

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Wall Street Prepares For Anti-Soviet War

—See Page 8—

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401

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Southern Drive Of CIO Faces Bitter Struggle

By Art Preis

The Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) this week is scheduled to launch its greatest organizing campaign since the historic drive in 1936-37 to entrench unionism in America's basic industries. This new drive is called "Operation Dixie."

Some 400 of the CIO's crack organizers, financed by a million dollar fund, will open what CIO President Philip Murray has called a "crusade" to mobilize into the CIO ranks not less than one million Southern workers within the next year.

United organization of the cruelly exploited Southern Negro and white workers would constitute the first great advance in what inevitably must develop into a social, economic and political struggle aimed at a profound transformation of the entire South.

Although Murray at the CIO Textile Workers Convention last week described "Operation Dixie" as nothing but "simple, pure, unadulterated campaign of trade union organization," anyone acquainted with the Southern scene recognizes that a real drive to bring the white and Negro workers together will be resisted with all the ferocity and violence that the Southern ruling class can muster.

Through the Civil War, the (Continued on Page 6)

Leon Trotsky's Book On Stalin Finally Released

NEW YORK, Apr. 22 — After five years of suppression, Leon Trotsky's biography of Stalin has finally been released by its publishers, Harper Brothers.

"Stalin" is the book which Trotsky was writing when he was assassinated on August 20, 1940. Knowledge that Trotsky was working on this biography was very likely one of the factors impelling Stalin to hasten the murder of Trotsky which his GPU had so long attempted to accomplish. The pick-axe which struck Trotsky down spattered his blood upon the pages of the unfinished manuscript. Only five years later are his last observations on the despot in the Kremlin finally permitted to reach the eyes of the world.

The five years of suppression have glaringly exposed the real nature of "freedom of the press" in the capitalist United States. After the book had been printed and sent to the reviewers, it was recalled by Harper Brothers upon the intervention of the State Department. During the subsequent period of the Second World War it was withheld from circulation at Washington's request. This was one of many such favors which the "democratic" Roosevelt administration granted to its ally in Moscow.

At the same time that it suppressed Trotsky's revolutionary Marxist exposure of Stalinism, Washington gave its tacit endorsement to the film "Mission (Continued on Page 7)

Special Edition Next Week!

Featuring: **MANIFESTO Of The Recent World CONFERENCE Of The FOURTH INTERNATIONAL** "The Militant" of May 11 will bring to the American workers the full text of this historic statement of the Fourth International.

NEW JERSEY SWP LAUNCHES ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT
NEWARK, N. J., Apr. 30—The Socialist Workers Party here today announced the issuance of nominating petitions to place four SWP candidates on the New Jersey ballot for the November gubernatorial and congressional elections.

The four prospective candidates are George Breitman, for U. S. Senator; Alan Kohlman, for Governor; William E. Bohannon, for Congress, 11th District; and Mrs. Arlene Phillips, for Congress, 13th District.

The Jersey Election Committee of the SWP issued the following statement:

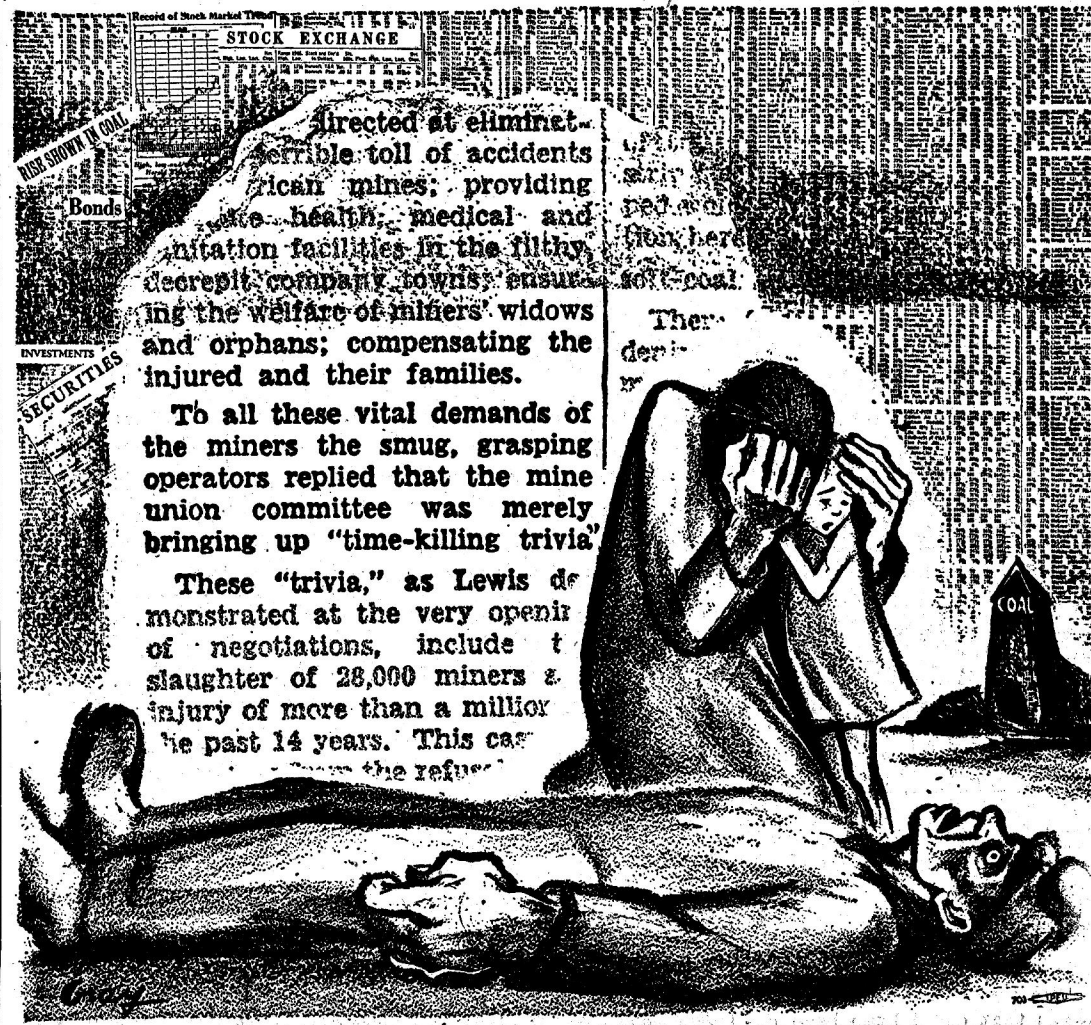
"At a time when the wage gains of the recent strikes are being rapidly eaten away by soaring prices and the black market; when, while millions are still suffering the ravages of World War II, the power-mad masters of Wall St. are already preparing a more horrible World War III; when both the Democratic and Republican parties stand thoroughly exposed as representatives of Big Business; when the Negro people, far from winning any equality from the bosses, find Jim Crow hatred and persecution intensified, it is clear that the working people have no party other than ours representing their interests in the forthcoming elections.

