

WORKERS' FORUM

The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of "The Militant". Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers. Keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Steel Strikers Like Gray Cartoon

Editor:
Today we went around town distributing *The Militant* on the picket lines and at a large steel union meeting. The distributions were all very successful. But what we saw that was best of all is that everyone noticed immediately Laura Gray's cartoon in this week's *Militant*, entitled, "A Robber Calling The Cops."
The men really liked it and many laughed and made favorable remarks about it.
Comrade Gray's cartoon this week really hits the nail on the head.

Ruth Franklin
Newark, N. J.

Some Suggestions For The Militant

Editor:
In the event that members of the editorial staff of *The Militant* might welcome comments from a reader, I enclose these notes:

I appreciate the fact that *The Militant* presents labor's problems to the public. Many conservative papers hush stories of that nature. However, I believe *The Militant* would be of greater service to the public if the writers would not "dress up" the facts in "sensational" terms and would eliminate the propaganda of the "join-our-movement-because-we-are-so-wonderful" sort of thing.
I commend the articles on foreign news and letters to the editor. I hope *The Militant* continues to emphasize the international viewpoint. I would like to see a more thorough treatment of the Negro problem, along with constructive suggestions for action.
I hope the editorial policy in the future will emphasize the constructive angle of all problems a bit more, and will try to attain a higher standard of writing (in the literary sense).

D. M.
Detroit

Capitalism Boasts of Slashed Production

Editor:
Every day as I ride the street car, I pass by a building on which is printed in giant letters: "We are now wrecking Calship yards."
Only under capitalism could it be possible to boast about the destruction of the means of production. It was only a short while ago that Los Angeles spoke with pride of its giant shipyards which employed tens of thousands of workers.

A. L.
Los Angeles

Minneapolis
Buy THE MILITANT
AT THE
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Now on Sale Fourth International

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By Pierre Frank

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116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.

Two Ends Of The Same Chain



A Letter From A Texas Worker Weighs Labor And Management

Editor:
I saw the following letter in the "Letters from the People" column of the *Caller*, (Corpus Christi, Texas) a few months ago. I've been saving it, but now I'd like to pass it along to give *Militant* readers an indication of the growing class consciousness of the workers here in Texas.
E. S.
Texas

Editor:
All along, sometimes, things happen that please me.
No late happening has pleased me more than the cessation of the use of that word "capitalist." It was getting to be a sounding word.

When the "common people" heard this word spoken or saw it written, it caused them to envision want, hunger and suffering in many ways. So let us, all of us, cease using this ugly, sinister-sounding word and use the innocent - sounding word "management."

Management sounds so much better. Management seems to carry no sinister meaning.
There is another word I'd like to see go, and this word is "labor." Someone, a good hand to think up nice words that soften unpleasant facts, should select a word that will do for the word "labor" what "management" did for the word "capitalist."

Sometimes I think the term "muscle producers" would turn the trick; but somehow that word doesn't sound exactly right.
It doesn't eliminate the remembrance of long hours of grueling work, heat, sweat and sore muscles, coupled with the fear of hunger, sickness and maybe eviction. After thinking it over I don't think it would come anywhere near answering the purpose in taking the place of the word "labor;" but I know all we need is a good, nice-sounding word to take its place, removing all the unpleasant memories that word brings to the laborer's mind.

Labor and management are seeking the same thing—more money. Management wants more profits to pay greater dividends. Labor wants bigger wages to enable him to feed, clothe and school his children in better style. But it seems that if he wants higher wages he is not patriotic.

W. W. Lyles

Youth Group Activities

NEW YORK—The Trotskyist Youth Group, 116 University Place, holds its weekly forum every Friday at 8 p. m. Dancing and refreshments after every meeting. Send name and address for weekly announcement.
Feb. 22—"Russia Today and Tomorrow," speaker: Z. Forbes.

PHILADELPHIA—Youth Forums held every Saturday, 8 p. m. at 405 W. Girard Ave.

