

National Pardon Campaign For 18 Gets Under Way

Unions Support Drive to Free SWP Leaders; Labor and Liberal Press Condemn Jailings

NEW YORK CITY—Signatures are beginning to roll into the office of the Civil Rights Defense Committee as its national petition campaign to obtain unconditional presidential pardon for the 18 imprisoned leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO gets under way.

The petitions, calling upon President Roosevelt to uphold the Bill of Rights by pardoning the class-war prisoners framed under the vicious Smith "Gag" Act, are being circulated in local trade unions, clubs, factories and meetings throughout the country.

NEEDS FUNDS The CRDC urgently needs funds to provide relief for the prisoners, their wives and families and to mobilize all progressive forces behind its fight to free the 18 and repeal the reactionary Smith "Gag" Act.

This week's union contributors to the Minneapolis Prisoners Relief Fund include Locals 87 and 104, Textile Workers Union-CIO of Paterson, New Jersey and UAW-CIO Local 647 of Reading, Ohio. Enclosing a check for one hundred dollars, Kay Gentile, Local 647's Financial Secretary, writes: "This Local is in deep sympathy to these men and hopes this amount will help a good cause."

All labor organizations and fighters for civil liberties are urged to send donations to James T. Farrell, Chairman Civil Rights Defense Committee, 160 5th Avenue, New York City.

In its Jan. 12 issue "Aero-Notes," the lively paper of Brewster Local 365 UAW-CIO, sharply condemns the attack upon free speech involved in the jailing of the 18. "How many have paid any heed to the fight against reaction at home? As this is being written, eighteen men and women are enroute to federal penitentiaries, three to Danbury, Connecticut, the others to Sandstone, Minnesota. With their departure, one more step has been taken to suppress free labor, one more blow against the four freedoms here at home has been delivered. For freedom of thought and speech were sent to prison today."

LOCAL PLEDGES SUPPORT After describing the facts in the case, the article concludes: "Thinking people concerned with the preservation of our own Constitution and its guarantee of civil liberties, all over the country are saying with Voltaire: 'We

Roosevelt Calls On Congress To Adopt Forced Labor Legislation

Framed Trotskyist Leaders Enter Jail



15 of the 18 Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO leaders pause for a moment on Dec. 31 as they approached the entrance of the Hennepin County Jail, Minneapolis, where they spent three days before final incarceration in federal prisons.

CIO Political Action Heads Hold Do-Nothing Conference

By Art Preis

NEW YORK CITY—A bevy of CIO big-wigs and Rooseveltian politicians, including Philip Murray, R. J. Thomas, Sidney Hillman, Walter Reuther and Vice-President Henry Wallace, at a conference of the CIO Political Action Committee last Friday and Saturday in New York's swank Park Central Hotel, churned the air with oratory deploring the depressing post-war prospects for American labor.

For two solid days they beat their gums vigorously and at length, expounding their sundry blue-prints for ensuring full employment and security at the termination of military conflict. They all agreed that cessation of hostilities threatens the American working-class with catastrophic economic breakdown and unemployment. They all agreed that "something ought to be done about it," and that the problem could not be left to the Big Business masters of the country.

Browder And J. P. Morgan

From the Text of Earl Browder's Report to the National Committee of the Communist Party at its meeting in New York City on Jan. 7-9.

"We shall have to be prepared to break with anyone that refuses to support and fight for the realization of the Teheran Agreement and the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition. We must be prepared to give the hand of cooperation and fellowship to everyone who fights for the realization of this coalition. If J. P. Morgan supports this coalition and goes down the line for it, I as a Communist am prepared to clasp his hand and join with him to realize it. Class divisions or political groupings have no significance now except as they reflect one side or the other side of the issue."

Largest U. S. Bank Indicted In Nazi Trade Conspiracy

NEW YORK CITY—Chase National Bank, world's largest commercial bank and financial heart of the gigantic Rockefeller and Standard Oil interests, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in New York last Wednesday for violation of the Trading with the Enemy Act and conspiracy.

The charges, brought by the Department of Justice, are based on evidence that this multi-billion dollar financial octopus, whose direct and indirect control extends into hundreds of America's biggest war industries and corporations, knowingly facilitated the transfer of blocked Axis funds to finance the sale and smuggling of industrial diamonds to Nazi Germany and Japan.