GREAT NEED
"The great need of the day is an independent Labor Party to fight for labor's needs in 1946. But the conservative leaders of the AFL and CIO-PAC refuse to break with the capitalist parties or to lift a finger toward genuine labor party activity.

"This is particularly true in New Jersey where the present reactionary Republican adminis-

12 MORE MINERS KILLED BY GREED OF OPERATORS

What Mine Owners Call "Trivia"



To all these vital demands of the miners the smug, grasping operators replied that the mine union committee was merely bringing up "time-killing trivia."

These "trivia," as Lewis demonstrated at the very opening of negotiations, include the slaughter of 28,000 miners a majority of more than a million in the past 14 years. This can be referred to as "trivia."

U.S. Army Courts-Martial System Flayed In Sweeping Denunciation

By George Breitman

A sweeping indictment of American "military justice" in World War II was made last week in a report by a subcommittee of the House Military Affairs Committee, the full contents of which have not yet been made public as a result of pressure from the War Department.

The report, drawn up after a six-month investigation, in effect charged the Army with conducting courts-martial in order to maintain the officers' concept of "discipline" rather than to dispense justice.

"The court-martial system is regarded by most professional officers as a means of enforcing discipline . . . (but) discipline must not be named as a cloak to cover arbitrariness and injustice."

(Recently Major General Thomas H. Green, Judge Advocate General, in a defense of the court-martial system before the American Bar Association in Cincinnati, declared: "The court-martial system is, of course, primarily designed to help our armies win our wars. The sanc-

tions of military justice constitute an instrument of command. They form the strong right arm of the military commander in the maintenance of order and discipline within his ranks.")

"There is a widespread belief among intelligent soldiers that not so much a qualified as a weak and compliant court has been the objective," the House committee report continued. A weak and compliant court is naturally more apt to obey the wishes of the senior officer who appointed its members and who can make life miserable for them after the trial.

"There have been many excessive sentences . . . the most tragic, of course, are the death sentences not commuted, (142 in number) about which it is so difficult to obtain information. (Continued on Page 7)

IN THE NEWS

Famine Diet

"Millions will surely die unless we eat less." (President Truman's radio address, April 19)

On April 26 the Bronx County Democratic Committee will hold its annual \$100-a-plate fundraising dinner, with most of the national Democratic Party big-wigs in attendance. The menu: "Hors d'oeuvres, oysters, whole pineapples filled with fruit and cordials, bowls of relish, nuts and petite marmite. There will be lobster thermidor, orange sherbert and filet mignon with Bearse sauce. There will be stuffed tomatoes, green peas, potatoes Lorette and green spring salad.

"For dessert the gentlemen will pick daintily at ice cream molded with fresh strawberries, glazed petit fours and coffee. Bread and butter aren't mentioned, but chances are diners will not be forced to smear margarine or cottage cheese on their rolls." (Robert C. Ruark, N. Y. World-Telegram, April 22)

More Truth Than Advertising

Calling on big advertisers to set aside a 10 per cent "tithe" for advertisements to sell the "free enterprise" system to the public, Don Belding, head of one of the country's largest advertising agencies, on April 11, said: "When you talk to people in lower income levels you find a large majority who wonder if the American capitalistic system is really right."

The "Peace-Makers"

"What ordinary people everywhere are asking . . . is this: Where are the men who are thinking about peace and laying the groundwork for peace? . . . All they have heard so far from the United Nations is the sound of conflict and talk of future wars." (Anne O'Hare McCormick, in N. Y. Times, April 17)

"Militant" Reporter Describes Tragic Scenes Of Mine Disaster At McCoy, Va.

By George Weissman (Special to The Militant)

MCCOY, Va., Apr. 21—Twelve workers in this little community last Thursday morning were murdered for profits. Twelve more miners were blasted and burned to death by the greed of the coal operators. They died in the darkness one half-mile below the bed of the placid New River.

The crime was committed without emotions—not even hate. Indeed, the coal barons might have preferred that these men not die. But since it is more profitable to mine coal under conditions demanding human sacrifice, the operators doomed these twelve as they have scores of thousands of others.

And they will continue to doom new thousands unless the AFL United Mine Workers win their current soft coal strike for adequate safety measures, and a Union Health and Welfare Fund.

Today, all that was left of 12 human beings, courageous union men who had tolled in the black pits and fought against poverty and exploitation, was buried on the little hill behind the Methodist Church over in Parrott.

ALL HAD DEPENDENTS

This latest mine disaster caused by the operators' cold-blooded disregard of safety conditions leaves this small community with 12 more widows and 55 fatherless children. All the victims were married, and 11 had children. The dead miners are: R. Cecil Hancock, 45, wife and 10 children; Paul Price, 35, wife and five children.

Frank R. Price, 38, brother of Paul, wife and four children; J. P. Price, 45, wife and four children; C. R. Johnson, 36, wife and four children; Frank H. DeWeese, 40, wife and three children; John A. Duncan, 40, wife, no children; George H. Sifford, 45, wife and seven children; Harmon Sifford, 35, wife and six children; Dave L. Graham, 35, wife and four children; J. L. Sarber, 45, wife and three children; Edward Ritter, 60, wife and (Continued on Page 2)



MY DADDY'S IN THE MINE—This 4-year-old boy, living in the McCoy, Va., mining camp, is watching fearfully from a hillside overlooking the entrance to mine where rescue squads are working to bring out explosion victims, 12 of whom died. (Courtesy of Roanoke Times)

"How Green Was My Valley"—Where 12 Dead Miners Sleep

By Mike Farrell (Special to The Militant)

PARROTT, Va., April 21—The New River Valley is a nice place with the broad blue river snaking lazily through the colorful Blue Ridges. It is a quiet place, too. The people in the little farming and mining communities go about their own business,

tending to their little plots of land or to their jobs in the mines.

At this time of the year the old hills strut out in full dress parade showing all their finest greens, polka-dotted with reds and honeysuckle and big white dogwood trees. Dozens of different species of birds live in these heavily wooded hills.

Yes, the colorful hills are wonderful to see, if one can see them. The sweet songs of the birds are marvelous to hear, if one can hear them. And especially on a day like Easter Sunday, when the people here usually dress up in their good suits and maybe go to church in the morning and over to the family's or the best friend's for dinner.

TODAY THERE IS NONE
But today, this Easter, there is none of that in Parrott. For there are twelve men who will never again see the colorful hills or hear the sweet songs of the birds. There are 12 men who were alive three days ago when they last went down into the McCoy mine and are today dead. And no one alive here today can see these sights or hear these sounds. Because today it is their job to bury the dead. And tomorrow, the men who survived must return to their work in the dreaded mine.

The people of Parrott and of the little town across the river called McCoy were gathered in front of the Parrott Methodist Church. The church was too small to accommodate all the

people there to attend the last rites for their beloved. In front of the church, five coffins were lined up, the last of the twelve to be put to the earth. The church benches had been set out in a semi-circle for the immediate families while distant kin and friends stood behind.

