

Detroit Election Results Analyzed

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THE MILITANT

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Manhattan Trotskyist Receives 1,324 Votes In Council Elections

NEW YORK, Nov. 16.—Louise Simpson, city council candidate in Manhattan of the Trotskyist Party, ballot designation of the Socialist Workers Party, received 1,324 first choice votes in the municipal elections here November 6.

The vote for Louise Simpson, young Negro trade unionist who carried the banner of Trotskyism in the councilmanic elections, was even larger than the 1,043 votes cast in the borough of Manhattan for Farrell Dobbs, Trotskyist candidate for mayor, who polled a total of 4,276 votes in all five boroughs. His total represented a 400 per cent increase over the 1941 Trotskyist vote for mayor.

Comrade Simpson's vote was only 345 less than the 1,669 secured by Amicus Most, candidate of the Socialist Party, a minority party which in previous years polled thousands of votes for its candidates in municipal elections. An estimated 16 per cent of all councilmanic ballots were invalidated. Undoubtedly Comrade Simpson lost many votes for this reason.

Complete information is not

yet available on the number of second choice votes for Louise Simpson or the sections which gave her the highest proportion of votes. However, it is probable that as a result of the intensive Socialist Workers Party campaign in Harlem, a significant portion of her votes came from the most exploited and oppressed section of the city's population, the Negro people.

An analysis of the vote cast for Farrell Dobbs shows that 341 of his 1,043 votes in Manhattan came from assembly districts in Harlem, indicating that one-third of his votes were cast by Negro workers. From this it can also be concluded that a high percentage of Louise Simpson's votes came from this area.

TROTSKYIST CAMPAIGN

During the past year the Socialist Workers Party has carried on an extensive subscription campaign for *The Militant* in the Harlem area. Thousands of Negro workers have become new readers of the Trotskyist paper. A new Harlem branch of the Socialist Workers Party has been established in recent months and SWP members have been conducting vigorous educational work throughout the area. The Trotskyists have defied police intimidation and carried on widespread public street sales of Trotskyist literature, including the warmly received pamphlet, "A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow," by Charles Jackson, popular Militant columnist.

Louise Simpson, like Farrell Dobbs, attracted the votes of the most class conscious and politically advanced workers. On the ballot she was clearly labeled as the "Trotskyist Party" candidate.

Louise Simpson and Farrell Dobbs campaigned on a program calling for revolutionary socialism. One of the chief planks in their program was for an uncompromising struggle against every vestige of Jim Crow and

Indonesian People Fight Heroically For Freedom From Allied Despots

Bringing "Four Freedoms" To Indonesia

San Francisco Machinists Solid In Strike

Special to THE MILITANT

By Robert Chester

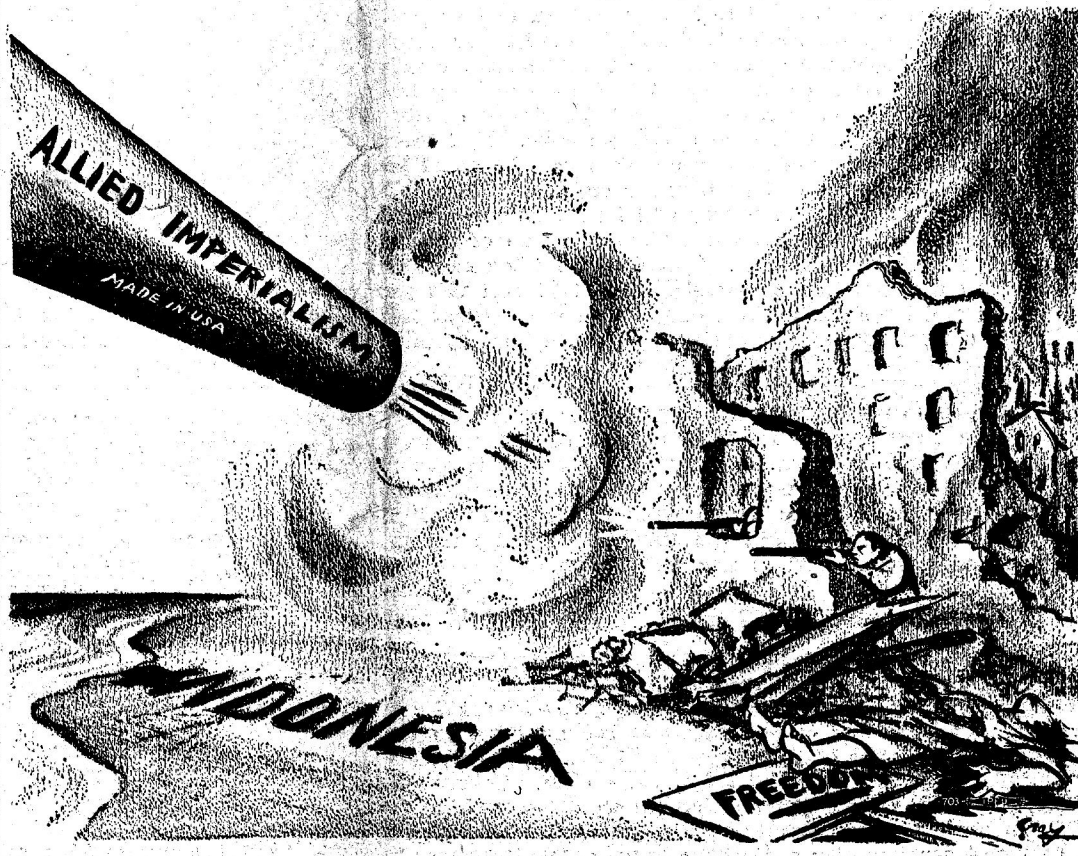
SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 14.—The joint AFL and CIO machinist strike, which has shut tight more than 200 shops and shipyards in the Bay area, is continuing solidly in its third week.

Workers of all affected establishments, in an inspiring demonstration of labor solidarity, have respected the picket lines established by the striking unions, Lodge 68, AFL International Association of Machinists, and CIO Steelworkers East Bay Machinists Local 1304.

The strike has now settled down to a test of strength. The employers, combined in the Metal Trades Association, continue to reject out of hand the unions' demands for a 30 per cent wage increase, holiday pay, industrial accident benefits and guaranteed weekly income. Negotiations have been virtually discontinued.

Every employer attempt thus far to smear the strikers and turn "public opinion" against them has backfired. A "milk crisis" scare, based on an alleged "shortage" of wax paper milk containers from the closed American Can Co., has been exposed as a hoax. American Can is reported to have a million con-

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U. S. Army Weapons Used In Slaughter Of Javanese

By Joseph Hansen

The colonial peoples who have suffered centuries of despotic foreign rule are now making a titanic effort to break the stranglehold of Allied imperialism.

The Republic of Indonesia, which came into being with the downfall of Japan, at present stands in the forefront of the struggle, battling for independence against all the odds of the modern Allied military machine.

The hopes and aspirations of hundreds of millions of downtrodden people throughout the orient lie with this young Republic. If Indonesia succeeds in winning freedom, then Malaya, Burma, India, Africa, Korea and the Philippines — all the oppressed colonial lands — will joyfully run aloft the banners of independence.

The brutal, murderous colonial system of the Allied powers is being shaken to the foundations.

BUTCHER'S JOB

Great Britain was the first to leap into the breach. When the Dutch imperialists proved powerless to cut down the Indonesians, their British class brothers agreed to carry out the butcher's job.

With centuries of experience in putting down rebellions and colonial uprisings, and able to vary and combine tactics with utmost flexibility, the British imperialists have moved forward in Indonesia, now with machine guns,

Jackson to Address Protest Rally On Colonial Slaughter

Charles Jackson, author of the widely read column, "The Negro Struggle," will be one of the speakers at a mass meeting at the Hotel Diplomat in New York, Friday, November 30, 8 p. m.

The rally is sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party to protest the Allied massacre of the colonial peoples. The SWP demands the withdrawal of Allied troops from China, Indonesia and Indo-China.

Other speakers will be Farrell Dobbs, editor of THE MILITANT and George Novack, National Secretary of the Civil Right Defense Committee.

James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, will be chairman.

bombs and naval fire, now with soft words and seeming placability, again with harsh ultimatums and ferocious slaughter. The British are calling on all their experience — probing militarily

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Yale And Towne Strikers Resist Open-Shop Drive

Special to THE MILITANT

STAMFORD, Conn., Nov. 14.—Supported by all labor in this area, 3,500 employees of Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company today continued solidly their militant picket lines. They have kept the plant closed tight for a week in a fight for a 30 per cent wage increase and renewal of the maintenance of membership contract granted by the War Labor Board during the war.

The whole community, sapped for years by this sweatshop, last week applauded when the strikers barred from the plant W. Gibson Carey, Jr., company president, popularly called "the Sewell L. Avery of Stamford."

