clamoring that labor be given a voice in the organization of war production.

Jean Meichler Shot By Nazis As A Hostage

French Trotskyist Lifelong Fighter for Social Emancipation

We have just received news from France that our comrade Jean Meichler has been shot by a German firing squad. Arrested some months ago, he has just been shot as a hostage.

Jean Meichler had been a member of the French Trotskyist movement from its beginning in 1929. Throughout the years he had been an unwavering propagandist of our ideas who completely devoted his life to our organization. He was a victim many times, not only of the bourgeois French courts, but also of the military authorities. A reserve officer in the French Army, he had been demoted for his revolutionary activity. He has fallen now, together with hundreds of other workers, under German bullets.

But massacres and tortures cannot hold back the revolt of the peoples, which will bring the end not only of Hitler but of all capitalist reaction. The day of reckoning will come.

BOSSES AGREE TO NOTHING

As the first sessions of the conference have already shown, a "voice" is all that labor will get. The boss spokesmen so far have agreed only to participate in a joint conference "advisory" committee of five union and five industry representatives.

Contrary to misleading press reports that the conference had agreed on plans for mobilization of the entire industry on a planned basis and that labor is to be given a voice in production policies, the employers have agreed to nothing. They have committed themselves neither to pooling of resources, accepting the recommendations of the "advisory" committee, nor even conversion of the industry.

All labor representatives were excluded from a passenger-car subcommittee which met on Monday afternoon with Price Administrator Henderson to request that General Motors and Chrysler be permitted to manufacture more passenger cars. The companies claim they want to use up their inventories before converting their plants for war production.

This was one of the four pro- (Continued on page 3)

'United Nations' Pledged Against Separate Peace

But Pact Will Be Adhered to Only So Long As It Serves Interests of the Signatories

The new year was ushered in by the addition of one more pact to the long list of agreements which have been made in previous years—and then usually broken—by the contending powers. This new agreement, the Declaration by United Nations, was signed in Washington on Jan. 2 by the United States, Great Britain, the USSR, China and 22 smaller anti-Axis belligerents. The "United Nations" pact forms a diplomatic parallel to the "Anti-Comintern Pact" signed by 13 European and Asiatic nations in Berlin on Nov. 25, 1941. This is affirmed in the first of the two provisions of the Declaration in which each of the signatories "pledges itself to employ its full resources, military or economic, against those members of the Tri-Partite Pact, and its adherents with which such government is at war."

Prime Minister Churchill last August.

WHY PACT WAS SIGNED
The Declaration, although it is not a treaty, is regarded in Washington, to be as binding as a formal treaty which would have required legislative ratification of the signatory nations.

The announcement of the agreement came as no surprise to the world. It was to be expected that following the conferences in Washington there would be some formal ratification of the alliance by the opponents of the Axis which has been in operation for the last half year. According to the *New York Times*, the idea of the Declaration originated with President Roosevelt and Secretary Hull, two or three days before its announcement when it had become plain that Manila would be lost. But the fall of (Continued on page 3)

