

# Miners Break Roosevelt's Domination Over Their Union

## An Editorial

The miners have weathered the first storm of anti-labor blows and hysteria. They stood firm and united against vilification, threats and false promises. They did not retreat on their wage demands and they have a good chance of winning what they demanded.

They couldn't have done this if they had permitted their case to be buried in that graveyard of grievances, the War Labor Board. They couldn't have done this if they had submitted their case to a court packed against labor. They couldn't have done this if they had entered the fight shackled by the chains of a no-strike pledge.

No, they were able to meet the anti-labor pressure of the White House, Congress, the press and the radio only by asserting their independence of Roosevelt and breaking the grip of his domination over their union. Once they had thrown off the straitjacket of government control which has virtually paralyzed the unions since the war began, they were free to defend and advance their own interests and to hold their own in the first great test of strength with the bosses and the administration.

The events of the last week have demonstrated the power of organized labor when it acts in an independent manner, relying not on Washington but on its own strength. They have pointed the way for the workers to escape from the vise of

frozen wages and rising living costs. Let the rest of labor become as conscious as the miners of their collective strength and let them use it, and there is no limit to what they can achieve.

Now that the miners have taken the initiative in breaking with Roosevelt's policies in the economic arena, they should take the logical next step. They should assert their independence on the political field by breaking with both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party whose representatives are now rushing anti-union and anti-strike laws through Congress.

The actions of these capitalist parties and their spokesmen in the present coal crisis have amply demonstrated that they are the agents and lackeys of Big Business and the mine operators, ready to use every instrument of coercion at the command

of the government in order to protect the profits of the operators and defeat the justified demands of the miners. Defense of the unions' economic struggle requires that the anti-labor government agents be replaced by representatives of the labor movement.

As a result of their militant struggles the miners are in a position to assume the leadership of a regenerated labor movement. They have inspired millions of workers by asserting their independence of Washington's economic policy. They can arouse and activate millions more and lead them toward a better society by breaking politically with the parties responsible for that economic policy and taking the lead in launching a nationwide Independent Labor Party based on the trade unions.

# THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. VII—No. 19

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1943



PRICE (5) CENTS

# MINE WORKERS WIN FIRST ROUND

## Davies' Film Whitewashes Stalin's Crimes

By John G. Wright

"Mission To Moscow" is now being peddled to movie audiences as a documentary film of events from 1936 to date as allegedly seen through the eyes of ex-Ambassador Joseph E. Davies. Nothing could be further from the truth. "Mission To Moscow" is false from beginning to end. More exactly, it is a 100% Stalinist lie.

The resources of Hollywood and of the press have been mobilized

with the blessing of the authorities in Washington — to present as the "truth" the GPU version of the Moscow trials, during which the prosecution was unable to produce a single shred of evidence to substantiate its case.

It is an infinitely easier task to spin the web of a lie than to unravel each of its countless threads. Let us observe more closely how these belated falsifiers of history have set about their work.

### TRIMMINGS FOR THE BIG LIE

Interspersed throughout the film are newsreel shots, many excellent ones. Also paraded on the screen are prominent personages, some living, others dead: Haile Selassie, Roosevelt, Churchill, Shigemitsu, Shacht, Stalin, Ribbentrop, Kalinin, Molotov, Vyshinsky, Yagoda, Litvinov, Tukhachevsky, Bukharin, Radek, etc. etc. They are all there, including Chamberlain's umbrella.

Settings are elaborately reproduced: Davies' lodge in the Adirondacks; the White House in Washington; the League of Nations in session at Geneva; the Red Square in Moscow; the ship that took Davies to Europe; scenes in Hamburg, Berlin, Prague; the Kremlin; the trains that took Davies from one European capital to another, including Moscow; the ballroom in Moscow where Davies was feted; the American embassy in Moscow, emblem and all; the Moscow courtroom where the frameups were originally staged, etc.

Why is all this so necessary? Because it is that kind of "truth" which when admitted with the lie renders its venom all the more powerful and deadly. It is the old trick of being exact in little things in order to put over the big lie all the better. It is that kind of "truth" about which one English poet has said: "Truth that's told with bad intent beats all the lies you can invent."

### STALIN'S MURDERS

In the space of three years (1936, 1937, 1938) Stalin murdered the entire generation of Russian

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### Mussolini Also Liked the Frameups

"Mission to Moscow," the motion picture glorification and whitewash of the Moscow trial frameups, shows that Washington and the "democracies" approve of Stalin's infamous murders of his working class political opponents.