Former president of the laboring National Association of Manufacturers, Carey heads a union-smashing coalition of 11 local concerns refusing to renew

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U. S. Troops Fire In China Civil War

By Charles Carsten

American planes have strafed defenseless Stalinist-held villages in Shantung, according to press reports. And in the battle for the strategically important city of Shanhaikwan, American planes hovered over the battle area, charged the Communist (Stalinist) controlled Kalgan radio, "to give cover to the Kuomintang armies."

The Shanhaikwan attack was launched by Chiang Kai-shek's troops. They were transported by American forces operating from the United States - held Chingwangtao base.

In a release which was later "killed," Navy brass-hats stated that their objective in China was "... support of the Nationalist Government in China in connection with the movement of Chinese troops to newly liberated areas."

TRAINED AND ARMED

The United States military command in China, acting on instructions from Washington, are training Chiang Kai-shek's troops and arming them with

the most modern American equipment.

A Navy spokesman stated that the American fleet had transported more than 100,000 Nationalist troops to North China and 53,000 to Formosa.

North China is held by Chinese Communist (Stalinist) forces. Chiang Kai-shek's troops are moving to that area to wrest control from the Stalinists and to prevent them from occupying the strategic region of Manchuria.

Economically Manchuria is to China what the industrial Northeast is to the United States. Although its area is only about

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Militants Gain In Akron Rubber Union Elections

(Special to THE MILITANT)

AKRON, O., Nov. 10.—Militant forces in the Firestone and Goodrich locals of the United Rubber Workers, CIO, won hard-fought election victories this week over candidates representing the conservative policy of the International's top machine.

George Bass, a former president of Goodrich Local 5 and at present Executive Secretary of the Akron CIO Council, defeated the incumbent John Saylor for the Goodrich presidency by a close margin. The total vote of 6,273 was the largest ever cast in the local union. Both candidates headed well organized groups which conducted colorful and energetic campaigns. The Goodrich plant was flooded with 200,000 leaflets distributed by both sides.

It was clear from the beginning that it was a struggle between militant unionism and the forces of a combined International, Stalinist and company-backed bloc. The Bass group won both the key offices of president and secretary, but lost the vice-presidency and treasurer's post. Executive board posts have not yet been decided.

FIRESTONE ELECTION
In Firestone Local 7, President I. H. Watson and other militant officers were re-elected. The Firestone election battle was also hard fought and a record vote of more than 5,000 was cast. Despite the fact that the full forces of the International machine were thrown into the fight to

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Giant Auto Union Faces Greatest Strike Battle

Special to THE MILITANT

DETROIT, Nov. 18.—The militant, million-headed ranks of the CIO United Automobile Workers are getting poised for the greatest and most decisive strike struggle in their fighting history. A titanic battle against three of the greatest corporations in the world, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, now appears almost certain.

Today some 200 delegates of more than 100 General Motors locals are arriving in town for a crucial conference tomorrow and Tuesday, to prepare for the next and possible showdown stage of their conflict with the power-drunk, war profits-gorged GM corporation for a 30 per cent increase in wages.

These delegates, the local representatives of 325,000 GM workers, are in a grim and bitter mood. The arrogant and contemptuous rejection of their de-

mands during the recent weeks of prolonged negotiations, the provocative and insulting counter-proposals of the corporation barons have aroused them to a high pitch of determination to fight it out with no holds barred.

NEGOTIATIONS FUTILE

The delegates will have before them the admission of R. J. Thomas, UAW president, that further negotiations with General Motors will in all likelihood be as futile and useless as all previous attempts to wrest some reasonable concessions through across-the-table methods.

In a statement made public yesterday in the latest issue of the *United Automobile Worker*, official international union organ, Thomas indicated the imminence of the strike by beginning: "I am writing this column as the showdown between your union and the Big Three in the

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MINE LOCAL FOILS ATTEMPT TO VICTIMIZE PATTERSON

Special to THE MILITANT

DAISYTOWN, Pa., Nov. 10.—Through a splendid demonstration of solidarity by his fellow members of United Mine Workers Local 2399, William Patterson, Daisytown coal miner who recently ended a six-month prison sentence under the notorious Smith-Connally anti-strike law, has won reinstatement with full seniority, vacation pay, etc., from Jones & McLaughlin Steel Corp., in whose Vesta No. 2 mine he has worked for 18 years.

Patterson was given a dismissal notice last September while he was serving his sentence in the Fayette County jail. This also brought with it the threat of eviction of his family from their company-house. But Local 2399 immediately indicated its determination to fight this victimization.

On his release from jail, No-

IN THE NEWS

Division Of Labor?

"The world has nothing to fear from the United States territorially or in a military way, from Britain economically, or from any nation if the United Nations Organization is made to function properly, Prime Minister Attlee declared in an address to a joint session of Congress." (N. Y. Times, Nov. 15.)

Success At Last

Several times as Senator and Vice-President, Truman tried to get the nephew of the late Kansas City Boss Pendergast a federal job. Truman's personal appeals for the relative of his old political mentor were turned down. As President, Truman again "requested" the State Department to act. It did. Young Pendergast is now on the federal payroll at \$6,200 per annum as Acting Director of the Office of Inter-American Affairs.

Defending Constitution

The Ford Motor Company at Albany, N. Y., on November 13 was fined \$300 for docking three employees for taking time off to vote last November. The company was found guilty of violating a state law requiring that employees be given two hours off with pay on election day. The company is appealing the decision on the grounds that the law is "unconstitutional."

Everybody's Pal

Commenting on the effect on President Truman of the election of Tammany's O'Dwyer as mayor of New York, Roscoe Drummond writes in the *Christian Science Monitor*, November 5: "Mr. Truman would probably find it as easy to work with the Tammany machine in New York as with the Pendergast machine in Mo."

Protest The Massacre Of The Colonial Peoples

MASS MEETING FRIDAY NOV. 30 8 P. M.

Demand The Withdrawal Of Allied Troops From China, Indonesia And Indo-China

Speakers:

CHARLES JACKSON
Writer of 'The Negro Struggle'

FARRELL DOBBS
Editor of The Militant

GEORGE NOVACK
National Secretary, CRDC

Chairman **JAMES P. CANNON**, National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

HOTEL DIPLOMAT, 108 West 43rd St., New York

Auspices: Socialist Workers Party

Big Vote For Detroit Labor's Mayoralty Candidate Spurs Movement For An Independent Labor Party

By Arthur Burch

DETROIT—Despite the use of unlimited funds by Big Business in the most vicious anti-labor and anti-Negro campaign in the history of Detroit elections, labor's mayoralty candidate Richard T. Frankenstein, vice-president of the CIO United Automobile Workers, on November 6, received the impressive total of 216,917 votes against 274,455 for Mayor Jeffries. Frankenstein's vote was 41,000 larger than that cast two years ago for Fitzgerald who was endorsed by the CIO, AFL and Negro organizations, and even topped the figure of 207,821 polled then by the victorious Jeffries.

This campaign can best be compared with that of 1937 when labor ran its own slate of candidates. At that time O'Brien, backed by labor, received only 154,048 votes against 261,048 cast for Reading, the candidate of Big Business. Frankenstein's vote in this election was 62,000 larger than that rolled up by labor eight years ago, whereas Jeffries received only 13,000 more votes than Reading. Despite a population increase of about 25 per cent, the vote for the employers' candidate increased only five per cent, whereas the labor vote rose 40 per cent.

Never was the capitalist technique of "divide and conquer" more clearly illustrated than in this campaign. A veritable lynch spirit was aroused in the white communities against the Negro minority. This drive was spearheaded by a chain of 16 newspapers such as the "Home Gazette," the "North Detroit" and the "Redford Record," all under the directorship of Floyd McGriff. Containing scare headlines like "White Neighborhoods Again in Peril!" these papers were freely distributed throughout all white sections of the city.

"Divide And Rule" Technique

At the same time Negro communities were flooded with tens of thousands of leaflets reading: "So Why Should Colored Folks Vote for Frankenstein? Frankenstein Has Not Proved Himself a True Friend of Negro Race."

In Jewish communities, the North Detroit, appearing partly in English and partly in Jewish, pictured Frankenstein as anti-Semitic. Throughout other sections of town Jeffries' crowd spread the word that Frankenstein was "Jewish" and urged them against voting for a "Jewish" candidate. In Polish sections, leaflets like the following appeared: "The Truth for Polish-American Patriots. Stalin Reaches Into Detroit. Frankenstein Supports Communist Gang Who Praise the Russian Conquest of Poland."

Jeffries and the kept press screamed that Frankenstein's election meant that the PAC-CIO would take over the city hall. This did not prevent Jeffries' slimy crew from distributing leaflets at plant gates with the query "Is Frankenstein Ashamed to Be a Labor Candidate?"