Although Winthrop W. Aldrich, chairman of the bank's board of

Unloads Upon Labor His Own Failure To Curb Inflation

President's 5-Point Program Like Former 7-Point Program Reveals Anti-Labor Bias

By C. Thomas

Roosevelt's message to congress requesting the adoption of "a national selective service act" to outlaw strikes was the culmination of weeks of a carefully planned campaign directed against the trade unions. The campaign was initiated immediately upon the President's return from the Cairo and Teheran conferences. Part of the build-up was Roosevelt's spectacular action ordering the army to seize the railroads. This contrasts with his previous actions in the coal strikes where he instructed a civilian agency, the fuels administrator, to take over control.

Following the seizure of the railroads by the army came General Marshall's infamous attack upon organized labor which the Army and Navy Journal revealed was directly inspired by Roosevelt. Then from one end of the country to the other, day in and day out, the kept press spewed forth a steady stream of poisonous propaganda calculated to whip up a lynch hysteria against the unions. With the ground thus prepared, with "public opinion" thus regimented behind the "demand" for punitive action against labor, Roosevelt delivered his message to Congress.

5-POINT PROGRAM

In his message, Roosevelt presented a five-point program which included: (1) "A realistic tax law — which will tax all unreasonable profits," (2) "A continuation of the law for renegotiation of war contracts," (3) "A cost of food law," (4) "Early reenactment of the stabilization statute of October 1942," and (5) "A national service law."

After he had delivered his message, Roosevelt summoned Philip Murray and William Green to the White House for a "conference."

Who Comforts Hitler?

Despite Gen. Marshall's slanderous anti-labor charge that strikes and threats of strike have provided Hitler with a powerful propaganda weapon, the Nazi radio has maintained a studied silence about the coal, rail and steel wage conflicts. However, the Nazis not only anticipated Roosevelt's Congressional message, but derived from it public comfort and justification for their slave labor regime.

Radio Berlin, as recorded on Jan. 11 in New York City by CBS, trumpeted: "Roosevelt is now going to announce details of the compulsory universal service act in his message to Congress and propose the introduction of universal service in the United States."

ON GUARD!

Under the heading, "AMG Encourages Pro-Nazi Trotskyites," the Daily Worker, Jan. 10, publishes a violent diatribe against alleged "Trotskyites" in Italy, claiming they are aiding the Nazis with "Anti-Soviet, anti-United Nations propaganda."

A careful perusal of the names of the alleged "Trotskyites" reveals some to be well-known Social-Democratic supporters of the Allies, while others are unknown to labor circles in this country. They are all, however, undoubtedly political opponents of the Stalinists.

MURRAY'S SPEECH

Touching on more current issues, CIO President Murray managed to pontificate at length against Roosevelt's proposal for a national forced labor draft without so much as mentioning the President's name.

Murray's touching regard for Roosevelt's sensibilities and prestige was evoked in part by the presence of Vice-President Wallace, Roosevelt's chore-boy, an honored guest of the conference.

Just after Roosevelt had announced his national forced labor plan, in the midst of his open and ruthless drive to incite the armed forces against the labor movement, the CIO leaders could find no more appropriate figure from whom, in the words of Hillman, they could "take counsel," than this apologist for the Roosevelt regime.

AMERICAN LABOR PARTY TORN BY BITTER CLIQUE CONFLICT

NEW YORK CITY—A bitter unprincipled clique fight for control of the American Labor Party in New York has reached the stage where rival gangs of labor fakers now threaten to tear the party asunder, divide the political strength of the New York workers and discredit the very conception of independent labor political action.

The Rose-Dubinsky-Social-Democratic wing, which controls the ALP State Executive Committee, announced last Saturday that it intends to enter its own slate in the forthcoming April Party primary elections to contest the slate of the Hillman-Stalinist faction which is trying to seize the party's apparatus.

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Browder's Speech And The Struggle For Socialism

By The Editors

Many sincere Stalinist workers have reconciled themselves to the previous twists and turns of the Communist Party: the pact with Hitler, the kowtowing to Roosevelt, the policy of strike-breaking, etc., as maneuvers necessary to defend the Soviet Union. They may even have accepted the dissolution of the Comintern, the discarding of "The Internationale" as regrettable concessions to appease Roosevelt and Churchill with whom Stalin is allied. But they could swallow these criminal betrayals only because they assumed and were assured in private if not in public that they were temporary expedients and that the Communist party still aimed and fought for world socialism.

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