

The Negro Struggle

By Albert Parker

Propaganda As a Weapon Against Jim Crow

A reader of The Militant has sent us the following letter: "I have been reading your column for over a year and I want to let you know that I follow it with interest each week because it deals in such a consistently intelligent and honest manner with the problem facing the Negro people. My work requires that I read most of the important Negro weeklies, but I do not know of any other column that is worthy of regular attention, with the exception of George Schuyler and J. A. Roger in the Pittsburgh Courier. . . . "The chief purpose of this letter, however, is to ask you to comment on Mr. Schuyler's proposal for an intensive large-scale campaign of educational propaganda to be directed toward the white masses, the unions and the white workers generally. Don't you agree that such a campaign could do much to eliminate race prejudice among the Negroes' natural allies, the white workers, and that therefore it is worthy of the support of every opponent of Jim Crowism? . . . Yes, we do agree that educational propaganda is needed and can do much to eradicate prejudices among the white workers. The Militant itself is devoted to educating white workers as to the meaning and cause of race prejudice, in the interests of forging a fighting unity of white and Negro workers against their common enemies. And naturally it welcomes and supports all efforts to facilitate this unity. . . . It is very important for every advocate of equality for the Negro people to understand the part which education plays in both the stimulation and the elimination of racial prejudice. Before we enter into this, however, let us say a word or two about Schuyler's proposal. . . . His proposal, by the way, is past the stage of discussion. After stressing the need for such a project in his Pittsburgh Courier, and after getting an encouraging response from many of his readers, Schuyler and some of his friends proceeded last month to organize the Association for Tolerance in America, "dedicated to the task of eliminating color prejudice through mass education in tolerance." Its temporary headquarters is 270 Convent Avenue, N. Y. C. . . . As explained by Schuyler, the ATA will "supplement and facilitate the work of existing organizations (fighting Jim Crowism) by preparing a book psychologically. Its job will be 'selling' the Negro American to the white masses who have hitherto been neglected by Negro propagandists who concentrated on the en-

Kelly Postal's Conviction

By James T. Farrell Noted Novelist and CRDC Chairman

The Civil Rights Defense Committee, of 160 Fifth Avenue, New York, this week released the following statement on the Kelly Postal case by James T. Farrell, noted writer and chairman of the CRDC:

Today Kelly Postal, Secretary-Treasurer of Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544-CIO, faces up to five years in prison. He is the victim of one of the most vicious frameups and campaigns of persecution in American labor history. Here is the story behind his conviction. . . . For ten years Kelly Postal has been a leader of the Minneapolis teamsters. He helped organize them during three severe strikes in 1934. He battled with them on dozens of picket lines. Postal was first chosen Secretary-Treasurer of Local 544 in 1938 and has been democratically re-elected each year since. . . . In June 1941 a long-standing conflict over questions of trade union democracy between Local 544 and Daniel J. Tobin, President of the AFL Teamsters International, came to a head. The membership of Local 544 decided in June, 1941 by a virtually unanimous vote to disaffiliate from the AFL and join the CIO. Kelly Postal was one of three delegates sent to represent Local 544 at the Teamsters International Executive Board meeting held in Washington on June 2, 1940. As one of the principal defenders of the 544 leadership against the charges presented at this hearing and as a leading figure in the subsequent struggle, Postal incurred the enmity of Tobin. . . . TOBIN'S MOVES AGAINST POSTAL Tobin made his first move against Kelly Postal personally when Postal was indicted together with 28 Socialist Workers Party leaders and 544-CIO members in the famous Minneapolis labor case of 1941. This prosecution was initiated by the Department of Justice after Tobin's explicit appeal to President Roosevelt. . . . Postal, however, was one of the five defendants completely cleared by the jury at the close of this trial. . . . Having failed to obtain a federal conviction, Tobin then pressed the Hennepin County District Attorney to bring charges of "embezzlement" against Postal. Postal was never accused of mis-using these funds personally. As Secretary-Treasurer of the local union, he merely obeyed the unanimous vote of the union membership at a regular meeting to take 544's funds with them out of the AFL and into the CIO. These funds belonged to the local union, since all per-capita taxes had been paid to the International. . . . Postal was indicted together with Miles Dunne, President of Local 544-CIO, who had also been