In addition to race-baiting the candidate of Big Business resorted to its inevitable twin, red-baiting. Both at public meetings and over the radio Jeffries denounced the "Trotskyites" and "Communists" for their support of Frankenstein. The McGriff newspapers blazoned the headline: "New Violent Group in Frankenstein's Camp. Trotskyites Already on Rampage Here, Want Power." The ferocity of the attack against the Trotskyists can be gleaned from the first sentence of the article: "The Forces of violence and terror threaten the city of Detroit! . . . The Socialist Workers Party known as Trotskyites is openly campaigning for Frankenstein . . ."

Big Business was determined to stop labor's challenge to its political power at all costs and by any means. But how did Frankenstein meet this frenzied onslaught? By retreating. In the last days before the election, for instance, Frankenstein published large advertisements in all the capitalist newspapers reassuring the "respectable" citizens that he was opposed to com-

munist, instead of exposing and assailing the divisive, red-baiting methods of Big Business.

Jeffries on the other hand never repudiated the support of the fascist Gerald L. K. Smith, although Frankenstein openly charged Jeffries with welcoming the aid of Smith's followers, who played a leading role in disseminating anti-labor and anti-Negro literature on behalf of Jeffries.

Fails To Inspire Followers

Frankenstein failed to inspire his followers to get out labor's maximum vote. It was Jeffries who drew the class lines while Frankenstein attempted to blur them over. It was Jeffries who admitted in a warning to Big Business that a victory for labor's candidates in Detroit would stimulate labor throughout the country to run its own candidates. Jeffries accused the national PAC of sending organizers to help Frankenstein and stated frankly that he favored segregation of the Negro people and challenged Frankenstein to make his stand known.

But Frankenstein was tongue-tied. He failed to boldly assert that he was labor's candidate. He neglected to tie up with labor's fight against Big Business, the struggle for better housing for the Negro people, the fight against segregation and discrimination. He kept silent about National PAC aid and why labor should welcome it to combat the National Association of Manufacturers' support of Jeffries on a national scale. Had Frankenstein rallied the ranks of labor along class lines he would have stood an excellent chance of winning the election.

Through its free use of money and its scurrilous campaign, Big Business was able to get out a maximum vote of all reactionary and anti-labor elements. This vote is fairly constant, as revealed by a comparison of the figures of 1937 and this year. It was by and large the working class which remained at home and only a more inspiring campaign along class lines by labor's candidate could have brought them to the polls.

Frankenstein's policy of class collaboration inside the UAW-CIO returned to plague him on every occasion during the campaign. Big Business, for instance, utilized such renegades as Charles Edgecomb to point out to the voters that it was not Jeffries but Frankenstein who referred to strikes as "Mobocracy." And despite Frankenstein's denunciation of "communism," his alliance with Stalinists within the UAW-CIO against the progressive and militant workers was well known.

Socialist Workers Party Support

The Socialist Workers Party supported Frankenstein for election despite his bad union record and his lack of a sound political program for labor. We gave him critical support because he was a labor candidate and it was necessary for all labor to unite against the candidate of Big Business and thereby to further the independent political action of the working class. Through the radio, the press, in meetings and leaflets we did everything possible to show Frankenstein the correct method of carrying on a genuine labor campaign against the forces of Big Business. But Frankenstein was more interested in such political hacks without following as Friel, who was defeated in the primaries, Fitzgerald who was defeated by Jeffries last year, and other stalwarts of the Democratic machine. To gain their "support" Frankenstein sacrificed a fighting program against Big Business.

The most significant lesson which labor has learned from this election is that it is necessary to build its own labor party if it hopes to wage a successful political fight against Big Business. The absence of such a party in Detroit hampered labor at every turn. The AFL, MESA and other unions would be drawn into such a party, as well as the CIO, and no labor bureaucrat could then so easily throw the support of labor organizations behind the candidate of Big Business, as happened in this campaign. People of the lower middle class could also become an integral part of an independent labor party. This election has convinced labor that it no longer has to rely on the capitalist political "friends of labor." There is greater determination than ever among the ranks here to wage an all-out campaign in the unions, especially the powerful UAW-CIO, to launch a labor party in the next immediate period.

Simpson Gets 1,324 Votes In Manhattan For Council

(Continued from Page 1) choice vote of the Trotskyists. During the campaign the Stalinists claimed that the vote for Louise Simpson would "split" the vote for Davis. On the contrary, swelling the final total of the votes cast for Davis was a large proportion of second choice votes cast by Trotskyist voters whose first choice was Louise Simpson.

WORKING CLASS VOTE

Benjamin J. Davis, Negro candidate for council in Manhattan on the Communist (Stalinist) Party ticket, was swept into office with the second highest number of votes in Manhattan. He received 63,498 first choice votes. In Brooklyn, Peter V. Cacchione, running on the Communist Party ticket, won first place with 68,095 votes. The combined vote of 131,593 of these two Stalinist candidates was far in advance of the combined vote of 112,624 of their closest competitors running on the Democratic Party ticket. In the Bronx, Stalinist Michael J. Quill, head of the CIO Transport Workers Union, came in first, running as an American Labor Party candidate.

However, in no instances where candidates jointly of the Democratic and American Labor Party ran, did they receive anywhere near the votes given for those winning candidates running on a strictly independent working class party ticket.

The Communist Party poll for city council in Manhattan and Brooklyn was the highest in its history, and represents about a 40 per cent increase over its vote in 1943. Its votes far surpassed the votes cast for candidates of the Democratic Party who were endorsed by the ALP, which the Stalinists control.

Davis, on the basis of his being a Negro candidate running on an independent working class party ticket, was the second

Striking West Coast Machinists



Striking members of East Bay Machinists Local 1304, CIO United Steelworkers, picketing an Oakland, California, plant, one of more than 200 San Francisco Bay area shops and shipyards shut tight by a united strike of AFL and CIO machinists for higher wages.

Giant CIO Auto Union Faces Biggest Battle

(Continued from Page 1) automobile industry moves to a climax.

He stated that there would be another attempt to resume negotiations, but added that "there seemed little hope that anything worth while would result. The corporation, the largest, richest and biggest money-making enterprise in the world, has refused utterly to grant any increase in wages without corresponding price increases, and treats our fully justified demands for wage increases to take care of the losses in take-home pay as something on which they will not negotiate."

RANKS PREPARING

The "tough" attitude of the corporation, its deliberately provocative conduct throughout the negotiations, Thomas states, is "no doubt" due to the "provisions of the Federal tax laws under which GM's strike losses would largely be repaid out of the Federal Treasury through tax refunds."

That the auto union ranks have long since come to the conclusion that the only way they can negotiate with the auto corporations is on the picket lines is shown by the extensive strike preparations under way for the past weeks in almost all the local unions. Throughout the giant GM empire the workers have been alerted for strike action by their local leaders.

Largely on their own initiative, local union leaders, backed by their memberships, have been taking the practical measures required to conduct a prolonged, bitter strike action. Most GM locals have voted strike assessments, which the workers, eager for battle, are willingly paying. In many areas, food and other supplies are being stocked.

STRIKE COMMITTEE

Here in Detroit, the center of the struggle, a City-Wide Strike Committee has been established by the GM locals. Preparations are under way for a central commissary and food purchasing agency. A speakers' bureau and publicity committee have been set up to unify the strikers and answer the inevitable strike-breaking propaganda barrage of Big Business. Support of the AFL ranks, thousands of whom work for construction contractors in GM plants, is being lined up. Assurances have come from AFL stewards that their members will not cross CIO picket lines.

The Detroit City-Wide Strike Committee may take on national proportions at the GM delegates' conference convening tomorrow at the Barlum Hotel. Up to now the direction and conduct of the struggle has been formally confined to a six-man "strategy committee" set up by the international executive board two weeks ago.

AUTO BARONS UNITED

Any hope that there would be a division in the ranks of the auto corporations because of competitive factors, a hope repeatedly expressed by the UAW top leaders, was rudely shattered this week when the Ford Motor Company issued a statement, in advance of scheduled negotiations, lining up solidly with the rest of the industry. Ford rejected out-of-hand any

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Bill Morgan

What "Mandate"?

A resolution on wage policy was passed by the CIO Executive Board on November 1. Reflecting the current mood of the rank and file, the resolution makes good reading—except for the last paragraph which should be read twice by every union militant.

After arguing strongly for wage increases for all workers, the resolution winds up by calling upon the owners of industry to comply with the "mandate" of President Truman to engage in "bona-fide collective bargaining and grant substantial wage increases." What "mandate"?

What has Truman said or done to make General Motors, Ford or U. S. Steel sit down with union representatives to bargain collectively?

But in his recent generally vague speech on wage-price policy, Truman distinctly said, "We must understand that we cannot hope with a reduced work-week, to maintain now the same take-home pay for labor generally that it has had during the war. There will have to be a drop." Nothing could be clearer than that to express Truman's policy on wages.