LOS ANGELES—Write to SWP headquarters, 145 S. Broadway, for information on Youth Group activities.

Watch this column for further details on youth activities.

Pioneer Notes

This week shipments of the new *Pioneer* catalog went out to all branches of the Socialist Workers Party. We have since had a letter from Toledo which reads:

"I have seen copies of the new catalog and believe it is a fine job. I am especially intrigued with the pocket-edition of *The Founding Conference of the Fourth International* which is in immediate prospect. This is a popular size and should increase sales."

This attractive new catalog gives the full current listing of all *Pioneer's* publications on socialism and the labor movement. A short account is included of *Pioneer Publishers* and its record in publishing basic Marxist works for the American labor movement. A program of future publications is also listed.

Among the books in preparation are works of Trotsky which have long been out of print but for which there is a great demand—a growing demand from all parts of the world.

The check-list itself is divided into eight separate categories: Books and pamphlets by Leon Trotsky, James P. Cannon, Albert Goldman; a section of documents of the Fourth International and the Socialist Workers Party; problems specifically dealing with the American labor movement. There is another dealing with pamphlets on the Negro struggle; a separate section of pamphlets on the famous *Minneapolis Labor Case*; and finally a section of miscellaneous books and pamphlets by various authors on problems of socialism and the labor movement.

The catalog will be sent free on request. Ask for your copy from *Pioneer Publishers*, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

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Militant Labor School
Wednesday Evening Classes
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"The Communist Manifesto" and "Socialism Scientific and Utopian"
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Instructor: M. Bartell. 9:00-10:30 p.m.
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LOS ANGELES
SPRING PROGRAM OF CLASSES
6 classes, each for 6 consecutive weeks
Sunday mornings, starting March 10
11 A. M.—Trade Union Problems—James Dall
12 Noon—Marx's Capital—C. Charles
Tuesday Evenings, starting March 12
8 P. M.—Elementary Economics—John Patrick
9 P. M.—History of American Trotskyism—M. Weiss
Thursday Evenings, starting March 14
8 P. M.—Dialectical Materialism—B. Lens
9 P. M.—American History—J. Hawkins
Fee: \$1.50 for each class. Unemployed and strikers free.
Registration will be taken in advance at:
Los Angeles School of Social Science
145 South Broadway, Room 201



During the past few weeks, in response to our revisits and mailing, we have received a great many renewals from our readers whose subscriptions have expired.

Many of our readers, now staunch *Militant* supporters, are availing themselves of the \$2.50 yearly combination rate, and are including with their *Militant* renewal, a subscription to the theoretical organ of the Socialist Workers Party.

In line with this, Fred Martin of Milwaukee writes: "On Sunday, the branch obtained 15 renewals; 5 one-year and 10 six-month. The response to our personal revisits was very gratifying and a number of workers expressed a desire to come to our meetings.
"One steel worker who is now on strike asked for extra subscription cards so he could sell subs to his fellow strikers."

Ida Brandt of New York reported the following experience: "It's a real thrill to revisit our subscribers. One woman in the course of our conversation had this to say about *The Militant*: 'This is the best paper I have ever read, and I'd rather read it than any other. One dollar really means a lot of course, but when you get some good for it, it's a good investment!'"

Ruth Laurie of Newark writes: "Strikers throughout a large section of New Jersey have gotten to know and appreciate *The Militant* as a serious workers' paper. We have been distributing about 2,000 copies of the paper each week, hitting every major picket line, picket-headquarters, and meetings, as well as some of the smaller plants on strike in the area. Only the Stalinists refuse the paper or make themselves conspicuous by their goon tactics and viciousness. Many a worker has been made more curious and interested in *The Militant* by the Stalinists' hysterical antagonism.
"Just to prove that I am not exaggerating about the popularity of *The Militant*, here are some

of the remarks made by workers in these several strike-bound plants. A Western Electric picket called to me as I was handing some *Militants* around: 'It's a good paper—it sure does give the true facts.' Another worker, a Westinghouse striker: 'It's an excellent workers' paper; I have a subscription and get it regularly every week.' A Bloomfield GM striker: 'We like *The Militant*. Could you send us a bundle of ten or more of our office every week so that we could always have some around to read?' These are but a few. I could really go on indefinitely."

