

## CIO STRIKERS FIGHT WARD'S OPEN SHOP

### CIO And AFL Locals Demand President Pardon The Eighteen

The membership of UAW-CIO Local 260, Newark, N. J. voted last week to donate \$100 to the Civil Rights Defense Committee after permission had been granted to representatives of the Newark Local Committee to speak at their union meeting and present the issues involved in the Minneapolis Labor Case. Several union members spoke out vigorously in protest against the unjust imprisonment of the 18 Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO leaders under the infamous Smith "Gag" Act.

Letters and resolutions protesting the imprisonments and demanding unconditional Presidential pardon for the 18 continue to pour into the National CRDC Office. Writing to President Roosevelt, August Pepe, President and Helen Hazaard, Secretary, Local 144-ILGWU-AFL, Newark, N. J. declared:

#### ILGWU PROTEST

"The members of the Dress-makers Union Local 144-ILGWU, on February 24, in a general meeting assembled, took up the case of the Minneapolis prisoners, the 18 men and women who, because they stood for the rights of the workers, have been framed by reactionaries and sentenced to jail in this country. . . . The excuse that these 18 labor leaders were conspiring against our government proved to be so stupid that it was refused attention even in court. The real charge was that they sold and circulated literature dealing with the labor struggle . . . and the Jim Crow methods in certain branches of the military services. As you know, the persecution against them was started years ago by Daniel Tobin, President of the Teamsters International Union-AFL, with the purpose of destroying the real union spirit of the membership. Therefore Tobin sought revenge . . . Nothing can be imputed to the 18 prisoners but their loyalty to labor and their socialist principles. Is it a crime to help those who suffer and to advocate a society of greater justice? The Smith Act invoked to strangle the voice of democracy is an attack on the constitutional doctrines of the nation and a menace to the liberty of our Commonwealth. We owe it to our dignity as a free people to defeat the maneuvers of the reactionaries. . . .

#### OREGON CIO PROTESTS

From the far west, another letter to President Roosevelt stated: "The Congress of Industrial Organizations in the State of Oregon wishes to add its plea to those of other labor organizations asking you to pardon the defendants in the Minneapolis Case. . . . While we do not agree with many of the things these people advocate, we do not believe that the right of free speech should be

### U. S. Big Business Sees More Strikes Ahead in England

According to the latest dispatches from London the Churchill government and its Laborite flunkies have for the time being succeeded in "settling" the coal strike. A new four-year pact involving the government, the mine owners and the miners' union has been accepted by the delegates of the National Miners Federation. This pact fixes a weekly minimum wage of \$20 for underground workers, and reportedly grants slightly higher rates to skilled workers and piece workers.

The minimum wage in the coal industry still remains almost \$3 a week below the average male factory wage in England, officially estimated at \$22.78. That the miners have been granted only a pitance is clearly to be seen from the figures estimating the annual cost increase arising from the new pact. This is set at "\$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000 annually." Divided among several hundred thousand miners, it comes to less than \$2 a week, and will hardly alleviate their terrible plight in the face of wartime scarcity and inflation.

The pact also involves a speed up. "Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labor, and Major Gwilym Lloyd George made it clear to the miners' delegates that increased output was expected as a result of the concessions." (N. Y. Times, April 14).

#### SUBSTANTIAL MINORITY

A substantial minority of the miners' delegates rejected the new agreement, the vote being reported as 512,00 for and 97,000 against. The opposition among the miners themselves is unquestionably much larger.

It is reported that the North-Cumberland and Yorkshire miners have returned to work and that strikes elsewhere have subsided. According to *Business Week* (April 15): "Tyneside shipyards are back to almost normal operation, and Belfast, where dock, aircraft and engineering workers walked out, is again functioning as an important arsenal city."

But the temporary subsidence of strikes in these areas by no means denotes the end of the strike wave or the termination of England's labor crisis, especially in the coal fields. This is taken for granted by the conscious spokesmen of American Big Business. The foregoing article in *Business Week* goes on to warn that "the basic causes behind the wave of labor unrest remain, and realists will not be surprised if

(Continued on page 2)

### Akron CIO Backs Fight Of The URW Militants

AKRON, O., April 17.—The United Rubber Workers of America, CIO, is now locked in a critical internal struggle.

The dispute inside the rubber union takes on special significance since the entire CIO movement is faced with a campaign by the top officialdom to force strict adherence to the no-strike pledge by means of open violence against the rights of all militant unionists who dare to defend the workers against company encroachments and provocations.

The campaign on the part of the Dalrymple clique to house-break the rubber union and to set up a dictatorship over the membership, reached a new high this week, when Dalrymple again cracked down on the rank and file. The General Executive Board expelled two members, without trial, from the Akron Sieberling local, for participating in a walkout.

The bureaucratic actions of URW President Dalrymple has evoked a rising tide of resistance inside the rubber union. The expulsion of the 72 handbuilders at the General Tire Local several

weeks ago was followed by the following steps:

#### RALLY TO MILITANTS

1. The great majority of the General Local membership rallied to the side of the victimized militants and demanded their reinstatement. So overwhelming was the opposition that Dalrymple found himself without any significant support inside this local union. He then proceeded to set up an administrator over the local and usurped all the local union's rights.