Right To Strike

Akron Firestone Local 7, CIO United Rubber Workers, has just taken action designed to prevent any tampering with the right to strike at conferences between labor and management. The local is wary of so-called "Peace Pacts" concluded by top union bureaucrats without benefit of rank and file authority.

In a resolution on "Restrictions on the right to strike," Local 7 calls upon the coming Tenth Annual Convention of the URW to "go on record against any restrictions whatsoever upon Labor's traditional right to strike and . . . that no officers of our International Union enter into any pact or agreement with any corporation, group of corporations, business organizations or with any government agency which in any way restricts, qualifies or repudiates the right to strike and . . . that copies of this resolution be sent to . . . Philip Murray, President Truman and all CIO International Unions and to the public and Labor press."

Inspiring Struggle

The seventh week of the SKF strike in Philadelphia finds the strikers still on their toes matching blow for blow with the boss-

15,000 Jersey Shipyard Men Stage Walkout

(Special To The Militant)

By A. Williams

KEARNY, N. J., Nov. 10—Some 15,000 workers of Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, in the Port Newark and Kearny yards, walked out in a protest demonstration yesterday afternoon. This demonstration was called by Local 16, CIO, Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, to protest the firing of a shop steward for an alleged minor infraction of company rules. It was a direct provocation by the company and a continuation of its anti-labor policy for the last three years.

This was the first time that the leadership had acted in accordance with the wishes of the rank and file for action and the results spoke for themselves.

Meetings were held outside of both yards with the speakers emphasizing the fact that all the men responded unhesitatingly to this action to defend their union.

A successful outcome of the struggle of the auto workers will have decisive bearing on the wage struggle of millions of other union men and women. To ensure such a successful outcome is the bounden duty and responsibility of the whole labor movement.

es. The SKF ball-bearing trust is in court with a two million dollar suit against the union for alleged damages, an injunction to prevent picketing and a suit by some company stooges to tie up the union's funds.

The SKF strikers deserve commendation and all possible support for their devotion to union principles. They have been attacked with every law in the books and every trick known to the bosses. The corporation has refused to negotiate and the strike has become a lock-out during which the workers have had to wait four long weeks before being eligible for unemployment compensation. The company continues to reject arbitration but the pickets are holding firm.

GM's Gravy Train

Alfred P. Sloan Jr., chairman of General Motors Corporation, has just announced the "take" for July, August and September 1945. Reported profit during these three months alone came to \$36,791,784 despite the fact that sales volume of war materials fell to about one half the amount for the first six months of 1945.

This huge profit was made possible by a tax refund of \$9,612,000 and a special income credit of \$24,026,000 allowed by the Federal Government.

Mr. Sloan explains that this windfall resulted from "a very unusual set of circumstances which arose as a result of the termination of the war . . ." And he adds encouragingly, "In view of the fact that such circumstances, at least in part, may be expected to continue and affect reported earnings well into next year, it is important that our stockholders understand just what these circumstances are and why."

There is nothing in Mr. Sloan's report to GM's stockholders about a 30 per cent raise in pay for the workers who produce all of G.M.'s products and profits.

New Labor Shackles

The Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives has voted favorably on a bill not only to take away labor's right to strike, but to make unions liable for all "damages" that may result from any and all "local contract violations."

This is the same committee that forced through the notorious wartime Smith-Connally anti-strike law. Now it is out to shackle both of labor's hands by including in this new bill a provision denying trade unions the right to participate in or contribute to candidates running for any Federal office. At the hearings in Washington no representative of labor was allowed an opportunity to be heard.

The bill would nullify the right of collective bargaining as provided for in the Wagner Act. It provides penalties against any labor organization or its officers for damages that might happen to any part as a result of a strike. The most flagrant violation of contract by an employer is permitted without penalty and without giving labor recourse to protect its interests.

Section 3 of the Act makes it impossible for any labor organization to participate in the free election of any public official in either primary or general election campaigns and prohibits labor organizations from taking part in political conventions.

Not content with hamstringing labor on the economic front, the House Military Affairs Committee is obviously keeping an eye on the growing labor party sentiment which threatens the political power of stooges for Big Business. It wants to prevent by law the possibility of independent labor political action.



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INTERNATIONAL NOTES

England

The English Trotskyists have nominated Comrade Charles Martinson, militant Liverpool dock worker, as the Revolutionary Communist Party candidate for the Mersey Ward, Bootle, in the forthcoming Borough Council elections, according to the Mid-October English Socialist Appeal.

In 1932 Comrade Martinson joined the Communist Party. A year later he was elected organizer of the Bootle unemployed movement. Under his efficient, fighting leadership, the unemployed secured many concessions



CHARLES MARTINSON

from the local authorities. Comrade Martinson was also Chief Marshal of the Lancashire Hunger Marchers at that time.

It was in Spain fighting against Franco and Fascism as a member of the International Brigade in 1936 that Comrade Martinson first observed the degeneration of the Communist Party, and its treacherous collaboration with the bosses. Today he is a member of the Trotskyist movement.

With a long record of heroic struggles on behalf of the working class, Comrade Martinson stands on a fighting program of revolutionary socialism.

Japan

Chinese and Koreans forced to labor by the Japanese capitalists during the war have now become "slave laborers" for the U. S. occupation authorities, according to a Tokyo dispatch in the November 7 N. Y. Post. Some 15,000 Chinese and 75,000 Korean striking mine workers were ordered back into the Hokkaido coal mines by their "liberators." Instead of being granted the repatriation they were anxiously awaiting.

Originally the Chinese were "grabbed" by Japanese civilian "police gangs" working with the Japanese army in China. They were shipped to Japan and sold to coal mine operators for \$100 each, most of them serving as slave labor without pay. At the beginning of the war the Koreans were induced to work in Japan on the promise of better rations and 23 cents a day. By the war's end, however, 2,000,000

Koreans were estimated to be laboring as virtual slaves in Japanese factories and mines.

While Major General A. D. Bruce, commander of the 77th Division hypocritically proclaims that "No Chinese or Korean's return to the homeland will be delayed a single day because of working in the mines," he has ordered the miners back into the pits at a pay scale of 20 to 60 cents. "Those who produced the most coal have been promised quickest repatriation," reported the Post.

Nigeria

The main demand of the Nigerian workers in the general strike of last summer was 2 shillings and 6 pence a day minimum wage. The government promised to grant this demand. Now, however, Captain D. H. Holley, head of the Labor Department, has broken this promise, according to a dispatch from London in the Chicago Defender. Instead the government has offered the workers a three pence increase, totally inadequate to meet the steep rise in the cost of living.

Leaders of the Nigerian trade unions called a mass meeting and issued an ultimatum to Governor Sir Arthur Richards that unless the full amount promised, together with back pay, is immediately granted, the general strike will be renewed.

A mass meeting of workers in Lagos unanimously adopted a resolution of "No Confidence in the administration of Richards." The trade unions sent a cable to Prime Minister Attlee and George Hall, Secretary of State for Colonies, threatening a general protest strike unless their demand for the recall of Richards and other high-ranking officials is met.

The piece-work system of pay, "the worst form of capitalist exploitation used against the working class" and fought for years by all the labor unions of the world, is now being introduced on a wide scale in Poland, according to the September-October Poland Fights. This "Stakhanov system" is called by the Polish press a "reform," and was approved by Jan Stanczyk, present minister of Labor and Social Welfare in the Warsaw government.

Poland

The physical exhaustion of the Polish workers is close to the limit. The death toll is mounting steeply. According to a Warsaw dispatch in the "N. Y. Times" of Oct. 16, "Poland's 20,000,000 souls are dying off from tuberculosis alone at the rate of 10,000 a month. There are 1,200,000 reported cases of tuberculosis and it is believed that there may be twice that many more unreported ones."

Introduction of the piece-work system with its inhuman speed-up, together with hunger and inadequate medical care means "disastrous epidemics this winter." Already health authorities are sounding grim warnings.

Karl Marx's Indictment Of Dutch Colonial Rule

Karl Marx, in Capital, Volume I, first published in 1867, describes how the Dutch brought the blessings of Western civilization to the Far East. The facts he presents have never been refuted:

"Of the Christian colonial system, W. Howitt, a man who makes a specialty of Christianity, says: 'The barbarities and desperate outrages of the so-called Christian race, throughout every region of the world, and upon every people they have been able to subdue, are not to be paralleled by those of any other race, however fierce, however untaught, and however reckless of mercy and of shame, in any age of the earth.'"

TREACHERY, MASSACRE

"The history of the colonial administration of Holland—and Holland was the head capitalist nation of the 17th century—is one of the most extraordinary relations of treachery, bribery, massacre, and meanness."