acquitted in the Federal trial, and Moe Hork, one of the few 544-CIO officials who had escaped indictment in the Federal case. The bulk of the indictments, however, were heaped upon Kelly Postal. There were five counts against him, two against Miles Dunne, and one against Hork. . . . POSTAL CLEARED IN FIRST TRIAL In Postal's first trial for embezzlement in January 1942, presiding Judge Hall directed the jury to discharge the case, thus clearing Postal on the first count in the indictment against him. Judge Hall declared, after presentation of the testimony, that no criminal intent had been established by the state prosecutors. . . . Tobin then put pressure upon the County Attorney to bring Postal to trial for a second time on the same kind of indictment. This second indictment differed from the first only in the amount of money Postal was alleged to have embezzled. The evidence and witnesses were substantially the same. Nevertheless this time, on May 1st 1942, Postal was found "guilty." . . . The Civil Rights Defense Committee has undertaken Kelly Postal's defense. On February 15, 1943, our defense attorneys filed briefs appealing Postal's conviction to the Minnesota Supreme Court. The final oral argument on this appeal will probably be heard early this summer. . . . Unless the conviction is reversed, this honorable and militant trade union leader will go to prison because of his devotion to trade union democracy. . . . There is far more involved in this case, however, than the act of injustice against Kelly Postal himself. The issue involved in his case is of vital importance to the entire trade union movement. That issue is: Do the members of a trade union have the democratic right to decide for themselves the disposition of their union funds? . . . If Kelly Postal can be jailed for "embezzlement," then the officers of the CIO could have been convicted when they left the AFL and took their funds along with them. If Postal's conviction stands, this precedent can be used to deprive unions of their democratic right to use their funds as the membership directs. . . . That is why we have undertaken Kelly Postal's defense and ask every friend of civil liberties and the entire labor movement for material and moral aid in his case.

From Judge Hall's Statement to the Jury Directing Discharge of Postal Case

"By a resolution of the majority of the Local 544 membership, he (Postal) was directed to turn over all of the monies of the union to the Union Defense Committee. That this resolution, directing him to turn over the monies was open and avowed, cannot be disputed, as it was heard, according to State witnesses, through the loud-speaker system, even by those assembled outside the building. . . . The membership of the union must have believed they had a right to transfer these monies by resolution, as they attempted to do. Postal, the defendant, was the agent and steward of the membership and turned over their money at their direction." -February, 1942.

TOBIN THREATENS JAIL FOR UNION OPPONENTS

Daniel J. Tobin's treacherous collaboration with federal and state officials to destroy union democracy in the Minneapolis teamsters' movement in 1941 was not an isolated incident, it was revealed last week. On the contrary, Tobin is still using his influence with the administration to secure governmental repressions against all those within the AFL Teamsters Union who oppose his reactionary policies and his dictatorial rule. . . . Writing in the latest issue of International Teamster, the official organ of the union, Tobin stated that he was cooperating with "certain departments of government" in expelling militants from the union, and declared: "We have certain individuals in some large cities who are under observation and whose personal and family contacts are also under observation." . . . This can only mean that Tobin has again appealed for aid from the Department of Justice and the FBI, as he did in the Minneapolis case, and that he is using this aid to intimidate and eliminate his union opponents. . . . EXPULSION POLICY Tobin, of course, does not rely on the government alone to purge those who want to defend the teamsters' conditions. He is ready and willing to do a good deal of the dirty work himself, warning that: "Local union officers will have to prefer charges against such individuals (who are under observation) and suspend them from membership. If local union officials refuse to proceed thus, the international (that is, Tobin) will be compelled to remove them from office."