2. Goodrich Local 5 and Firestone Local 7 adopted resolutions demanding the reinstatement of all the expelled General local members and condemned Dalrymple's arbitrary action in depriving unionists of membership without a trial.

3. The General Executive Board of the International union thereupon held star chamber hearings on the cases of the expelled members and reinstated all but 7 of the handbuilders. All were declared guilty of violation of the no-strike pledge, but the 7 workers were singled out as "ring-leaders."

4. Howard Haas and Ray Sullivan, leaders of the General Local

opposition to Dalrymple were ordered expelled by the General Executive Board for alleged disruptive activity.

5. Goodrich Local 5 brought Dalrymple up on charges for violating the basic provisions of the URW constitution and a membership meeting voted by an overwhelming majority to expel him, suspend him, and fine him on several counts.

6. The Firestone Local 7 executive board inserted an advertisement in the local daily paper supporting Local 5's action in expelling Dalrymple and condemning the International General Executive Board for violation of union democracy.

7. The Akron Industrial Union Council, after an investigation, publicly supported the General local and the actions of Goodrich local 5.

8. Despite this mounting resistance, the Dalrymple clique replied to the expulsion of the International president from his local union by issuing a peremptory demand in the name of the General Executive Board that Local 5 reinstate the President.

(Continued on page 5)

### Montgomery Ward Strike Scene



A picket in the Montgomery Ward strike, involving 5,000 Chicago members of the CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees, is held by police when he protested their assistance to a scab trying to pass the picket line.

### The De Gaulle Clique And Its Plan For A Capitalist France

By James Cowan

The real aim of the Anglo-American capitalists to prop up reactionary dictatorial governments all over Europe has already been revealed in the case of Italy, where the war-weary people have been harnessed to the Allied war machine and had foisted upon them the infamous regime of Badoglio and the King. This self-same policy is now being pursued in the case of France.

A consistent pattern emerges. It resembles not at all a blueprint for the liberation of France, but a plan for frustrating the will of the French masses, subjecting them anew to the rule of capital, the dictatorship of the "200 Families."

Now that military plans are almost completed and the Allied armies stand poised for the thrust into western Europe, both the Anglo-American capitalists and their French satellites are becoming more and more obsessed with the probable political consequences of the pending military campaign: What will happen in France on the morrow of the invasion?

The experience of Italy is fresh in their memories. The Italian workers took the promise of liberation seriously. Having overthrown the government of Mussolini, they moved forward to complete the job of political house-cleaning. A popular revolution threatened, and still threatens, to sweep away not only the last vestiges of the Fascist regime, but the capitalist system that gave it birth.

#### ALLIANCE WITH REACTION

In order to avert this catastrophe, the imperialist "liberators" allied themselves with every element of Italian reaction. The regime of Badoglio and the King, supported by Allied bayonets, was fastened upon the country. Instead of the promised freedom and democracy, Italy has been given an Allied military dictatorship.

Roosevelt and Churchill have

good reason to fear that their "liberation" of France will be accompanied by a similar popular upheaval. As every report on conditions in France has revealed, the shadow of civil war hangs over the land.

Roosevelt and Churchill realize that to forestall and hold back revolution, the aid of the French capitalist class is indispensable. The bulk of that class is in metropolitan France and at present cooperating with the Nazis through the Vichy government. Hence Roosevelt's instructions to General Eisenhower to deal with whatever French authorities he deems fit once his armies have landed on French soil.

These instructions have had an upsetting effect in the emigre camp of the de Gaulleists, who have been striving to persuade Roosevelt and Churchill that they alone are able to save France from capitalism. Liberals of every stripe, who view de Gaulleism as the white hope of a future capitalist democracy in France, are equally perturbed. They stubbornly refuse to acknowledge the fact that what Roosevelt and Churchill are concerned about is not "democracy," but the preservation of capitalism which is now so ominously threatened by the upsurge of the European masses.

Both American and British imperialism, moreover, have covet-

(Continued on page 5)

### Toledo Auto Barons Launch Attack On Union Militants

TOLEDO, O.—On March 30, five employees of Willys Motors, Aircraft Division and members of Local 12, UAW-CIO, were fired off the job by the company, on charges of excessive absenteeism and showing lack of interest in their work.

There was no protest of any kind made by the union, although one of the men fired was a union steward. These firings were made in complete disregard of the union ruling that at the first infraction of discipline, a worker is to be warned; the second time to be suspended for

(Continued on page 4)

#### Punishment for Hitler

An essay contest in Columbus, Ohio, on the general subject "What to Do with Adolf Hitler" was won by a sixteen-year-old Negro girl. Her idea, as reported by a religious magazine, is to put the Fuehrer into a black skin and make him spend the rest of his life in America. (From The Nation, April 15).