"Nothing is more characteristic than their system of stealing men, to get slaves for Java. The men stealers were trained for this purpose. The thief, the interpreter, and the seller, were the chief agents in this trade, native princes the chief sellers. 'The young people stolen, were thrown into the secret dungeons



KARL MARX

of Celebes, until they were ready for sending to the slave ships.

"An official report says: 'This one town of Macassar, e.g., is full of secret prisons, one more horrible than the other, crammed with unfortunates, victims of greed and tyranny fettered in chains, forcibly torn from their families.'"

"SWEET COMMERCE!"

"To secure Malacca, the Dutch corrupted the Portuguese governor. He let them into the town in 1641. They hurried at once to his house and assassinated him, to 'abstain' from the payment of 21,975 Pounds, the price of his treason.

"(Wherever they set foot, devastation and depopulation followed. Banjuwangi, a province of Java, in 1750 numbered over 80,000 inhabitants, in 1811 only 18,000. Sweet commerce!"

Indo-Chinese Battle For Freedom Against Imperialist Rule Of France

Hands Off Indo-China



Belgian Reaction Arms Its Bands For Civil War

By E. Germain

(Special to THE MILITANT)

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Oct. 29.—An atmosphere of civil war reigns in Belgium. The Catholic Party, the party of the big bourgeoisie, has unleashed a press campaign of extreme violence for the immediate return of King Leopold III.

Agitation favoring murder and assassination is being pushed to paroxysm in the Flemish villages against the reformist Premier Van Acker. "Death to Van Acker," "Lynch Van Acker"—these slogans can be read on innumerable walls in the country. At the same time a series of attempts against the lives of working class leaders have been perpetrated. Notherm, Catholic Senator, publicly declared that "no matter what the scoundrels do who are at present governing the country, the King will return before the elections and will be able to transform them, if he wishes, into a plebiscite for himself!"

The "Royalist Militia" and the "National Royalist Movement," as well as other reactionary bands, are arming openly. In brief, bourgeois reaction is doing everything possible to achieve its end: paralyze the working class, prepare the dictatorship, "re-establish" the economy of the country by imposing increasingly heavy burdens on the proletariat.

REFORMISTS, STALINISTS FEAR THE MASSES

But the reformist and Stalinist leaders are not opposing the mobilization of reaction by any mobilization whatsoever of the masses. On the contrary, they are caught between their fear of the bourgeois offensive which threatens to throw them out of the government, and their fear of a working class offensive which could rapidly plunge the country into a revolutionary situation. Having up to now delivered all its blows against the working class, the Van Acker government has itself reinforced capitalist reaction in the most notorious fashion. Forced to oppose the offensive of the Leopoldists (partisans of the return of King Leopold III), the Van Acker government strives to take the struggle out of the streets (where the most belligerent layers of the bourgeoisie and the militant workers wish to carry it, and place it on the Parliamentary stage where it hopes to conclude a rotten compromise.

For months the Van Acker government has withheld a devastating document on Leopold III, refusing to publish it, refusing to show it to the people. The government openly declares that it is afraid to "discredit" the monarchy which constitutes the most solid support of the Belgian bourgeoisie. Driven to reply by the violent attacks of its adversaries, it issued the famous "Schmidt document," a document which proves that Leopold III during the war went to Berchtesgaden and there discussed with Hitler a plan by

which, in case of Nazi victory, the dynasty would keep its throne in Belgium in exchange for incorporating the country into the economic and military bloc of German capitalism.

But to whom does Van Acker issue the document? To Parliament? To the people? To his own party? Not at all! To certain heads of all the parties, convened in secret session, including the leaders of the Catholic Party! He did not want to publish his own documents until the king had a chance to reply to them! He refused to employ his own weapons before they had been neutralized by the enemy. For he correctly fears that the masses, finally realizing the utter decay of the monarchy, would resolutely launch into the struggle for the republic!

When in August the Catholics resigned from the government, Van Acker could have constituted a Socialist-Communist government, organized immediate elections and gained an overwhelming victory as in England or in France. But in reality, the reformists and Stalinists are afraid to take power. They want nothing better than to remain captives of a coalition with a bourgeois party, in order to be able to absolve themselves of all their treason in the eyes of the masses.

Thus while the bourgeoisie, thanks to its Catholic party, reinforces the Leopoldist camp with all its means, it at the same time paralyzes the anti-Leopoldist camp thanks to its Liberal party. When Van Acker attempted a timid reply to the filthy campaigns of the reactionary press and suppressed the Catholic Journal Le Quotidien (The Daily), the Liberal ministers immediately threatened to resign and Van Acker was forced to reauthorize the publication of this most blackly reactionary paper. Nothing illustrates better the true role of the Liberal party than the following fact recently revealed in the press: The Solvay trust, which has just given a twenty million franc subsidy to Leopoldist propaganda, includes among its administrators the Liberal deputy Ch. E. Janssens!

But the Stalinist paper, which first published this revelation, does not add that Ch. E. Janssens sits "fraternally" with the Stalinist leaders in the "Committee of Democratic Alliance" at Brussels, and that he willingly permits himself to be photographed beside John Jean Terfve, Secretary of the Communist Party, who pretends to "struggle" for the nationalization of the trusts!

MASSES WANT TO ACT!

However, if the treacherous working class leaders do everything possible to paralyze the masses, the masses clearly express their will to act. Ten days ago a rumor—completely unfounded—spread through Brussels that a coup d'etat was going to be attempted against Van Acker. Immediately the miners of the Borinage district decided to call a general strike the next day.

When the reaction tried to hold a Leopoldist rally at Brussels, 2,000 Stalinists, Socialists and Trotskyists in a counter demonstration transformed the Royalist meeting into a complete fiasco.

The working class reacts against all provocations of the bourgeoisie with admirable class instinct. The capitalists have sought to paralyze the most militant section of the proletariat, the miners, by bringing thousands of German prisoners of war to work in the mines. But this maneuver boomeranged against the bourgeoisie.

The international solidarity of the proletariat has proved very real! Recently when the miners of the village of Anderues, under the guidance of our comrade Bougard, went out on strike against the boss, they succeeded in also drawing the German prisoners of war into the struggle!

BREAK THE COALITION! FOR THE REPUBLIC!

The Revolutionary Communist Party, Belgian section of the Fourth International, incessantly summons the workers to struggle for their own class aims. Refusing to follow the reformists and Stalinists onto the field of useless, constitutional quarrels, the Trotskyists try to mobilize the masses for the immediate overthrow of the monarchy for the Republic. With this aim the RCP demands that full light be shed on all the facts and that all the documents be published. This activity finds increasing sympathy among ever greater sections of the workers, and at the Congress of the Socialist Party numerous delegates likewise demanded the struggle for the Republic.

At the same time the PCR shows the masses the only way to organize a serious resistance against the offensive of the reaction; that is, to transform the "vigilance committees" and "Committees of the Democratic Alliance" into genuine organs of struggle, through the expulsion of the bourgeois representatives and the inclusion of revolutionaries and delegates elected from the factories and the neighborhoods.

Basing themselves on these committees, the workers could organize their own militia, track down and disarm the neo-fascist gangs, compel the reformists and Stalinist leaders to break the coalition with the liberal bourgeoisie, and engage in an electoral battle for a bold program of transitional demands.

Along this road, and only along this road, the workers are assured of winning over the majority of the country. But if they continue to delay in taking this road, they can become discredited and prepare the ground for the worst bourgeois reaction.

By Daniel Guerin (Translated from October 15 "Front Ouvrier"—Workers' Front—Trotskyist newspaper of Lyons, France.)

Despite the lies and slanders of a hypocritical press—amid which Marcel Fourrier, in Franc-Tireur, strikes a discordantly courageous note—the truth is beginning to break through. From authentic sources, we can already glean an idea of what is happening in Indo-China.

The capitalist press has tried to deceive us in two ways: first by presenting the "difficulties" as artificially fomented by the Japanese; second, by trying to make us believe that the Anglo-French in Cochinchina dominate the situation. The two statements are equally false.

To explain what is happening in Indo-China as a Japanese maneuver is as absurd as to pretend that the workers' movement in the western hemisphere is stirred up by "agitators" or by the "hand of Moscow." The Annamese revolt is the culmination of long years of frightful oppression, long years of fighting for freedom.

If the Annamites today prefer to take up arms and die rather than be again forced under French domination, it is because they retain as bitter a memory of their prewar despots as we have of the Hitlerian occupation. To depict this hell would require pages and pages.

IMPERIALIST OCCUPATION

Of all the French colonies, Indo-China has been most mistreated, since it has been the most favorable land for Big Business. All travelers who have witnessed the exploitation of the coolies on the rubber plantations or in the coal mines have uttered—when good of the Bank of Indo-China hasn't silenced every human feeling in them—the same cry of horror. We refer the reader to the testimony of Dorjeles, Roubaud, Paul Monet, Leon Werth, Andree Violles, etc., etc.