But they aren't the only ones. The fascists — above all, Hitler-Goebbels & Co. — also approved of them. In fact, Benito Mussolini was so happy to see Lenin's comrades murdered by the Stalinist bureaucracy that he wrote a series of articles on the trials in the fascist paper, Popolo d'Italia, in which he declared on March 5, 1938:

"Stalin is rendering a commendable service to fascism by slaughtering its declared though impotent enemies in large sweeps."

### They Lie About Tukhachevsky!

The alleged Moscow trial scene of "Mission to Moscow" shows one of Stalin's victims, Marshal Tukhachevsky, the real head of the General Staff of the Red Army and the man who was responsible for its mechanization, confessing to participation in a conspiracy to dismember the Soviet Union together with Hitler and the Mikado.

This is just one of the many brazen Stalinist lies in the picture which will not even be found in Davies' book, or anywhere else. Tukhachevsky never confessed to any such conspiracy in actual life. The GPU never succeeded in extorting any confessions from him. He never was brought to public trial, as the Davies film pretends. He was arrested on frameup charges and was executed in the great purge of 1937, along with thousands of others of Soviet officers, soldiers and revolutionists whom no power on earth could force to confess falsely to crimes they never committed.



## Brown Says Wage Rises Won't Aid The Miners

By C. CHARLES

As we go to press, OPA officials have at last admitted that prices, particularly of food, are "practically out of control." Their statement is also a clear admission of the justice of the miners' demands for wage increases and is in sharp contrast to the assertions and promises made by OPA Administrator Prentiss M. Brown only a few days before.

Brown spoke on a national radio hookup on April 30, with the deadline for the walkout of half a million miners a few hours away. His aim was to convince the miners that had nothing to gain by seeking wage raises.

After asserting that if the coal wage rise were granted, increases could not be denied to workers in other industries and prices would have to

### WHAT BROWN CONCEALS

Brown pretends that price increases will FOLLOW the raising of the miners' and other workers' wages. Not true! The miners are fighting first of all to raise their wages so as to meet the already increased cost of living. Price increases have PRECEDED the miners' wage demands. Brown denies that which every worker and every working class housewife knows: that price increases are lowering real wages; that the legal prices are disregarded on Davies that night; they were saving their energies for smearing anti-fascist revolutionists later. And nothing was seen of the Stalinists that night either; they called on the workers to boycott the anti-fascist demonstration. It is not surprising that the Davies film omits the facts about the Trotskyist leadership of that great anti-fascist demonstration, for its purpose is not to tell the truth but to appease Stalin by smearing the Trotskyists as fascists or agents of fascists.

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The above pictures are scenes of a demonstration by Local New York of the Socialist Workers Party in front of the Hollywood Theatre on the opening night of the Warner Brothers' motion picture, "Mission to Moscow." The demonstration did not attempt to prevent people from entering the theatre; its purpose was to call attention to the lies in the film and to the truth about the Moscow trial frameups. Thousands of leaflets with quotations from the findings of the Dewey Commission were distributed to theatre-goers and passers-by.

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## CP Tried Hardest To Break Strike

By MICHAEL CORT

Of all the many strike-breaking forces who lined up against the miners' struggle for a living wage, none worked harder at the job than the Stalinists. For the five days immediately preceding the strike truce, the *Daily Worker* whipped itself into a veritable lather of vilification against John L. Lewis and the militant members of the United Mine Workers who followed his lead in demanding that the profit-swollen mine owners pay them decent wages. Nor was

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## The Members Stand Solidly Behind Their Organization

By Art Preis

PITTSBURGH, Pa., May 3. — The hope of the mine operators and every other boss in the country that President Roosevelt speech last night would send the coal miners scurrying back to the pits this morning in a demoralized rout has been completely smashed.

Sticking by their guns in a magnificent display of union discipline and solidarity, and in the face of an unparalleled barrage of government threat and intimidation, the miners throughout this key soft coal area today held hundreds of local meetings and in an organized, deliberate fashion voted to return to work tomorrow pending the outcome of the 15 day mine strike truce announced by United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis.

It was my great privilege to visit some of the mining towns in this area today, to talk with local union leaders and to attend the closed meeting of Local 73 in Liberty, Pa., largest local in District 5, an autonomous district of the UMW.