### Ickes Scheme Aims To Shield Plunder Of Public Wealth

By R. BELL

Speaking before the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco last week, Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, commenting on the plan to place billions of dollars worth of Government-built plants on the auction block for sale at a fraction of their cost said that the acquisition of these properties "by existing monopolies for the purpose of halting their competitive production" would produce "post-war chaos." "On the other hand," he added, "continued Government ownership and operation would be 'a negative answer.'" After brushing aside the "negative answer" of Government ownership and operation, Ickes goes on to say: "Some other way, in my opinion, must be found which would avoid the death grip of monopoly and give vitality to the American principle of real free enterprise."

"We must make sure," says Ickes, "that the ownership and control of these plants come to rest in the hands of those who are interested in their continued, full operation and have hopes of a rejuvenated and even more vigorous America. I know of no better way to accomplish this than to vest the ownership and control of these Government plants in the men and women who have served in our armed forces. These are the people who, we can be sure, will be interested in maximum production and maximum employment." (N. Y. Times—April 15).

#### "POST WAR" PLANNERS

The disposal of some fifteen-and-one-half billions of dollars worth of Government-owned war plants and facilities has been con-

### WLB Fails To Enforce Ruling Against Mail Order Company

Chicago Walkout Is First Strike During War To Be Authorized By Any CIO International

CHICAGO, April 17.—The first war-time strike authorized by a CIO international union is holding firm in its sixth day here. Some 5,000 embattled workers of Montgomery Ward and Co., one of the world's two largest mail order firms, are fighting on the picket line to compel the company to renew its contract with CIO United Mail Order, Warehouse and Retail Employees Local 20, following the failure of the War Labor Board to enforce its three month old order against the company.

Only when the workers took matters into their own hands last Wednesday and struck at Ward's key mail order plant, central warehouse and largest retail outlet store, did the War Labor Board, which moves so quickly and harshly against workers defying its decrees, finally certify the case to the President. Roosevelt had intervened twice in 1942 to compel Ward to accept a previous WLB ruling. In sharp contrast to the speed with which he acts against striking workers, Roosevelt has thus far made no statement condemning the company for its defiance of the WLB nor ordered it to comply with the twice-stated WLB directive to extend the union's contract.

Particularly inspiring has been the solidarity demonstrated by members of non-CIO unions. Thus far, all local AFL union members have refused to cross the CIO picket lines. Teamsters and Railway Brotherhood members are refusing to handle "hot" shipments or make deliveries to or from the struck buildings. The local AFL Building Service Employees publicly announced support for the strike and contributed \$500 to the strike fund. The independent Illinois Union of Telephone Workers has informed Local 20 that it will not service Montgomery Ward until the strike is settled. The Chicago Printing Trades Union, which for a year has refused to print the Ward catalogues, has offered moral and material support to the strikers.

PRO-CORPORATION

The pro-corporation attitude of the Roosevelt administration and its War Labor Board has never been so clearly demonstrated as in the Ward dispute. This is the second time within the past year and a half that Montgomery Ward, headed by Sewell L. Avery, one of the most uncompromising openshoppers in the country, has openly defied WLB rulings. In each instance, the WLB has responded with a hush-hush kid glove policy, acting only after a strike threat or an actual walkout.

Thirty days before the expiration of the contract, the WLB issued a statement today unani-

ously supporting the battle of local 20.

According to Spotlight, official Local 20 organ, in its "Fourth Strike Bulletin" of April 15, "in a call from Washington today, Allan Haywood, National CIO Director of Organization informed Leonard Levy (Local 20 president) that the CIO is prepared to aid and assist us immediately! Half an hour later, Minneapolis CIO Director, Fullerton Fulton, called to tell us that the CIO WILL NOT PERMIT CHICAGO ORDERS TO BE SHIPPED FROM ST. PAUL! This rapid response from top CIO officials puts the CIO on record for the first time since Pearl Harbor in full support of a strike." It would appear from this that the CIO officials apparently are giving behind-the-scenes support to the strike.

(Continued on page 6)

### OHIO STEEL LOCAL IS OPPOSED TO RECEIVER

CLEVELAND, O.—"I don't care if I'm out in battle at the time, if the company doesn't do the right thing with these men, I would still like to see them quit work." These were the departing words of Raymond Jablonski, former president of local No. 1519 of the CIO Steelworkers Union after his induction into the navy.

At the same time, he urged the local to seek affiliation with some other organization. The IWW has since made overtures to this local, whose officers and committeemen have been suspended by the international union's executive board and a receiver appointed to take over the affairs of the local union.

The majority of Steelworkers in this district are opposed to any move which isolates them from

the rest of the workers in the industry. There exists, however, widespread dissatisfaction with the policies of the International which will undoubtedly be expressed at the steel convention scheduled to be held in this city on May 9.

After weary months of negotiation, there is still no progress to report on a new steel contract, test case for the whole labor movement now in breaking the Little Steel formula. The steel companies have laughed at grievances ever since Murray shackled his own union with the no-strike pledge, and the men in the mills want an end of this pledge at the convention.

The maintenance workers in the industry are especially underpaid today and want action in

(Continued on page 2)