The domination of Big Business in Indo-China operated through a heavily-paid, top-heavy administration. This administration drained the country's resources—remember how?—by flooding the country with bad alcohol made by the Indo-Chinese Society of Distillers, upon which they levied an "honorable" commission, and by peddling opium, which they monopolized.

The Radical Socialist, Albert Sarraut, then Governor General, acquired wretched notoriety by urging his subordinates to push the sale of alcohol and opium in the villages.

Indo-China is essentially an agricultural country; 90 per cent of its people cultivate rice. The French rulers also extracted the revenues necessary for their ostentatious domination and for support of their army and police by heaping heavy taxes upon the small farmer, thus forcing him into the clutches of the Chinese usurer.

In order to reinforce their domination, the French fostered ignorance, depriving the people of schools. Before the conquest, the Indo-Chinese enjoyed a high level of civilization and education.

This despicable regime has never been accepted by the Annamese people. Since the beginning of French occupation, there has been a succession of revolts. The most important began in

AMERICAN SHIPS CARRY FRENCH TO INDO-CHINA

American troop ships are carrying French armed forces from France to Indo-China to fight against the Annamese people.

"The Victory ships Taos and Pauchag" left Marseilles "October 31, each carrying more than 1,000 troops to Indo-China," reported a special correspondent to PM, November 12.

"The crewmen of the Taos signed on in New York with the understanding that they were to proceed to India to bring American troops home. Upon their arrival (in Marseilles) they learned they were also to be used to carry French troops to the Orient. "Prior to the sailing of the Taos and the Pauchag, three other Victory ships left France bound for French Indo-China carrying French troops."

Meanwhile Brass Hats, in response to servicerests' demands to return home, altered that a "bottle-neck" in shipping prevents early withdrawal of troops from overseas.

1930 with the mutiny of the sharpshooters of Yen Bay (Tonkin). Headed by young intellectuals who had become acquainted in our own schools in France with the rights of man, it soon took the form of a genuinely popular movement. Everywhere the peasants rose up. In peaceful processions, unarmed except for placards with demands, they flocked to the chief towns to protest against the excessively heavy taxes. Big Business replied with a blood bath.

The young nationalists died upon the guillotine, or through tortures which the Hitlerian brutes have since only practiced on a larger scale. The demonstrations of unarmed peasants were mowed down by machine guns. The demonstrators were run through by bayonets of drunken legionnaires. The so-called "rebellious" villages and farms were bombed to the ground. Thousands of condemned political prisoners were deported to Guiana where they suffered the same slow death as those at Buchenwald and Dachau.

It must also be said, for it is necessary to tell the whole truth,

American Troops Bolster Chiang Kai-shek Regime

(Continued from Page 1)

one-seventh of all China and its population only one-tenth, it includes as many skilled workers as all the rest of China.

Manchuria's industrial assets give it predominant influence over China. There are more factories and railroads in Manchuria than in all the rest of China. Manchuria produces nine times as much steel and three-fifths as much coal as the whole of China. It has vast untapped resources such as tungsten, shale oil, gold, iron and coal.

Chungking is prepared to wage a bitter battle for the region since its possession could have a decisive effect on the outcome of the civil war.

INDUSTRIAL WEALTH

The United States is aiding the Kuomintang government in order to prevent the Chinese Stalinists from dominating Manchuria and to bolster the utterly reactionary Chiang Kai-shek regime.

Japanese troops, subject to the orders of American brass-hats, have "been purposely allowed to retain arms to preclude disorders," said a November 16 A.P. dispatch after a press conference with General Albert C. Wedemeyer, commander of United States forces in China.

The "disorders" are, of course, the actions of the Chinese Stalinists who are defending the territory they hold. Thus the lie is again given to the fraudulent declarations of the Allies during



CHIANG KAI-SHEK

the war that "liberated" countries would be free to choose their own form of government after victory.

Despite their promises to get out of China, American imperialists are making no moves to withdraw the troops. Wall Street is daily becoming more deeply involved in the civil war.

Under-Secretary of the Navy Artemus Gates declared on November 18 according to the Associated Press that "no decision had been made on the possible future withdrawal of the Marines from North China." Gates admitted "the possibility of involvement of United States forces."

that the repression continued even under the Popular Front. The hurricane of freedom that passed over France in 1936 did not extend to Indo-China. Under the administration of Marius Moutet the imprisonment of revolutionary Indo-Chinese militants did not cease. Just as at present, certain parties through their silence and complicity assisted in the attempts to strangle the Indo-Chinese people.

The Indo-Chinese people aspire to liberty and are ripe for freedom. To explain why Indo-China is the most developed among all the French colonies, the most capable of taking care of itself, would carry us too far afield. Let us give in a few words the principal reasons for this maturity.

First, an old and authentic civilization exists in Indo-China; second, neither feudalism nor a capitalist bourgeoisie exists which would be inclined to share with the French despots the income from the exploitation of the popular masses, or to conquer independence solely for their own exclusive profit. That is why the intellectual elite of the Annamites, after having been nationalists for a time, today adhere in the majority to revolutionary Marxism. Is not the President of the Viet Minh, really the militant communist Nguyen Ai Quoc? His book The Process of French Colonization is known to all the friends of the Indo-Chinese people.

In the light of what has preceded, the events now taking place in Cochinchina assume full meaning. The Japanese have not "fomented" Annamese rebellion in order to avenge defeat. Nor have the Annamites for their part "collaborated" with the Japanese occupation authorities. With remarkable political sense, they have simply taken advantage of circumstances, making them serve the cause of independence. No freedom without arms. The Indo-Chinese patiently awaited the moment when the fall of Japan would place in their hands the arms of the Nipponese troops. And these arms today are serving them so that they will not fall back into the old slavery.

From September 24 to October 1, there was a genuine armed insurrection, a genuine Commune which burst forth in Saigon. This was not the work of the Japanese or of some native "agitators". All available information proves that it was a powerful mass movement. Despite their boasts, the Anglo-French forces do not at all appear to be masters of the situation. And the Armistice which they concluded with the Viet Minh seems to us rather a sign of weakness than of strength.

SUPPORT VIET MINH!

Such is the situation at the moment. But tomorrow it can develop in a less favorable direction for the Indo-Chinese people. The arrival of the French fleet at Saigon, the debarking of troops, is already restoring to French colonialism a little of its swagger. General Leclerc (De Haute Cloque) speaks again of reestablishing "order." The big capitalist companies who live on the robbery of Indo-China and who are very influential in the Rue Saint Dominique are going, make no mistake about it, to exert pressure to change the policy of the "outstretched hand" to one of brutal force against the Viet Minh.

The Annamese people understand—and they are right—that they must save themselves. But great dangers still menace them. And on the hard road to their liberation they need the support of the French workers, or to phrase it better, of all those in France for whom the word "democracy" has not yet been emptied of all meaning.

Let us give this support without losing a moment. And let us know how to thank those who, shaking off the atmosphere of prostration, of demoralization, of impotence and despair in which the world has appeared to wallow since the end of the great cataclysm, have once again raised the banner of freedom.

Yesterday we saluted the uprising of the Greek people. Today we say from the bottom of our hearts: "Hail to the Commune of Saigon! Freedom for Indo-China!"

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THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

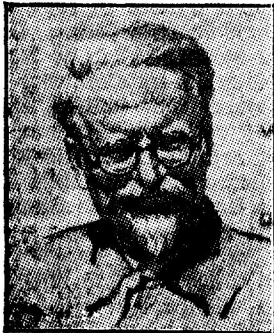
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Only the world revolution can save the USSR for socialism. But the world revolution carries with it the inescapable blotting out of the Kremlin oligarchy.

—Leon Trotsky

Support The UAW!

As in the heroic days of the 1936-37 strike wave, the militant auto workers are preparing to spearhead a great and crucial struggle of American labor.

In the battles of nearly a decade ago, the auto workers humbled some of the most powerful fortresses of the open shop and climaxed with victory the basic conflict of that period—the right to a union and collective bargaining.

Today, all of American labor confronts a new stage of epic struggle. That is the battle for higher living standards and permanent security. Shall the workers go back to the breadlines, the welfare bureaus, the beans and gravy existence of the 1929-1940 capitalist crisis?

Big Business says yes! The Wall Street monopolists say yes! They are plotting and scheming to drive down wages, inflate prices, maintain a "reserve army" of unemployed to use in undermining union organization and conditions.

The American workers say no! They are determined to prevent the war profits-bloated corporations from slicing their take-home pay and purchasing power. Their determination is expressed in the demand voiced by millions of organized workers, in every section of the labor movement, for a reduced work-week with no reduction in take-home pay. For the auto workers that means a 30 per cent increase in basic wage rates.