Up the hill behind the church was the burial ground in which the men were to be laid beside relatives and friends killed in previous accidents in either the McCoy mine or the Parrott mine which lies across the cove from the church.

The wives, mothers and dozens of children held up wonderfully until the last minutes when the caskets were carried away. Then their emotions carried them away into uncontrolled sobbing and crying. The charred and (Continued on Page 2)

Justice For The Miners!

By The Editors

When the AFL United Mine Workers pressed their demands for improved safety measures and an operator-financed union health and welfare fund, the soft-coal operators cynically dismissed these demands as "trivia."

The Militant in this issue features an exclusive on-the-spot report of the latest justification for such "trivia"—12 McCoy, Va., miners murdered for profit because the owners violated elementary safety regulations.

No person with the slightest spark of decency can read our account of the McCoy disaster and then deny the justice of the miners' demands. Indeed, coming in the very midst of the soft-coal miners' strike, the McCoy tragedy has underlined in blood the imperative need for a miners' victory.

The rich mine owners, echoed by the capitalist press, have been howling against providing a miners' health and welfare fund controlled by the union. With mock concern for the miners, they exclaim against giving "all that money to the UMW leaders."

These same operators, however, have been taking "all that money" year after year from the toll and blood of the miners. They have been milking the miners of millions annually for company-controlled "welfare" schemes. Where is this money now? As the UAW has proved by irrefutable evidence, it has gone only to line the purses of the mine owners.

The miners still live in squalor, they still lack decent and adequate medical care. Their widows and orphans are still degraded to the most miserable subsistence afforded by so-called "charity relief" that neither relieves nor is charitable.

What other agency can the miners trust to defend their interests, and maintain their welfare than their own union? Why shouldn't they demand that their own organization administer and control a fund as large as necessary to protect them?

The miners have over and over again paid with their blood and their lives for such a fund. In all justice, every honest union man must back them in their demand.

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McCOY MINERS' WIDOWS TELL PLIGHT

By Mike Farrell
(Special to The Militant)

McCOY, Va., April 21—Frank Price, whose life was snuffed out in the McCoy mine disaster, was such a strong lad that he went to work in the mines at the age of 14.

Mrs. Frank Price and their four children live in a small, unpainted company cottage not 100 yards from the mountain of shale that dominates the scene. She was washing clothes on the day of the disaster, and had just hung out her last tubful, when a neighbor came running up to her and called out that her husband had been killed.

"I had always begged and pleaded with him not to work in the mine," she related to me several days later. "I was afraid from day to day for him to go in there."

The two boys and one of the girls moved closer to their mother as she continued. "He was a good husband. Whenever he wasn't working he always stayed at home with us. Whenever he had to go somewhere he always took me and the kids with him." Then she told how at quitting time her youngest daughter used to run down the road to meet him and be the first to accompany him up to the house.

"I DON'T KNOW . . ." Mrs. Price moved her chair a little and struggled to hold back her tears. She is a small, thin woman, and has been "ailing" for years. Her forehead wrinkled deeply as she went on: "I don't know what I'll do now. Ain't able to get out and work, and there ain't no money. Took about everything the poor man made to support his family."

Another widow, Mrs. C. R. Johnson, lives in a house where the well-kept yard and the little garden in the back show evidence of a good man about the house. Her husband was 36 when he was killed in the McCoy Mine explosion. He left a family of six.

In the front room, which also serves as a bedroom of their little home, Mrs. Johnson sat in despair. Her head bowed low, she kept wringing her hands as

McCoy Mine Small, Death Record Big

McCOY, Va. — Since 1927, during the 19 years of its operation, the Great Valley Anthracite Mine here has taken a total toll of 17 miners' lives. Prior to the April 18 explosion, which sent 12 miners to their death, five other miners had been killed due to operators' greed and negligence. This small mine employs at its peak about 150 men.

they lay in her lap. Standing in the kitchen doorway were their three daughters in cheap but clean cotton dresses. The young boy, too young to realize the full meaning of the situation sat by the stove, his bare feet an example of the struggle a poor man has to clothe his family.

"NO PLANS" Mrs. Johnson had great difficulty in talking. "We've been married for 16 years," she said, "and he worked in the mines all that time. He spent all his life in the mines. He just escaped getting killed several times in the last three months, and I begged him to leave the mines." She looked at her children: "We're sure left in bad shape. Four kids to send to school. Just don't know what I'm going to do."

Mrs. Johnson is not a well woman and will not be able to "get out and work." When asked what her plans were for the future, her answer told the entire story of the tragic conditions, the bleak and hopeless future for this family in the Virginia hills. "No plans for the future," she replied.

And the coal operators and government echo back: "No future."



COAL CAR CORTEGE—Coal cars bearing burlap wrapped bodies of McCoy, Va., mine disaster victims emerge into the sunlight from the mile-long tunnel. The brave members of the rescue crew accompany their dead union brothers. Not a word was spoken as this tragic cortege came out of the darkness while their grief-stricken families, friends and fellow-workers looked on.

(Courtesy of Roanoke World-News)

McCoy Mine Disaster Story Told By "Militant" Writer

(Continued from Page 1)

five children. One son killed in overseas combat. The hard coal miners whose contract is unexpired are not on strike. At 10:35 a.m. on April 18, in the lowest level of the Great Valley Anthracite Mine where 58 men were at work, a terrible explosion occurred. 11 men were killed instantly, a twelfth died shortly after reaching the hospital. The other 46 managed to battle their way through smoke and heat to points of safety.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION Clouds of smoke billowing from the mine entrance were the first sign to those on the surface that an accident had happened. The news spread quickly in this little community. Soon anxious wives, children, fathers and brothers lined the pit entrance. They waited through dreadful hours as rescue squads, with inadequate equipment, heroically fought their way a mile down to the scene of the tragedy.

The anxious watchers could follow the progress of the rescue crews by observing the movement of the cable from the power-house at the tipple. When the cable stopped moving, they knew the rescue crew had reached someone.

GRIM CORTEGE When the cable started in reverse, they knew the cars were coming out. A tenseness gripped the folks on the outside as they strained their eyes trying to peer further into the cavernous mine entrance. Only the whine of the steel cable disturbed the quiet. In about ten minutes the small coal cars emerged from the shaft opening.

Each of the four rear cars contained a limp burlap-wrap bundle. The miners of the rescue crew who accompanied this grim cortege out of the darkness, silently went about the work of lifting their dead comrades out of the cars. They bore the bodies to a near-

by shed with the crowd pressing fearfully at their heels. Now there began the bitter task of identifying these horribly mutilated and charred bodies.

The explosion of methane gas—gas that could have been detected in time had the operators had proper inspection—was so terrific that 150-pound jacks were blown 350 feet. Several of the dead, their bodies literally torn apart, were blown 600 feet from the coal face where they had been working. There followed immediately after the explosion a fire of short duration but terrific intensity.

The bodies, carried on improvised stretchers, were laid out in a row in the shed. The miners lifted the burlap shrouds one by one and tried to identify the victims.