William Schmidt of New York, a new subscriber, sent us the following comment: "The *Militant* is a very interesting newspaper, and it brings many articles that you don't find in the daily papers. I enjoy reading it very much as it is very instructive, and I hand it to my friends when I am finished with it."

Still another *Militant* booster, M. C. Bennett of Washington, sent in for a one year renewal for himself, and two six-month subscriptions for friends in Tennessee and Nebraska.
"We'd like to urge all our readers to get their friends to subscribe, and join the ranks of the fast-growing *Militant Army*."

Readers have requested that we include more frequent listings of the SWP branch activities. Among the top scoring branches this week are:

- New York—75 six-month and 48 one-year renewals; 7 six-month and 6 one-year new subscriptions; 1 one-year combination subscription.
- Youngstown—33 six-month new subscriptions.
- Buffalo—25 six-month and 2 one-year new subscriptions.
- Baltimore—20 six-month new subscriptions.
- Flint—26 six-month and 3 one-year new subscriptions.
- Milwaukee—10 six-month and 5 one-year renewal subscriptions.
- Portland—3 six-month and 1 one-year new in addition to 8 six-month renewals.

OUR PROGRAM:

1. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!
A sliding scale of hours! Reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay!
A rising scale of wages! Increase wages to meet the increased cost of living!
Government operation of all idle and government-built plants under workers' control!
Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages during the entire period of unemployment!
2. Independence of the trade unions from the government!
No restriction on the right to strike!
3. Organization of the war veterans by the trade unions!
4. Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!
Down with Jim Crow!
5. Build an independent labor party!
6. Tax the rich, not the poor!
No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!
7. A working class answer to capitalist militarism!
Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!
Trade Union wages for all workers in the armed forces!
8. Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the workers in all lands!
For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!
Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!
9. For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!

Join the Socialist Workers Party!

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
116 University Place
New York 3, New York

- I would like:
- To join the Socialist Workers Party.
 - To obtain further information about your organization.
 - To attend meetings and forums of the Socialist Workers Party in my city.

NAME _____ (Please Print)
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Diary Of A Steelworker By T. Kovalesky

Letter To a Fellow Steel Worker

Dear Tony: I've been meaning to write you before, but I've been so busy it's been hard even to find time to eat or sleep.

Notes Of A Seaman By Art Sharon

The old man walked into the union hall and looked around as though in bewilderment. He still couldn't get over the union halls today as compared to when he had first joined the union.

Two Kinds Of Justice By Grace Carlson

In a sensational article in the March issue of The American Magazine, FBI head J. Edgar Hoover writes on The Rising Crime Wave.

a million more guys like us, ordinary guys like Slim, Red, Jimmy, Pete, Stash, Kelly, and old man Mike — we've shut these plants down so tight they haven't dared to try and open up!

Fraternally, Ted Kovalesky

Lancaster AFL Calls City General Strike To Halt Police Terror In Transit Walkout

By Robert Oliver (Special to The Militant)

LANCASTER, Pa., Feb. 18—A general strike of AFL unions began here today to halt the savage police terror and scab-herding against striking transit workers and in protest against the arrests Saturday of James Yoder, president of the street-car and bus workers local, and A. H. Keeler, international representative of the AFL Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees, on a frame-up charge of "inciting to riot."

More than 3,000 pickets this morning swarmed to the aid of the 230 transit strikers at the call of Miles Mesterman, President of the AFL Central Labor Union. For the first time during the strike not a bus moved.

In addition, the CLU has halted all trucks and busses manned by AFL drivers entering or leaving Lancaster. Pickets have also been stationed at Armstrong Cork, U. S. Asbestos, RCA Victor and Hamilton Watch plants, as well as many stores.