A strike of the auto workers will unquestionably bring the developing wage conflict toward full nation-wide unfoldment. Every resource of Big Business and its government will be concentrated against the auto workers to smash their struggle and frustrate their demands.

The monopoly capitalists know only too well the meaning of a victory for the auto workers. It will inspire an overwhelming tide of labor resistance to Wall Street's hunger plans. It will weaken, if not shatter, the Big Business offensive to drive down the living standards of the American people and thereby to further increase the war-swollen profits of the corporations.

Every worker in America must appreciate what he has at stake in the auto workers' battle. His own chances for a steady job at a decent living wage are at issue. The capitalists, as a class, are moving against the auto workers to crush them and pave the way for crushing the aspirations of the workers in all industry.

There can be but one answer from the entire labor movement. It must rally to a man behind the auto workers. Unbreakable labor solidarity is the order of the day. "All support to the embattled auto workers!" must be the slogan the moment the auto workers hit the picket lines.

"Business Secrets"

Big Business corporations reject the just demands of workers for a 30 per cent wage increase. At the same time, they have issued an ultimatum to the government, demanding huge price increases. However, General Motors and U. S. Steel, for instance, have refused to make available even to the Office of Price Administration, the full record of their costs and profits.

The pretext for thus concealing how much these war-enriched corporations have stolen from the public treasury and squeezed out of the blood and toil of the workers, is—the "sanctity" of "business secrets."

Every time an effort is made to investigate the swindling and the frauds perpetrated by Big Business, to determine what monumental loot they are wringing from American workers, the corporations fall back on the same old cry of "business secrets."

Leon Trotsky, founder of the Fourth International, stripped the veil from the hypocritical claim that the shady workings of the corporations must be protected. In "The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International," written in 1939, Trotsky declared:

"The motivation offered for the principle of 'business secrets' is ostensibly, as in the epoch of liberal capitalism, that of 'free competition'! In reality, the trusts keep no secrets

from one another. The business secrets of the present epoch are part of a persistent plot of monopoly capitalism against the interests of society. Projects for limiting the autocracy of 'economic royalists' will continue to be pathetic farces as long as private owners of the social means of production can hide from producers and consumers the machinations of exploitation, robbery and fraud. The abolition of 'business secrets' is the first step towards actual control of industry."

It is the duty of organized labor to lay bare, as Trotsky put it, "that unconscionable squandering of human labor which is the result of capitalist anarchy and naked pursuit of profit." To that end, the unions must counter the capitalist claim of "inviolability" of "business secrets" with the demand:

OPEN THE BOOKS AND RECORDS OF THE CORPORATIONS!

Stalin And Indonesia

When British troops first entered Indonesia after the defeat of Japan, they were welcomed by the heads of the Nationalist movement. The Nationalists counted on the fulfillment of the promises of the Atlantic Charter, expecting that the Allies would surely grant the people of Indonesia their freedom from Dutch imperialism.

However, the British troops were ordered to shoot down the Indonesians. Then the British Government announced an understanding with the Dutch Government regarding restoration of Dutch oppression in Indonesia.

The heads of the Nationalist movement appealed to Truman and Attlee for help in their struggle for independence. But both Truman and Attlee maintained a studied and contemptuous silence. Allied troops, using American-made armament, dropped bombs and high explosive shells on populous areas of Java.

Finally, Soekarno, President of the Republic of Indonesia, and Soebardjo, Foreign Minister, addressed appeals to Molotov and Stalin, asking the Soviet Union to intervene in behalf of the people of Indonesia.

Up to now, Stalin and Molotov, like Truman and Attlee have not seen fit to even reply to the plea of the besieged Indonesians.

At the same time, the Anglo-American imperialists now slaughtering the Indonesians have launched a diplomatic offensive against the Soviet Union. It is an open secret that this offensive is but one of the stages toward armed assault on the Soviet Union. Obviously the people of the Soviet Union and the people of Indonesia face the same world enemies.

Consequently, not to help the Indonesians constitutes basest betrayal of the interests of the USSR.

The attitude of Stalin toward the colonial masses is the direct opposite of that of Lenin and Trotsky. These two founders of the Soviet Union, throughout their lives, stood in the forefront of the struggle for freedom of the colonial peoples. They considered the working people of the colonies as powerful allies of the working class in the industrial centers.

To see how rotten and counter-revolutionary Stalinism has become, one need only recall how Lenin would have acted. Lenin would not have waited for an appeal from the beleaguered Indonesians. From the beginning he would have supported their struggle openly and warned the colonial fighters well in advance of the perfidious intentions of Allied imperialism.

The program of Lenin—betrayed on every point by the Stalinists—today is the heritage of the Fourth International alone. Only the Trotskyists uphold Lenin's policy of full support to the colonial peoples in their struggle for independence.

Bandits' Agreement

The Washington columnist Drew Pearson on November 12 revealed a secret agreement between Roosevelt and Churchill. At the Quebec Conference held in September 1944, Pearson reports, the two imperialist politicians drew up a program to utterly destroy Germany.

"The industries in the Ruhr and Saar would therefore be necessarily put out of action, closed down," reads the secret agreement. "The districts should be put under some body under the World Organization which would supervise dismantling the industries, and make sure they are not started up again by some subterfuge."

"This program looks forward to converting Germany into a country principally agricultural and pastoral."

The document was ironically signed "O. K." and initialed by both Roosevelt and Churchill.

At the time of the Quebec Conference, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau publicly advocated precisely this plan. The people were horrified, for a "peace" based on such a plan meant the annihilation of tens of millions of Germans. It meant, moreover, the decline of all Europe. With the stilling of the industrial heart of the continent, millions of people outside Germany likewise would inevitably face starvation and death.

In view of this unfavorable public reaction, spokesmen of the Roosevelt Administration denied supporting the harsh and frightful "peace" outlined by Morgenthau.

Under cover of secret diplomacy, however, the heads of Anglo-American imperialism went right ahead behind the backs of the people and cynically agreed to carry out precisely the horrible "Morgenthau" plan.

Right now this plan is being put into effect by Truman, Attlee and Stalin. Without consulting the people of the Allied nations, the Allied Governments are methodically dismantling and blowing up the great productive industrial plants of Germany.

Capitalism has brought Europe to the brink of the abyss. The coming winter will witness scenes of such horror as to pale anything yet recorded in history.



"I've been thinking how much you'd enjoy this ever since last Thanksgiving!"

MOVIE REVIEW

One of Jack London's finest short stories is *The Mexican*. This stirring tale of the devotion and heroism of a revolutionist has now been made into a movie, *El Mexicano*, by Mexico's studios and is showing currently at Spanish film theatres.

In Jack London's story the hero personifies the revolution of the Mexican people against the hated dictator Porfirio Diaz. When Rivera, a hungry-looking youth of 18 first appeared at the headquarters of the "junta" or local branch, the revolutionists suspected him of being a spy. The hate that burned in his eyes made them uneasy.

He asked only one privilege—to work for the revolution. His first assignment was washing the floors and windows of the headquarters, cleaning out the spit-socks and keeping the fires.

The cold-eyed youth merely asked: "Is it for the revolution?" Assured that these tasks too were for the revolution, he went to work without another word. In Jack London's story, this young revolutionist typifies the indomitable Jimmy Higgins worker, the backbone of the revolutionary party, willing to do anything to advance the cause.

Eventually Rivera worked up to setting type for the small revolutionary press. Then a strange thing happened. He began bringing to the junta at irregular intervals increasing amounts of money. He not only did the "dirty work," but he helped finance the junta.

The climax of the story is built on a crisis in the revolutionary movement—when the fate of the revolution hung by a thread.

*Available in the collection, "The Night Born," by Jack London. A. Appleton Century Co., New York.

The thread consisted of \$5,000 needed to buy arms.

How Rivera tries to get this money is one of the most exciting scenes in all of Jack London's works. The youth had obtained his previous financial contributions by taking merciless beatings in the training camps of professional boxers and in the amateur ring at Los Angeles. Now he must fight to win against one of the country's leading contenders for the championship.

Jack London shows how the power of the revolutionary idea inspires and fortifies the youthful fighter against what seem overwhelming odds.

Enough of this original story is left in *El Mexicano* to raise the film considerably above Hollywood standards.

HOLLYWOOD'S MOTIVES

El Mexicano goes back into Rivera's past, shows how dictator Diaz machine-gunned striking workers and ferociously hunted down those who opposed the regime. The movie also adds a wide ribbon of romance, tosses in a petty-bourgeois sympathizer of the junta who eventually turns traitor, and completes the bill with a jail-break and plenty of gun-fire and hard riding.

But the devotion of the revolutionists to their cause, the power of a great idea to inspire people and convert them into truly human beings permeates the movie, lifting it far above the usual mind-deadener cranked out by Hollywood.