### A SYMBOLIC GESTURE

The determination, courage and solid loyalty of the miners were vividly demonstrated at the packed meeting of Local 73 in the big red brick building on top of the hill overlooking Montour No. 10 mine of Mellon's Pittsburgh Coal Co., largest coal company in America.

In a demonstrative fashion, the members voted to reopen the mine according to the strict interpretation of their national policy committee's announcement. They finally agreed to permit the night shift to go on, but no sooner than 12:01 A. M., Tuesday morning, the date for the beginning of the truce set by their own leaders, and not by Roosevelt, the mine owners or anyone else.

This was a conscious symbolic gesture. These miners are telling the world that they are more united than ever, ready at the end of the 15 day truce to resume their struggle at the request of their leadership and if they do not get a satisfactory contract.

From my observation and four days following Roosevelt's appeal to the miners over the heads of their national leaders, I can state categorically that Roosevelt's personal prestige has received a strong blow among the powerful organized coal miners. Many of the miners will still tell you they are still for Roosevelt "as president" although they are greatly disappointed at his latest action. Even those who continue to speak for him and

throw the blame for his strike-breaking actions on the pressure of the mine bosses and the WLB, express an obvious note of uncertainty and doubt.

And not many of them are deceived by the fact that today the American flag and a sign, "U. S. Property," are suddenly being displayed by the mine bosses.

William Pierce, recording secretary of Local 73, said I could quote him as to his opinion on the difference the so-called "government seizure" of the mines has meant.

"So far as I can see," he stated emphatically, "there's no difference. The same management is

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## Roosevelt Failed To Estimate the Miners Correctly

By Philip Blake

NEW YORK, May 5. —

By asserting their independence of the Roosevelt administration, the miners won the first round in their fight to obtain wage increases to meet the rising cost of living. The fight is not yet finished but the United Mine Workers appeared to have the edge as this is written. From all indications they have a good chance of winning a major portion of their demands if they continue to follow the militant policy they have pursued up to now.

It was no secret that the Roosevelt administration was anxious not only to deny the miners' economic demands — the winning of which would inspire all the other unions to press for similar gains — but also to smash John L. Lewis and crush

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## UAW Conference Vote Support Of Mine Strike

By John Saunders

DETROIT, May 3. — 1000 delegates, representing 350,000 Michigan members of the UAW, gathered in conference on Saturday and Sunday, May 1-2, at the Masonic Temple in Detroit, overrode the demands of their national leaders and placed themselves overwhelmingly on record in support of the United Mine Workers strike.

Although not formally on the agenda, the mine

strike dominated the conference during the entire two day session. The pressure of the rank and file auto workers asserted itself despite the fact that this conference was called on only three or four days' notice and the delegations were therefore chiefly appointed by the officers.

With the exception of about a dozen Stalinists, the entire conference supported not only the demands of the miners but also the strike which was forced upon them.

The discussion of the mine strike which took place under every point of the agenda reached its climax when a majority and minority resolution were brought to the floor on the second day of the session. The majority resolution called for all-out support. The minority resolution called for support of the economic demands of

the mine workers; condemnation of the strike; and support of Roosevelt.

All the officers and members of the International Executive Board were opposed to the strike action. Speeches against John L. Lewis and the strike were made by President R. J. Thomas, vice-presidents Walter Reuther and Richard Frankenstein and Executive Board member Leo La Motte, but to no avail. The rank and file representatives could not be moved from their determination to go all the way down the line for the miners. James Lucas, president of the Pontiac Motor Local, received the greatest ovation of the two day conference when he stated:

"I disagree with Reuther. He

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## 'Mission' Omits An Interesting Scene

One of the scenes in "Mission To Moscow" shows a mass meeting held by the German-American Bund and the Coughlinites in New York's Madison Square Garden on Feb. 20, 1939. The motion picture scene shows a bit of action inside the Garden, but it does not show what was going on OUTSIDE of the Garden.

Outside the Garden that night was an anti-fascist demonstration of more than 50,000 workers —

called to action and led by the Socialist Workers Party, the Trotskyists.

This demonstration would have dispersed the fascist gathering, if the fascists had not been protected by the cops of the same LaGuardia who now presents himself as an exponent of democracy and an opponent of fascism. All the present-day democracy-shouters were absent that night when the opportunity presented itself to deal a telling blow to the fascists.

Nothing was heard of people like