Acting Mayor Coulter fearfully called a "state of emergency" and has appealed for state police and possibly the State Guards. The Central Labor Union has asked the CIO Council to join the city-wide shutdown and the CIO is holding an emergency meeting tonight.

The general strike is growing in effect. Early in the morning some of the workers uninformed of the strike call went to work. By tonight, however, it was expected that most of the AFL plants will be totally shut down.

LANCASTER, Pa., Feb. 12—This is a city ruled by the policeman's club and terror. The strike of 230 employees of the Conestoga Transportation Company, operators of the trolleys and buses, has been marked with almost daily brutal assaults by the police, who swing their clubs freely upon peaceful pickets and bystanders.

Many strikers, including returned veterans, have been sent to the hospitals with fractured ribs, noses, etc., as the police and city government seek to aid the labor-hating transit company to resume operations with strike-breakers.

SUB-STANDARD PAY

The strike was called February 5 by Local 1241, AFL Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees, to secure a 20 per cent wage increase and to compel the company to abide by agreements made after two strikes in 1945.

'WORSE THAN GERMANY'

"It was worse than Germany! I'd rather face the German storm-troopers again. At least there I had weapons in my hands. Of course, our line was broken."

At the Central Labor Union, when I told several strikers that I was a reporter, they were at first understandably hostile. However, when I explained that I was not from the Lancaster boss papers, immediately their attitude became friendly.

The Central Labor Union has voted support. Workers at Mallean Iron Company in a one-day sympathy stoppage joined the bus drivers' picket lines last week. The Lancaster County CIO Council voted full support and appointed a special committee to work with the local AFL.

However, aided by the police, the company has managed to operate about 20 per cent of its bus service with scabs, including a few misguided veterans and former Army Officers, a fact which the press has blown up to immense proportions.

GALLANT FIGHT

The trolley cars, however, haven't moved. The strikers, in a gallant fight, turn out almost full-strength every morning to re-establish their lines in the face of savage police terror.

At a small store where we stopped on our way to the Cen-

CIO Packing Workers Delay Acceptance Of Wage Terms

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

CHICAGO, Feb. 12 — The CIO United Packinghouse Workers decided not to take final action on the 16-cent an hour wage increase recommended by Truman's "fact-finding" board.

The recommended wage increase will not go into effect until approved by the Wage Stabilization Board which is expected to act this week on the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture that the Board approve the wage boost.

So far the recommended wage increase has not been accepted by the profit-swollen barons of the packing industry. The AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union is the only group that has accepted the proposals of the "fact finding" panel.

The CIO workers are understood to be planning to press for further increases and for the elimination of regional and inter-plant differentials that now exist.

Wives Join Transport Pickets



When striking workers for the Philadelphia Transportation Company tied up all the city's surface and subway lines, their wives were right there on the picket line helping to fight for a decent living standard.

Philadelphia Transit Workers Win Gains In Militant Two Day Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

Returned veterans were conspicuous on the picket lines and made known that their interests were definitely with the union. The present strike was a far cry from the misguided and company-inspired Jim-Crow walkout in 1944 led by a company union against the up-grading of Negro workers to operating jobs.

Large numbers of PTC workers are not completely satisfied by this explanation. They point out that they had not received any increases during the war, and the present increase does not even begin to compensate for the rising costs of living.

More than 2,000 strikers were in the Hall to hear the reports of local and international officers on the proposed settlement. Local President Joseph R. Dougherty was the first to speak. "We have forced the company to its knees," he began, and his voice was drowned in cheers.

"We have won our pension demands in full," and there were more cheers. But when he mentioned the 12-cent per hour increase, the cheers were distinctly moderated and mingled with boos as workers attempted to express their indignation at the small wage increase.