An interesting question arises. Why doesn't Hollywood utilize themes like the one in *El Mexicano*? Hollywood knows about Jack London. It has even turned out a few versions of the *Call of the Wild* and *The Sea Wolf*. But curiously enough, besides *The*

Mexican which is not well known, Hollywood has avoided Jack London's most famous and greatest work, *The Iron Heel*.

We can answer the question by examining Hollywood's handling of *Martin Eden*. This powerful novel of the rise of a working man to fame was reduced to a simple adventure and love story after Hollywood's surgeons had finished cutting and face-lifting. All the sections about *Martin Eden's* approach to socialism were completely amputated.

However, Hollywood could not cut out the socialism in *The Iron Heel*, for the entire story, although written as far back as 1907, prophesies the coming of fascism, shows how Big Business fosters fascism, and demonstrates that only the socialists are capable of leading the fight against fascist barbarism.

Hollywood, completely under the control of Wall Street, could no more convert into movies the works of Jack London based on socialist ideas, than could the German studios under Hitler. Mexico, however, still lives under the aura of the overthrow of Porfirio Diaz and in addition feels every day the bitter pressure of Yankee imperialism. A portion of Jack London's revolutionary spirit can therefore seep into its films.

Unfortunately, English titles are not provided with *El Mexicano*. Much of the stinging bits of satire on the Yankees will thus be lost to those lacking a good knowledge of Spanish. However, the Mexican interpretation of an American prize fight and especially an American professional boxer handshaking himself into the ring is pantomime anyone can enjoy. The boxing match alone is worth the price of admission.

Reviewed by Joseph Hansen

Congressmen At Work

Some of Wall Street's Congressmen apparently have been studying how the Roman emperors appeased the hungry proletariat with circuses and games. Senator Langer of North Dakota, for instance, evidences close acquaintance with Roman political lore:

"For many years, Mr. President, we have had an Army-Navy football game. . . Mr. President, I believe that the admission to this game should be free. I believe that there should be no tickets reserved except 100 for the President of the United States and his guests and the Secret Service; 10 for the Secretary of War, 10 for the Secretary of the Navy, and 10 for the Governor of the State in which the contest may be played."

The rest of the Cabinet and State officials, presumably, would have to scramble for seats along with the Senators and Representatives.

BRILLIANT PROVISION

To help poor people, unable to afford transportation long distances to see the free game, the Senator included a brilliant provision: "In the bill which I am introducing . . . commencing alphabetically, the game shall be played in every State in the Union, commencing next year in Alabama at a place designated by the Governor of the State,



so that in the next 48 years the game will have been played in every one of the 48 States."

A few minutes later, Senator Bilbo of Mississippi reported "on behalf of the National Memorial Stadium Commission."

Senator Bilbo generally campaigns against the Colored people, but this time he had another axe to grind. He wanted "the greatest stadium not only in the United States but in the world, and which is to be built upon such lines and of such magnitude that there will be nothing in the world like it. It is to be finished in marble; it is to be a covered stadium, and it will have attached to it other attractions which will make it the great show place of the nation as a memorial to the soldiers of these two great wars."

Senator Bilbo did not say

whether his "Jim Crow" signs in the modern Colosseum would be carved in marble. Bilbo only specified "a landing strip for privately owned airplanes."

What with hot dog concessions, bottled pop and all, the stadium will eventually become a "self-liquidating proposition." But right now, to put it bluntly, a small appropriation from public funds is needed "so that we can convince business concerns that they may be willing to invest their money to build this greatest stadium in all the world."

Why don't the two Senators make a deal? If Senator Langer would give up Army-Navy games in 48 States and agree to staging them in the super-colossal stadium, maybe he could line up Bilbo's vote. And if Bilbo would limit the take-off to the concessions, while accepting Langer's proposal for free tickets to the Army-Navy contest, then he could line up Langer's vote. It looks like a natural!

And to make the whole thing a real whopping success, how about donating free airplanes? Then anybody who wants one can try out the landing strip when he comes to Washington to see the free Army-Navy football game in the greatest memorial in the world to Wall Street's wars.

PROBLEMS FACING WAR VETERANS

By CHARLES CARSTEN

No Place To Come Home To

Men are coming back from far-flung battle fronts where they have spent the last winters either in cold, wet fox-holes and pup-tents, sleeping on frozen ground, or in torturous heat, drenched by heavy tropical rains. Or they have stood watch on deck exposed to freezing winds.

Uppermost in their thoughts was return to a comfortable home. But what do they find on arriving in this country?

The only homes or apartments available are either those renting for such exorbitant sums that GI's can't afford even to look at them, or vermin infested cold-war tenements with a bathtub in the kitchen and a toilet to be shared with half a dozen other families. The floors are rotting away, the doors are broken and the windows—in case they aren't broken—won't open if they're closed and can't be closed if they're open.

Even these miserable places are scarce. And veterans don't want that kind of a "home" as a reward for their long years of hardship.

The situation in New York is indicative of conditions throughout the country. Here there are 20,000 veterans without homes. This number is being augmented at the rate of 3,500 a week as men are demobilized from the armed forces. Many men in hospitals, men with wives and small children, can't be released because they have no home to go to.

A typical occurrence was reported by the N. Y. Times, November 13. "More than 1,000 men back from the wars crowded the Commodore Hotel lobby and overflowed into the street as they sought to obtain priorities for 600 of the apartments in the Bronx recently vacated by the Waves."

In addition several thousand phone calls were received from veterans during the day. They were told they had to apply in person. Groups of veterans and their wives gathered on the sidewalk and voiced their angry disapproval of the situation. They spoke about a march on City Hall to demand temporary housing.

Even in this early stage of demobilization the housing shortage is approaching the proportions of a major crisis and scandal.

The housing shortage doesn't come as a surprise to the authorities. Before the war there weren't enough dwellings. No new housing units have been built in the last five years. Buildings have depreciated during the war, many have had to be abandoned and many more should be condemned as unfit for human habitation. The problem was acute during the war. Thousands of veterans looking for a place to live have set in bold relief the scandalous conditions.

The situation was foreseeable and could have been averted. Yet, even now the government has no plan to provide more housing.

This indifference on the part of the government is in marked contrast to its actions in preparing for the war. Barracks to house millions of men mushroomed overnight. Factories sprang up with amazing speed—when it was a question of preparing for war.

Typical of the speed in those days was the construction in six weeks of Atom City in Oak Ridge, a city of 75,000 persons needed for work on the atomic bomb. If this could be done for war why can't it be done to house the men who fought in that war?

Reliable housing authorities state that temporary housing for veterans could be made available in 30 to 60 days. But no move has been made to construct it. Nor are there plans for large scale permanent low-rent housing projects.

In this as in everything else the government clearly demonstrates its callous indifference to the needs of workers and veterans. In no case is it willing to initiate a program in the interest of the men who fought the war.

Steel Union Exposes Bosses' 'Poverty' Plea

The greatest steel strike in history looms as nearly a million CIO steel and metal workers await the outcome of an NLRB strike vote on November 27 in support of their demand for a \$2 a day wage increase.

Pleading "poverty" for the war-profits glutted steel industry, Benjamin F. Fairless, president of U. S. Steel Corporation, twice flatly refused to meet a government conciliator. Instead he handed the government an ultimatum to boost steel prices. The obedient Office of Price Administration is pushing through the price boost while Fairless continues to flout the Labor Department.

Fairless lied that present steel prices "do not enable us to grant a wage increase at this time." In reality the steel industry could pay the \$2 raise and still triple its prewar profits next year, according to Philip Murray, president of both the CIO and the United Steelworkers of America.

Murray has disclosed a "conservative" \$800,000,000 of "hidden" steel war profits in five years—"hidden" in excess reserves, excess depreciation write-offs, amortizations and allowances for pensions for millionaire executives. This \$800,000,000 "hidden profits" brings total steel war profits to \$2,000,000,000 (two billions)—enough profits in five years to pay the \$2 raise for eight years.

Whereas the \$2 raise would amount to \$250,000,000 a year, the steel barons are already guaranteed \$300,000,000 in tax refunds, plus \$125,000,000 already saved by elimination of overtime pay, plus another \$225,000,000 through repeal of the excess profits tax. What's more, government-financed plant modernization has raised labor productivity about 25 per cent in steel.

Accusing Fairless of "crying poor" with "pockets bulging with war profits," Murray said the steel industry can pay the raise in 1946 and still net \$474,000,000, three and a half times average annual 1935-39 profits or 45 per cent above the corporations' take-home in 1941, the most profitable war year.

U. S. Steel has boasted in business circles of being "in the best financial position it has ever experienced." In contrast, steelworkers' wages buy 10 per cent less than in January, 1941, when they averaged \$33.60 a week. Cuts of 25 to 50 per cent have resulted from downgrading and reducing the work-week, while prices continue to skyrocket since last year when the CIO determined the cost of living had risen 45 per cent.