There was doubt about one of the remains. They thought it was Frank Price, but couldn't be sure. However, the miner's hat and lamp were with the body. "Who had light number 114?" some one called out over the heads of the crowd. The records were hastily consulted, and the answer came back, "Frank Price." And his name was written on a tag.

BURIED ALIVE One injured miner was still alive when the rescue crew reached the explosion scene. After fighting the smoke and dust for several hours, they heard a faint tapping. It was Paul Price, brother of Frank, hammering on a pipe-line and shouting. They called out to him that they were coming as quickly as possible.

Finally they reached him. He kept shouting and on his way out of the mine complained he was freezing. They wrapped him up, but all he would say was that he was cold. By the time they reached the surface, he was unconscious. Terribly crushed and burned, he was rushed in an ambulance to a hospital where he soon died.

Here is what the mine union leaders mean when they said, "Every ton of coal is smeared with miners' blood." And that blood is converted into wealth for a handful of parasitic mine owners.

But the families left by the victims face only the darkest futures. Insurance and social security benefits for these 12 widows and 55 orphans are pitifully inadequate. Only the aid of the union stands between them and dependence on the dry crusts of charity.

But the very day of the explosion here, the coal barons brazenly ran out of Washington, D. C., scene of the soft coal strike negotiations. In the face of this latest tragedy, the smug operators continued to defy the demand of the UMW for a health and welfare fund to maintain the families of miners killed or maimed in such unnecessary disasters as this one here at McCoy.

Pacifico Tells "Militant" Of Need For Welfare Fund

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

BELLAIRE, O., Apr. 23—In an exclusive statement for The Militant, Adolph Pacifico, United Mine Workers District 6 Vice-President, declared here today that "the McCoy disaster especially sustains the position of the miners in their demand for a welfare fund." All District 6 mines are shut down in the current soft-coal strike.

"The miners' widows are left penniless," said Pacifico. "They can have only one hope, a union welfare fund to take care of them." The miners are fighting for such a fund provided out of the huge profits of the operators.

Meanwhile, said Pacifico, "the UMW is already raising a fund to provide shelter and food for these families. District 6, knowing from its own tragic experience, has already started raising money for their aid."

The McCoy disaster, the District 6 leader pointed out, is not an isolated one. "Accidents and disasters are chronic in the coal industry. Suppose this disaster had killed 500 men, leaving a thousand children fatherless. In the absence of such a fund as we are now trying to create, how could the UMW take care of them?"

GIVES ILLUSTRATION He gave an illustration from this state "where the Workmen's Compensation Law is considered as good as anywhere in the U. S." Mrs. Fletcher Reives, with nine children, is the widow of one of the 66 men killed in the Powhatan Point mine disaster, near here on July 5, 1944. She was awarded the maximum compensation of \$7,000 on which she is required to "maintain herself as well as raise and educate her children up to the age of 18."

"How far does \$7,000 go? What is this woman to do after the \$7,000 is gone? And remember,

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"How Green Was My Valley . . ."

(Continued from Page 1)

mutilated bodies of their beloved were "laid to rest."

Now the survivors face only the bleakest of futures. For the wives, a lonesome life of drudgery and struggle to care and provide for the many children now their sole responsibility. To the children it means a fatherless life of want, poor and insufficient food, lack of clothing and leaving school at an early age to help support the family.

And, there is only one place to look for employment, in the very mine that killed their fathers.

Yes, these little farming and mining communities are surrounded by natural beauty. But they cannot enjoy it. The huge shale pile dominates the scenery as the deep dark pits of the mines dominate the lives of the miners, their wives and their children.

NOT FORGOTTEN The dead are buried but not forgotten. For the death of these 12 simple and honest men will be marked deep into the lives of over 100 people in this small spot in the Blue Ridge mountains.

They will be remembered as the miners march forward in their fight for safe working conditions and adequate care for those they leave behind in case of unavoidable accidents. They will be remembered as men who gave their lives as proof to the world that drastic changes must be made in this system of "murder for profit." They will be remembered.

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

How Press Buried McCoy Disaster News

Any spokesman of the coal mine operators just needs to open his mouth against the AFL-United Mine Workers demands for safety and welfare improvements to rate front-page billing in the capitalist press. But when coal miners go to their deaths in mines that are operated in violation of every safety regulation, the news is usually stuck back in the "Want Ads" section.

People who failed to scan their papers very closely last Thursday and Friday, surely missed the buried accounts of the latest mine disaster down in McCoy, Virginia, where 12 hard-coal miners died on April 18. The N. Y. Times—"All the news that's fit to print"—contained a one paragraph mention of the disaster on April 19, down in the middle of a story headed: "Coal Operators Quit Washington." The next day, in a story with a one-column, two-line head, the Times condescended to devote six inches of type to a UMW statement on the disaster—back between the sports page and business news.

The "impartial" press, usually indifferent to the continuous murder of coal miners, was even more reluctant to give this terrible tragedy a "play." It was a thunderous punctuation of the miners' demand for an operator-financed, union-controlled health and welfare fund, improved safety measures, etc. More than 400,000 soft coal miners have been striking for these demands since April 1, and 75,000 hard-coal miners like those at McCoy

will be raising the same demands shortly.

Rail Unions Seek Bigger Pay Award

Fifteen non-operating employees railroad unions are seeking an additional 14 cents an hour wage increase to make up the difference between their 30 cents demand and the 16 cents awarded by a government arbitration board.

The railway workers were kicked in the teeth when their leaders went to arbitration instead of conducting a militant fight like the CIO unions did. In seeking additional awards, however, the rail union leaders are proposing to go through the same rigmarole that resulted in the arbitration ruling of only 16 cents, which all the rail workers are roundly condemning. The union officials are again following the procedure of the Railway Labor Act and will finally wind up, if a deadlock persists, with—more arbitration.

Meanwhile, in Cleveland starting April 24, some 175 general chairmen of two operating unions, the brotherhoods of railroad trainmen and locomotive engineers, will consider the question of strike action to win their 30-cents demand, which another arbitration board cut down to 16 cents.

Westinghouse Strike Passes 100-Day Mark

On April 24, the 75,000 Westinghouse Electric strikers marked their 100th day on the picket lines in their battle to force the hold-out international trust to grant an 18 1/2 cents an hour wage increase similar to those won in General Electric and the GM Electrical Division.

On the same day, the directors of the huge corporation, which has plants in Japan and Germany and collected from both sides of the battle-lines during the war, declared a stock dividend, cutting up a \$3,150,000 melon.

The Westinghouse strike is the most critical labor struggle now in progress. All sections of organized labor must rally to give full moral and material support to the courageous members of the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers who have held out more than 13 weeks against hunger, injunction, police terror and a flood of company propaganda.

Women Strikers Ask Maternity Leave Clause

150 women workers went on strike at the Dearborn Glass Co., Chicago, on April 22, demanding a special clause in their CIO United Auto Workers local contract providing for maternity leaves.

The bosses are always talking about the virtues of "home and babies," but when it comes to permitting women workers to have babies without losing their jobs the employers don't sing any sentimental tune.

