

"The History Of American Trotskyism"

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Mine Strikers Win \$1.37 Daily Wage Increase

MAY 19. — The fighting policy of the coal miners has won another major victory.

Most of the increase will come from portal-to-portal pay for travel time inside the mines.

Veterans Discover Jobs Hard to Get, Wages Too Low

By Larissa Reed

Even before the war in Europe ended, thousands of veterans were tramping the streets in search of jobs.

SMITH-CONNALLY ACT

Attorney General Biddle admitted he had sent FBI agents into the Pennsylvania hard coal fields in an attempt to get "evidence" of violation of the Smith-Connally anti-strike law.

Secretary of Interior Ickes claims credit for the final compromise terms of the new contract.

The administration and its War Labor Board, as in the case of the previous victory of the soft coal miners, are trying to cover up the extent of the concessions to the hard coal miners by claiming that these are within the formal limits of the wage-freezing Little Steel formula.

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"FREEDOM FROM WANT"

But where did the soldiers get this "fantastic idea?" According to Newcomer himself, they "hear greatly exaggerated stories regarding present pay by industry."

Mr. Newcomer also complains that veterans "want to have better jobs than the ones they held before entering the services."

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Labor Leaders Denounce Vinson's Fraudulent 'Reconversion' Report

Capitalism in War and Peace



The above cartoon which first appeared in THE MILITANT of Sept. 9, 1944 has been reproduced in the labor press of a number of countries. It is today more timely than ever.

International Rivalries Grow Following Defeat Of Germany

By Li Fu-jen

Now that German imperialism has been eliminated as a factor in the relationships of the Big Powers, the ground has been cleared for a reassertion of international rivalries and antagonisms which were thrust into the background by the exigencies of the military alliance against Hitler's Third Reich.

The gushing "friendliness" which marked the period of the Allied-Soviet alliance against Germany has all but disappeared.

IN THE NEWS

Philippine 'Independence' Secretary of Navy Forrestal on May 16 said that the United States "will continue to bear responsibility for the security of the Philippines and will have to have bases and strategic areas supporting those bases to carry out that responsibility."

Real Cause of the War

Urging the celebration of a "National Foreign Trade Week," Eric A. Johnston, head of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, on May 18 stated: "We Americans recognize the principle that economic causes underlie almost every diplomatic and military clash."

"Peace" Hits England

On May 17 in London, 8,000 workers of the Napier engineering factories went on strike when 2,000 were declared "redundant" — no longer employed.

Not Anxious

Columnist Drew Pearson described in his May 16 (N. Y. Mirror) column why Allied leaders are not rushing trials of Nazi and collaborationist leaders.

Trotskyist Candidate Sues Radio Station

LOS ANGELES, May 19. — The first suit filed in any federal court in the United States for damages for unlawful censorship of a radio speech by a broadcasting station during a political campaign was instituted this week in the Federal Court of Los Angeles by Myra Tanner Weiss, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor in the April primaries.

Disprove His False Figures On Coming Layoffs, Pay Cuts

Unionists Seek Shorter Work Week, Higher Wages to Hold Jobs and 'Take Home' Pay

By Art Preis

War Mobilization and Reconversion Director Fred Vinson's report on the economic outlook for the workers and returning veterans, analyzed in last week's Militant, has touched off a volley of protest from virtually all sections of organized labor.

Army Discharge Plan Discriminates Against Negroes

The Army's point system for demobilization in Europe was characterized as "the rankest kind of discrimination" against Negro servicemen overseas at a mass meeting in San Francisco on May 13.

Because of the rigid setup of the Army the 80 per cent Negro troops who are forced to serve in labor battalions and noncombatant units will be unable to obtain points for combat service.

A great need in the Pacific area for the "service troops" who build the airports, harbors and bases. Many of the service troops will, therefore, be shipped directly to the Pacific.

Harry McAlpin, writing in the May 19 issue of the New York Negro paper, The Amsterdam News, says that even Negro combat troops will be discriminated against under this release plan.

CIO PROTESTS

"It is ridiculous to use these figures," said Silvey, "which the military procurement officers themselves know to be wrong, and in some pollyanna manner expect that unemployment will somehow or other work out all right if we don't talk much about it."

STRIKE WAVE SWEEPS OVER WESTERN EUROPE

A wave of strikes is sweeping through the "liberated" countries of Europe. Strikes in France last week brought the coal mines of the Northern Pas de Calais departments to a standstill.

In Lyon and the whole Rhone department there was a one-day general strike called by the Rhone Federation of Labor. During the strike a large demonstration of strikers carrying banners and singing the "Internationale" stormed the prefecture, broke through an iron fence, invaded the building and demanded to see Ives Farge, the commissioner.

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Propose Fatter Profits To "End" Food Shortage

Payment of higher subsidies to meat packers and cattle producers is the central point of the "new" meat control program announced May 18 by Fred M. Vinson, director of the Office of War Mobilization and recently-appointed food czar.

President Truman's appointment of Vinson was made after the Senate Agricultural Committee had recommended in a May 15 report that "a supreme administrator for food be created to have supervision over both the Office of Price Administration and the War Food Administration."

1. Raising the support price of hogs.

2. An increase in the return to feeders through a higher subsidy.

3. Changes in the Price Control act to give to the processors of cattle a "reasonable margin of profit"

The Senate Committee's recommendations, like those of a similar Food Investigating Committee of the House, are meant to deal with the scandalous food scarcity. Meat has virtually disappeared from millions of legal markets in the country. Most of

the available meat is sold at black market prices — and then only to favored customers. Most butcher shops in New York City are open only one or two hours a day.

But, according to W. B. Courtney, writing in the May 12 and 19 issues of Collier's magazine, "There is more meat — on the hoof and in refrigerators — in the United States now than ever before."

Serious shortages in sugar and eggs have also developed. "The people of the United States face the most critical sugar famine in their history," said O. H. Lamborn, president of Lamborn & Co., sugar brokers, on May 17.

Despite this admission of an almost complete breakdown in the OPA price control program, the "wage freeze" is to continue.