Stalin And Post-War Europe

By M. Morrison

What will Stalin do, should the Nazi army be completely defeated by the Red Army? Will he march to Berlin? Will he call for a revolution in Europe? Will he take all or part of Europe under his control? These and many other questions have been posed by both friend and foe of the Soviet Union. A multiplicity of answers have been forthcoming, the nature of every answer depending upon the fears, hopes and outlook of the answerer. . . . Shall we participate in this interesting game of speculation? There is no harm in it provided one understands that it is merely speculation. In general it is impossible to predict concrete events. One can at best, predict only the general direction in which events are tending. One must in the first place be given a certain set of circumstances to venture a prediction as to what Stalin will do. And Stalin may choose any one of several courses under the same circumstances. . . . With reference to the possible conduct of Stalin it is best to lay down broad general principles and warn the workers to be on their guard for certain eventualities. . . . The Nazi armies are of course not yet defeated. No one knows the offensive and defensive powers that still remain in those armies. A defeat in a battle or a campaign does not necessarily seal the fate of an army. I have said before that all we can do now is hope that the German armies will be defeated. They who are not so cautious can express their hopes in the form of a definite statement. . . . An important factor to be taken into consideration is the extent of the damage suffered by the Soviet Union. Maurice Hindus, in a series of articles which he wrote for the N. Y. Herald Tribune, upon his return recently from the Soviet Union, estimates that the Red Army lost four million men in killed alone. He makes the statement that a conservative estimate of the number of civilians who died in the territory occupied by Hitler's troops is six million. Other estimates run as high as 15 million. The economic damage caused by Hitler's invasion, occupation and retreat will take years of peace to repair. . . . Under the circumstances the safest prediction is that Stalin is in no position to carry on an offensive war outside of Soviet territory. What he wants most of all is the expulsion of the invader from the Soviet Union and peace. This lends some plausibility to the speculation of some people that a peace between Hitler and Stalin will be arranged as soon or even before the German armies are driven from Soviet soil. . . . Two fundamental factors must always be taken into consideration in discussing possible courses Stalin may pursue. One is that, above all, he is interested in preserving and extending the power of the bureaucracy he represents. The other is that he rules over a degenerated workers' state. . . . Because of the first factor Stalin is capable of doing anything and everything that is counter-revolutionary. He will not hesitate to arrive at an agreement with any capitalist power to suppress a workers' revolution. He will not hesitate once more to enter into an agreement with Hitler, if such a step seems to him to be necessary to preserve the interests of the Soviet bureaucracy. . . . But because the economic base of the country which he rules consists of nationalized property, brought into existence by a workers' revolution, Stalin may, if he finds it necessary, call for, and even initiate, revolutionary measures on the part of the workers and peasants of all or part of

International Notes

By BETTY KUEHN

Hitler's main weapon today, as The Militant has often explained, is the German workers' fear of a second and worse Versailles treaty. . . . Polish workers, returning from forced labor on the Nazi fortifications of the eastern front, corroborate our statement. They say, according to the March 5 Polish labor paper, Poland Fights, the following about the morale of the German soldier: "The only thing that keeps him at the front today is fear of slavery and fear of the revenge of the conquered nations." . . . This corroboration is especially important since it comes through a paper which is in favor of punishing the Germans with another Versailles. . . . A second and worse Versailles is all that the capitalist powers can offer. Only a Workers' and Farmers' Government in the United States could assure real freedom for all nationalities of the world and thus take Hitler's main weapon away from him. . . . Amazement at the "high cultural standards of the Russian masses" and the "internal force" of the Russian peasant woman was expressed by a member of the staff of the Berlin Russian-language paper Novoye Slovo. . . . After spending some time in Nazi-occupied Smolensk, the reporter published the story of his experience. . . . Quotations from his story are cited by Solomon Schwarz in the Feb. 22 New Republic as follows: "At first contact, you will be amazed by many a thing, and above all by the language which the simple country woman uses in talking to you. The revolution has brought into use many words that before it were the monopoly of the 'intellectual' classes unknown in the factory and in the country. . . . "You will notice no trace of humility in the average Russian, who has acquired some kind of political inward self-consciousness of his own. . . . When the Japanese invaded Java nearly a year ago, the natives learned what the slogan "Greater Asia" really means—a greater Asia with the Japanese imperialists as the super-exploiter. . . . This brown exploiter may some day find it convenient to come to an understanding with the white imperialist exploiters whom he has ousted for the moment. That understanding would, of course, be directed against the colonial masses. Accordingly, the Japanese conqueror makes a distinction between the colonial natives and the white races: ". . . the treatment of the white population was, on the whole, not brutal. Jap soldiers put on a humble, even shy manner, saluting and grinning at the whites and asking favors with a 'sorry' or a 'please'. Ruthless brutality was saved for the native Javanese. "Natives who failed to bow properly were beaten with rifle butts. Hungry Javanese who tried to steal rice were machine-gunned or seized and dragged into the public square. Then they cut off his hands, or his head."—Time, March 1.