The striking union points out that the present contract provides for leaves for "satisfactory cause." It insists quite correctly that time out for bringing forth the next generation is more than a satisfactory cause.

From McCoy Mine



TUNNEL OF DEATH—Six thousand feet down from this entrance to the Great Valley mine at McCoy, Va., and a half mile beneath the bed of the New River, 11 miners died on April 18. In 1945, a Federal Bureau of Mines inspector recommended many safety improvements. The Bureau has no enforcement powers, so the company ignored the recommendations. Only last month, the miners at McCoy struck to enforce safety measures (see Page 1). Here anxious relatives and friends stand a waiting the return of rescue crews.

(Courtesy of Roanoke World-News)

Miners Demand Safe Conditions, Not Medals!

The Federal Bureau of Mines is an organization without teeth. It inspects the mines but can only recommend safety measures. It has no power to correct the unsafe conditions which it finds, but can merely advise that the coal operators take action.

Needless to say, the coal operators pay no attention at all to the recommendations of the Bureau of Mines.

MEDALS AND DIPLOMAS However, this federal agency fulfills another function. It gives out medals to coal miners who risk their lives saving those of their comrades. Two days after the McCoy Mine disaster, Dr. R. R. Sayers, director of the Bureau of Mines, awarded bronze medals and diplomas to 35 miners who "seriously risked their own lives but saved the lives of one or more persons."

Coal miners are brave men and will risk their lives when necessary. But they don't want medals from the Bureau of Mines. They want this Bureau to enforce safety laws that will make it unnecessary for them to risk their lives.

To The Grave



MINERS BURY THEIR DEAD—Borne to their last resting place by union brothers, three of the 12 victims of the McCoy, Va., mine explosion are shown being buried in the tiny cemetery at nearby Parrott. Victims of previous mine disasters are also buried here. United Mine Workers Local 2072 provided each surviving family, all of them poor, with \$200 to insure a decent burial.

(Courtesy of Roanoke World-News)

May 1 In Greece— Its Significance

By S. Stypos (Special to The Militant)

The first of May, International Labor Day, acquired new significance for the Greek revolutionary movement during World War II. The execution of Trotskyist leaders by German Nazis and Italian Fascists, which began at the close of 1943, reached its savage climax on May 1, 1944.

Many terrible disasters befell the Greek toilers during the Second Imperialist War. One million out of eight million workers starved to death or were slaughtered on the battlefields and by the terrorists. A million peasants were slain. Seventy per cent of the children of the poor contracted tuberculosis. Countless villages were destroyed, and the productivity of the peasants was drastically lowered. Permanent mass unemployment plagued the workers.

With these misfortunes as the background, the murder of the Trotskyist leaders has tremendous significance in the eyes of the Greek workers. The Trotskyist leadership was created by the Greek working class in the course of a twenty-year struggle against reaction. It developed outstanding Marxist theoreticians, trade-union leaders and party organizers. These men combined their talents and Marxist training with absolute devotion to the cause of the proletarian revolution.

IMPRISONED IN 1938

Many of the Trotskyist leaders became active in the Greek labor movement when it first came into existence—during and immediately after World War I. To halt their growing influence in the labor movement the ruthless Metaxas dictatorship imprisoned most of the Greek Trotskyist leaders in 1938.

Ten of them escaped from the prisons and islands where they were being held soon after German and Italian armies occupied Greece. The others, who were unable to escape, were murdered. On May 1, 1944, about 20 of these comrades were mowed down by fascist firing squads. Another ten were executed in the next few months.

MANY MARTYRS

Among those murdered by the Nazis and Fascists were the following: P. Pouliopoulos, entered the movement in 1919, participated in the anti-imperialist struggle while a soldier in the Greek

PCI Publishes First Issue Of Legalized Organ

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

PARIS, Apr. 19—The first number of the legal La Verite appeared on the newsstands today. In large format of eight columns and four pages, it presents the views of the Parti Communiste Internationaliste, French section of the Fourth International, attractively and with pleasing variety.

Among its main features are an interview with Comrade Pavre-Bleibreu, general secretary of the PCI, on the coming elections. Below we print excerpts from this interview:

Q. Why is the PCI for boycotting the referendum on the Constitution?

A. La Verite has already explained that the workers cannot vote for a bourgeois constitution, which was drafted by MRP (Popular Republican Movement) among others. This is sufficient to indicate that this constitution consecrates capitalist exploitation. We are for the boycott because the form of the referendum prevents the workers from expressing themselves for the only kind of constitution they want—one establishing a workers' and farmers' government.

Q. What is the position of the PCI on the election campaign?

A. We attach great importance to the June elections in which we call upon the workers to rally against reaction. The abstentions in the recent by-elections were a disquieting sign of the confusion into which the workers have been thrown by twenty months of government coalition between the labor parties and the agents of capitalism. By participating in the election campaign, the PCI will give the class-conscious workers an opportunity to record themselves for a policy which conforms to their interests and to send to the coming Chamber, people entirely devoted to the defense of their class.

Q. Will you have many candidates?

A. Unfortunately the prohibitive deposit required for candidates greatly reduces our possibilities. For the present we are certain of having candidate lists in Paris-Rive Gauche, Paris-Est, Rhone, Finistere, Gironde, Isere, Loire Inferieure and Pas-de-Calais. We are certain of these regions because of the devotion shown by militants and sympathizers of the party who have been collecting funds to assure at least several voices being heard in the Chamber of Deputies against those who starve the working masses and slaughter the colonial peoples.

UNRRA Food On Black Market

While famine in China grows worse daily and threatens to strike down millions of toilers throughout the country, UNRRA's distribution of relief supplies is aiding the well-to-do and black marketers at the expense of the poor.

An April 22 dispatch from Shanghai to the N. Y. Post states that an unofficial British expert in Chinese affairs, Arthur D. Soverby, "bitterly attacked the UNRRA and its American director, Benjamin H. Kizer" in a Chinese newspaper, the China Press.

Soverby charged that shipments of relief products are "lying here stacked in warehouses while next to nothing is going to famine areas."

He revealed that the Chinese subsidiary of UNRRA was selling large amounts of flour in the Shanghai markets. Most of this, he declared, eventually goes to black market speculators who are hoarding flour for sale at higher prices later.

British Soldier In Singapore Writes About Oppressive Rule

The following article was sent to "The Militant" by a British soldier in Singapore.

SINGAPORE, March 17—There is no essential difference between British and Japanese colonial rule, both treating native populations with equal brutality and rapaciousness. No one is in better position to know the truth of this statement than the Indian workers of Malaya. For during the course of World War II they were, at different times, ruled by both Britain and Japan and learned that imperialist exploitation is the same whether its face is white or brown.

On the eve of the attack on Malaya by Japan, the Indian workers were seething with discontent over the miserable conditions into which the British had plunged them. A great strike had broken out, on the farming estates for increased wages and the British moved to break it by cutting the workers off from all food and water. Simultaneously, the British deported some of the militant leaders of the Central Indian Association of Malaya, which had organized the strike.