EXPOSED PROFITS

Michael Quill, international president of the TWU, stepped to the front of the platform and told the union membership, "You can strike for another day, another week, and we will back you—but I strongly urge you to go back to work."

Displeasure with the 12-cent settlement of the original 25-cent demand is greater than the vote indicated. The union had

Columnist Admits Brass Hat Policy Fostered Cruelty

Commenting on the brutal treatment of American soldiers in the U. S. Army reinforcement depot at Lichfield, England, George Fielding Elliot, columnist for the N. Y. Herald Tribune, declared, "It is all too clear" that "cruelty was encouraged from above."

"There is strong reason to believe," Elliot stated, "that Lichfield is only one among many. There are too many other reports of similar tenor from other parts of the world where American soldiers have been serving to make it possible to think that the conditions at Lichfield were exceptional."

"Bitter stories," Elliot continues, "come back by various means—stories of the 'Black Hole' of Le Mans, stories of men staked out naked in the African sun at the detention center of Casablanca, stories of men 'on the Rock pile' in the Pacific theater, stories of clubbings, stringing up by the thumbs, of worse — nameless — brutalities practiced . . . on American soldiers."

U.S. Military Police Back British Despots

Under pretext of "protecting themselves," U. S. Military Police have fired tear gas shells into the packed ranks of demonstrators against despotic British rule in India.

Why are GIs forced to police India? "Three months after V-J Day," says an indignant GI letter in the January 22 Congressional Record, Wall Street had more than "100,000 troops left in India and Burma."

Today the PTC announced it will seek to obtain a fare increase to compensate the company for even the modest increases granted the transportation workers. Thus, the profit-swollen company is promptly attempting to pass on any wage in-

TIMKEN STRIKERS SOLID AS COMPANY RUSES FAIL

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

CANTON, O., Feb. 8—Despite a ruthless, all-out union-busting campaign by the notorious Timken Roller Bearing Company, the 9,000 members of Golden Lodge No. 1123, CIO United Steelworkers, are maintaining their picket lines with morale at a high level.

These strikers answered company provocations last October by a walkout of 35 days. When Timken not only refused the general wage increase demanded by the steel union nationally but redoubled its anti-union activity, the men and women of Local 1123 shut her down again on January 21, start of the great steel strike.

This was an unpleasant surprise to the Timken bosses because on the eve of the national steel strike they announced that they would continue to operate and even wired a cancellation of contract to Murray the day before the strike deadline.

Unimpressed by the company's antics, the men established their picket lines on schedule which they have maintained solidly to this day. Timken never forgets anything and never learns anything. Unable to produce during the strike, they attempted to destroy the morale of the strikers by having foremen sleep inside, issuing statements that the company will never give in, and using high pressure advertising.

MEN UNIMPRESSED

Timken has taken over a printing company for the duration of the strike so the workers will have to endure the barrage of company propaganda. Every day a large advertisement appears in the local newspaper, Canton Repository. Large mailings of anti-union propaganda have been sent out to each striker.

Although it has met with no success, from the beginning the company has made attempts against the picket lines. It has even tried a crude frameup of pickets.

NO TAKERS Seven cars filled with company cops and scabs came racing down the road toward the picket line at the Gambranus plant, just outside of Canton. Apparently by prearrangement, their windshields were broken just before they reached the picket line. Not one of the pickets has been accused of hurling the stones. The company tried to buy witnesses by offering \$5,000 reward for testimony implicating the union. To date, no one has fallen for the company's juicy offer to frame the union.

The fighting spirit of the strikers is especially high. Snugly set up in their picket shanties, they show complete confidence in their victory. AFL truck drivers refuse to cross the line. No railroad cars have entered the struck plants. Moreover, the townspeople as a whole are behind the workers.

When a CIO local charged radio station WGY, in Schenectady, with refusal to sell time to the union to broadcast a statement on the steel strike, a WGY spokesman replied: "We do not feel that time can be given to either labor or management on the subject." WGY is owned by the General Electric Company whose workers have been on strike for several weeks.