Miners Union Demands \$2 A Day Wage Raises

(Continued from page 1) their case before any court that has already rendered a decision. And that is the case of Mr. William H. Davis and his War Labor Board. That is the case of Prentiss Brown of OPA. . . . And it is also the case of James Byrnes, the economic stabilizer, one of our judicial vestal virgins who has stepped down from his high place to say to the workers of this nation, "You shall not pass." . . . Lewis concluded his talk by calling upon all organized labor to join the miners in efforts to compel the government to change its wage policy. . . . The convention then adjourned with a unanimous vote for the \$2 pay rise demand. . . . Negotiations between Lewis and the operators began this week on March 8. There is very little possibility of direct agreement, since the mine owners are walled by the support of the WLB. Falling agreement, the case would normally go to the WLB, but Lewis has already indicated that the UMW may refuse to submit it to that prejudiced body. A POSSIBLE TRICK The government has one "ace in the hole" in its fight to keep the miners' hourly wages frozen to the January 1941 level—the extension of the work week from 40 to 48 hours. Should the work week be extended, the miners would receive overtime for the additional 8 hours worked. Certain government officials hope this will succeed in cutting the



A New, Timely 32-page Pamphlet by C. Charles 5c in copies 3 1/2c in bundles Order from PIONEER PUBLISHERS 116 University Place

ground from under the demand for the \$2 pay boost. . . . Whatever effect such a move would have on the miners, it would by no means solve the problems of millions of other workers throughout the country who are squeezed between living costs and frozen wages. . . . As Lewis indicated in his talk to the Tri-District convention, this is a fight in which all labor is involved. It is a fight which all labor should support.

Aircraft Workers Are Bitter Over WLB Order

By N. COLLINS SAN DIEGO, March 7. — The War Labor Board's answer to the aircraft workers on the Pacific Coast amount to: No increases and strike if you dare! . . . Since July, 1942, the workers of the aircraft industry have been waiting for an answer to their plea for wage increases. Their demands were a 95 cents minimum (present minimum was \$3.40) and wage rates in classifications comparable to rates paid in nearby shipyards for the same work. . . . Finally, after 8 months, the answer came. No raise at all for the huge majority of the workers. Boeing, at Seattle, did receive a 4c raise, and it must be remembered that the Boeing local is the most militant and the best organized. . . . At the two meetings held this week for Consolidated and Solar and Rohr aircraft (representing approximately 45,000 workers) the workers denounced, in no uncertain terms, the companies and their profiteering, the War Labor

BASIC TRAINING COURSE IN MARXISM Every Tuesday and Friday nights from 8:15 to 9:45 Inquire 4th floor 116 UNIVERSITY PL., N. Y.

Real Italian Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, March 13 At 116 University Place \$1 Complete Dinner — Served from 6:30 P. M. Entertainment and Dancing Free Proceeds to the Civil Rights Defense Committee Auspices: Socialist Workers Party