It is entirely understandable that these beaten and exploited workers hailed the Japanese when they overran the country, believing that their lot was about to be improved. However, disillusionment came rapidly.

FORCED LABOR The Japanese immediately organized the estates into groups, appointing military managers who were charged with draining off the more able bodied workers for forced labor, building a military railroad in Siam. The Indian workers found conditions under the Japanese in Siam worse, if possible, than in Malaya. The snakes and leeches, the never-healing ulcers, the absence of adequate food or medicine and the beatings to death for the slightest infringement of the rules, all combined to make a horror from which many tried to escape but few did.

Food rations back in Malaya were cut by the Japanese to one and one-half ketties per head per month, and even this amount didn't reach the worker because of the graft of the administrators. Malaria was raging unchecked through the estates because of the failure of the authorities to supply quinine. Children began to bloat from starvation, their legs shriveled and their eyes sank into their skulls.

NO MEDICAL CARE Beriberi reached epidemic proportions and on every estate hundreds of Indians could be seen lying on the ground with swollen legs, some of them with open ulcers which dripped blood and pus. The Japanese made no effort to treat these people, merely casting them aside when they could no longer work.

By now the authorities were bringing back many of the workers sent to Siam. They returned packed in freight cars like sardines, and were dumped out in the countryside to die of the diseases which ravaged their bodies. Those that were not dying had no money with which to travel to their homes, nor was any transportation available to them. Thousands of families were permanently broken up, and not a single family came through the occupation without several casualties among its members.

BRITISH CHANGE NOTHING When the British returned to Malaya after the Japanese were defeated, nothing was changed but the color of the exploiter's face. Today there is not enough of anything for the workers—not enough food, clothing or medicine. And the British are keeping wages at starvation level.

Protest Arrest Of Indonesian Fighter

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

PARIS, Apr. 16—In a front page article, the April 6 De Tribune, weekly organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, Dutch section of the Fourth International, reports the arrest of Tan Malakka, Indonesian revolutionary leader, and calls for mass working class protest under the slogan: "Free Tan Malakka."

De Tribune castigates the justification of his arrest by the democratic papers Het Parool and Het Vrije Volk as well as by the Stalinist De Waarheid which "expressly condemns Tan Malakka as a Trotskyist and approves the persecution directed against him by the Dutch imperialists and their Indonesian vassals."

ARREST SEVERAL

According to the April 6 London Economist, "dissension among the nationalists" in Indonesia "came to a head about a fortnight ago when the Sjahrir government carried out the arrest of the communist leader, Tan Malakka, and several of his supporters."

The April 16 Le Monde of Paris carried the following which throws further light on events in Indonesia: "Sjahrir (head of the Indonesian government), like all nationalists in Indonesia, wants the independence of his country. But he does not think that the violent expulsion of the Dutch is the best method of obtaining it. . . Tan Malakka is his most dangerous competitor. Since September 1945 he has reconstituted the Communist Party which was banned in the Indies after the serious disturbances it instigated in 1928 and 1927.

"Tan Malakka—who carried on communist agitation there since 1922 and was later banished—has today established a popular front composed of 141 organizations. . .

DEMANDS SOCIALIZATION

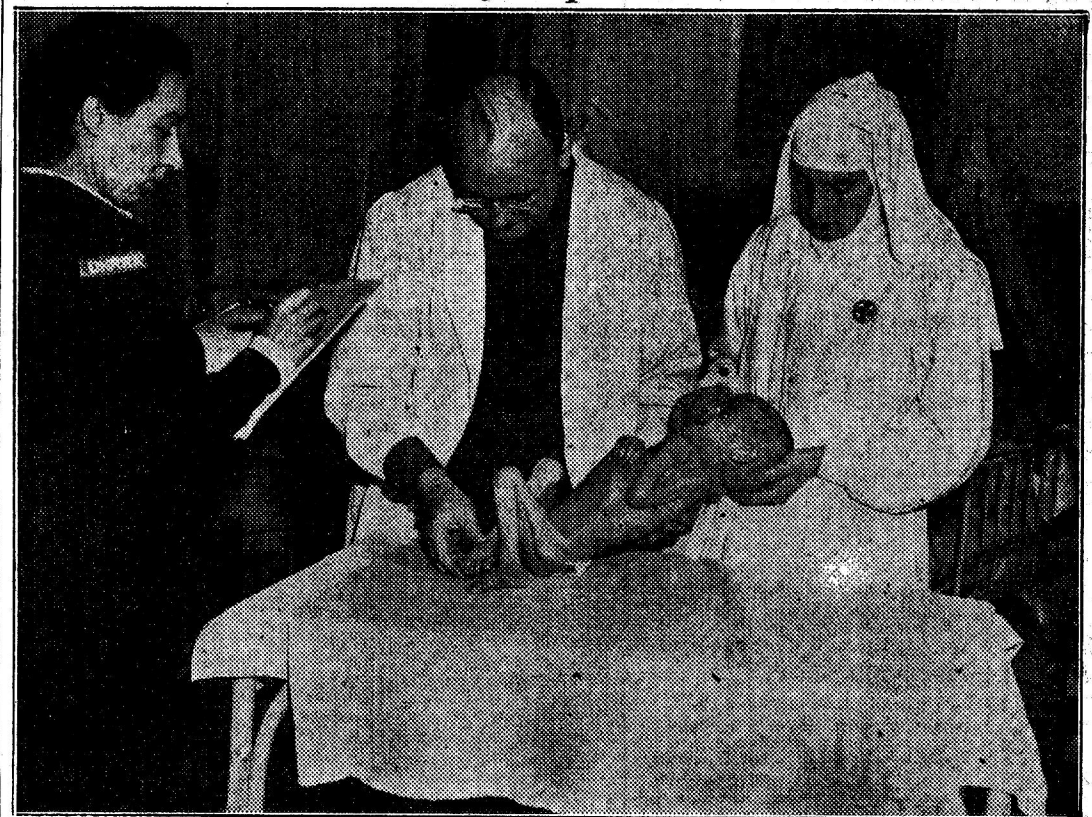
"In the economic field Tan Malakka demands the socialization of all industries, particularly stressing the need to create a heavy industry for the production of machines and war material. If the Indonesians need technical advisers they can find them outside of Holland, he contends.

"With regard to the Dutch, the communist leader openly proclaims a policy of violent resistance. In his opinion they have maintained their colonial appetites which they are today merely dissimulating. Tan Malakka is all the more feared because the leaders of the Indonesian army are loyal to him. This army is a force which must be taken into account. Some estimate it at 70,000 men, others at 100,000. Although it is not entirely equipped with modern weapons, even if it did appropriate most of the Japanese equipment, it is trained for guerrilla warfare and composed of fanatic elements."

UMW Official Answers Attack On Strike Demands See Page 5

Wall Street Continues To Prepare For World War III Against USSR

The Cost Of Imperialist War



This 2½-year old child in Naples, Italy, is so twisted and emaciated by malnutrition that it can't even raise its head. Throughout Europe and Asia there are millions of children in this condition, all of them casualties of World War II.

India Famine Fostered By Imperialist Policies

By Eugene Varlin

American and British imperialism share responsibility for the famine which threatens 100,000,000 Indian workers and peasants with starvation.

The existence of food shortages that would make famine inevitable if no imports were received was known more than five months ago. In January Indian government officials warned that the impending famine would make the famine of 1943, which snuffed out the lives of 10,000,000 Indians, "look like a picnic." On February 16, the grain ration of the Indian people was cut from one pound to 12 ounces a day. This already meant semi-starvation.

The next day, Sir Akbar Hydari, a member of the Indian cabinet, declared that India's grain shortage amounted to 7,000,000 tons and appealed for help to the Washington-dominated Combined Food Board.

DOOMED TO STARVE

On March 8, Sir Ramaswami Mudalliar, head of the Indian Food Mission to the United States, asked the Combined Food Board for 4,000,000 tons of grain to maintain a daily ration of 800 calories. (A grain ration of 800 calories a day means starvation since bed-ridden adults require

HAS YET BEEN SHIPPED!

Moreover, the Combined Food Board has reneged on its promise. On April 13, Glenn H. Craig, U. S. representative on the C. F. B., said that the board has not "to date recommended an allocation of wheat to India or to any other country."

EFFECT OF IMPERIALISM

How did the danger of famine arise in the first place? British imperialists blame natural disasters like typhoons and droughts. The real reasons, however, lie in the effects of British rule upon India and the aggravation of these conditions by the policies of Allied imperialism during the war.

During their centuries of rule, the British imperialists neglected everything but plundering the country. They let the well-developed irrigation system which existed in India before they subjugated the country, break down. Consequently, there has been a continual decline in Indian agricultural production. Today, 35 per cent of the land is unusable. About 30 per cent of the Indian agricultural workers are landless.

In the last 50 years, the daily grain consumption of the population of Madras, which is typical of all India, has decreased from one and a half to only one pound a day. The Indian masses live perpetually on the brink of famine.

Despite the desperate needs of the Indian masses, the British exported grain from India to the Middle East during the war. Huge stocks of food supplies were purchased in India for the British Army, thus forcing grain prices up. Furthermore, the British-controlled provincial governments took part in flagrant profiteering.

DIVERTED TO WAR

Vast land areas were diverted from grain production to the production of jute for war uses. Sir Ramaswami Mudalliar, declared on March 21: "India's plight comes from what we had done for the Allies during the war, using every effort to help the Allies and not thinking of our own foodstocks. . . The present danger of famine arises from these diversions and not from conditions that periodically cause famine in India." Not natural disasters, but imperialist domination and imperialist war are to blame for impending death by starvation of more millions in India.

General Asks Food Or Troops

According to an April 27 N. Y. Times quotation from an official Army report which originated in the headquarters of General Joseph T. McNarney, European theatre commander, U. S. Army chiefs say the food crisis in Germany "may lead to unrest that will necessitate a larger army of occupation for a longer period of time."

Thus, it is not the specter of millions dying from starvation that really bothers the American imperialists. It is the fear that the masses will rise in mighty revolt unless they receive food.

By Charles Carsten

In order to reinforce Washington's ever-increasing pressure upon the Kremlin, Wall Street's campaign to prepare public opinion for World War III continues unabated. The focal point of the diplomatic moves has shifted, for the time being, from the UNO Security Council to the conference of the Big Four Foreign Ministers, whose meeting began on April 25 in the Luxembourg Palace, Paris.

The Paris conference, called on Washington's initiative to decide the question of peace treaties with former satellite countries of the Axis, is beginning under conditions of friction similar to those that have dominated sessions of the Security Council. Although the outcome of the discussions will profoundly affect the lives of millions of people, the "Big Four" Ministers are conducting their deliberations in utmost secrecy.

OMINOUS ATMOSPHERE

Adding to the ominous atmosphere surrounding the conference, political commentators speak of the meeting as an arena in which "power politics" will hold complete sway. On leaving for Paris last week Secretary of State James Byrnes cynically made known in advance that he had little hope of reaching a satisfactory agreement with the Kremlin.

Such pessimistic forecasts are coupled in the press with statements that Washington's representative is determined to make this meeting "a real showdown on issues caused by Russia's strategy." Both the English and American imperialists have made doubly clear their intention of pressing forward and intensifying their "tough" policy — i.e., their threat of atomic war against Russia.

In the past week Wall Street spokesmen began speaking openly about a diplomatic break with the Kremlin.

At the same time in the Security Council, sharp interchanges occurred over Soviet delegate Andrei A. Gromyko's attempts to remove the Iranian issue from the Council's agenda. The issue of "poor little" Iran has such great war-propaganda value that the imperialist powers refuse to let it drop. The question is being exploited to the full by Wall Street's press in its drive to create public antagonism toward the USSR.

BRAZEN CALL

The most authoritative spokesmen for Big Business are leading the hue and cry against the Soviet Union. Former Supreme Court Justice Owen J. Roberts, speaking to the directors of the Associated Press on April 22, called for an international conference for the organization of a "world government" to replace the UN. Roberts arrogantly stated that if some refused to join, by which he obviously meant the Soviet Union and nations under its domination, the United States should start with

WALL STREET SABOTAGES PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE

By Mike Cort

July 4 of this year was to have been a red letter day for the people of the Philippines, for it was to have marked the beginning of their national independence. This independence was promised them over fifty years ago by their American masters and specifically provided for in the Tydings-McDuffie Act passed by Congress before the war.

But as the time approaches for American imperialism to make good on its promise of independence, it is revealing more and more clearly that it has no intention of taking its greedy hands off the Philippines.

This month Senator Tydings and Representative Bell introduced in Congress amendments to the Philippine Independence Act which, if passed, would rob the Islands of sovereignty and lay them open to continued direct plunder by the American imperialists. The amendments would freeze in American hands all property, resources or military installations already owned or possessed by them.

ALREADY IN U.S. HANDS

This legislation would provide for the exploitation, development and utilization of the natural resources of the Islands, and the mineral rights, including power and the operation of utilities, to the United States upon equal footing with the citizens of the Philippines. Wall Street and the native worker would, for instance, have equal right to purchase Manila's street railway system—providing of course that it was not already owned by Wall Street, which happens to be the case.

American imperialism is not only determined to continue siphoning from the Philippines whatever others were willing. This brazen call for the formal organization of a power bloc directed against the USSR was exceeded in belligerence by former Democratic Governor of Pennsylvania and ex-Ambassador to Bulgaria and Austria George H. Earle. In a radio discussion on April 25 Earle urged appropriation by Congress of two billion dollars a year for the development of atomic bombs.

CRISIS OF PROTEST

Cries of protest rang throughout the Philippine Islands when news of the Congressional amendments reached the people. Even the Washington puppet, Philippine President Osmena, found it impossible to go along with such a flagrant attack upon his country's rights. On April 2 he denounced the amendments as a "curtailment of Philippine sovereignty, virtual nullification of Philippine independence. . . Coincidental with the Congressional moves in Washington, the 86th Infantry Division in Manila was reorganized "along combat lines." The significance of this alerting of American occupation forces is obvious. Wall Street takes no chances.

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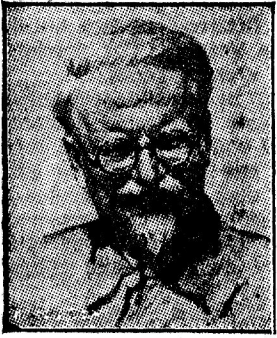
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Only the world revolution can save the USSR for socialism. But the world revolution carries with it the inescapable blotting out of the Kremlin oligarchy.

—Leon Trotsky

Capitalist Criminals Made The Famine

Official estimates of the number of people throughout the world threatened with death by famine are reaching astronomical figures. A billion in Europe and Asia alone face starvation conditions. As many as one hundred million may die of hunger.

Man's greed has known periods of terrible ravage before, dread plagues that wiped out millions, drought and flood that ruined crops and subjected wide areas to famine. These were largely natural catastrophes which men lacked the knowledge to combat.

The ghastly catastrophe of famine and plague confronting mankind today far surpasses in its geographical and numerical scope anything the human race has previously suffered. Yet this titanic agony is no "act of God."

It is the direct result of a decayed and outlived social system which in its death agony tries to drag all humanity with it into the grave. It is an end-product of the capitalist system, of its ruthless exploitation and staggering waste, of its insatiable greed and insane anarchy, of its two imperialist world wars in 25 years.

World War II laid waste whole countries, smashed whole industrial systems, fired and burned vast stretches of once fertile land, diverted the energies of hundreds of millions into mad destruction. A trillion dollars worth of labor and material resources was mixed with the flesh and blood poured down the waste-drain of war!

And with this colossal waste of human toil and material resources, with this hopeless dislocation of production, with this seared land and twisted machinery and blasted plants, has come imperialist plunder and despoiling conquering armies to make the blight complete.

Now in every capitalist land, the ruling parasites are converting scarcity and want into profit. The food monopolists and black marketeers control available food supplies and dole them out only to those with money to meet their fantastic prices. Meanwhile, the greatest of imperialist powers, the United States of Wall Street, is utilizing food to strengthen and support those reactionary regimes abroad which promise the most concessions to the American plutocracy.

Yet even out of the abomination of famine and disease which they themselves have helped create, the American imperialist rulers are trying to squeeze political capital. They are flooding the air-waves and press with crocodile tears of "humanitarianism." They are trying to drown out the accusing voices of dying multitudes with their hypocritical "pleas" for the needy.

These capitalist rulers and war-makers cannot conceal their responsibility for the famine with pious words and skinfint doles. The Trumans, Hoovers and all their political counterparts throughout the world will not escape the social vengeance of mankind and the indictment of history. The voice of tortured humanity thunders at them: "This crime is yours!"

Wages And Prices

Big Business and its political office boys are driving hell-bent for all-out inflation to rob labor of its recent wage gains. Leading CIO officials already speak of new struggles for further wage raises if prices continue their steep ascent.

CIO United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther, in a statement issued April 27, stated that if the inflation continues, "we will be forced to reopen wage issues. Obviously, workers would have no other recourse..." CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey on April 25 told the Senate Banking and Currency Committee that if there is no "effective price control," that "a whole new hand will have to be dealt" on wages.

maintain an "economy of scarcity." The second Imperialist World War has destroyed so much, reduced the world's productive mechanism to such a state of ruin and disorganization that the inflationary process has taken on a more and more unbridled character.

The Militant and the Socialist Workers Party foresaw this development long before the outbreak of World War II, just as they foresaw the war itself. In 1938, the Trotskyists put forward a program whereby the workers might most effectively struggle against the mounting cost of living. The central slogan of that program is: "For the sliding scale of wages to meet all rises in prices."

Labor must not wait until price rises far outstrip wage gains and then renew the wage fight for new limited gains. It must fight for a program that anticipates inevitable price rises and continuously combats the consequences of inflation.

Labor should prepare for the next stage of struggle by raising the demand now for the inclusion in all union contracts of the sliding scale of wages which will rise automatically with every increase of general living costs.

"Fair Tennessee"

That defender of "white supremacy," Governor Jim Nance McCord, doesn't like what "outsiders" are saying about the fair state of Tennessee. Last week he complained especially about the "unjust criticism" being leveled at him since his state troops last February invaded and shot up the peaceful, segregated Negro community in Columbia, Tennessee. They ransacked the citizens' homes, beat up men, women and children, indiscriminately jailed scores, and murdered two arrested men under guard in prison.

The Governor condescendingly opined that "the Negroes are a fine lot of citizens in Columbia," and went on to add that the whole relationship between whites and Negroes in Tennessee is "delightfully pleasant." Everything would be just strawberries and cream for the Negro people, according to McCord, if "outside agitators" were not always coming down and stirring things up.

Well, as the preacher would say, "Let us dwell upon" these "delightfully pleasant" conditions that the benevolent white ruling class affords the Negroes in Tennessee.

We can start with Columbia and its "Mink Side," the racially-insulting name applied to the segregated Negro community. Like all such segregated Negro ghettos, it affords the "delightfully pleasant" condition of the poorest housing, worst sanitation and highest rents in town.

It also sets the Negro people apart in a special area which makes it very convenient for white lynch mobs to terrorize the Negro community and for a thousand state troopers to come in and spray machinegun fire all around without endangering any whites.

The Negroes also have the "delightfully pleasant" conditions of Jim Crow laws and ordinances. They can ride only in the rear of street cars and other public conveyances. They can set foot in a "white man's" restaurant only at the risk of their lives. They can step into the gutter when any drunken degenerate whose skin happens to be a little paler walks by. And periodically they can have their necks stretched or be roasted over a slow fire by lynch gangs—as had happened in Columbia itself.

When Governor McCord talks of the "delightfully pleasant" race relations in Tennessee, he means one thing: pleasant for the rich whites who keep their power through Jim Crow terrorism and race hatred that enables them to divide and cruelly exploit both the poor whites and the Negroes.

Action On Prices

In an effort to combat the meat black market, officials of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers Union in New York City proposed to OPA Director Paul Porter that he "deputize" 1,000 members of the Packinghouse Workers Union to stop the black market by channelizing livestock into legitimate plants. OPA declined the proposal.

The idea is still a very good one. What the UPWA spokesmen are mistaken about is expecting that the OPA or any other capitalist government agency will countenance a proposition which provides for mass enforcement of price regulations and curbing of black markets by the direct action of union men and women.

No agency of the Big-Business dominated government can be depended upon to seriously combat price rises. The policies of the OPA, the official "price control" agency, have demonstrated this continuously since it was first established in 1942.

One of the most misleading fictions being propagandized by the administration, and echoed by some labor leaders, is that OPA "controlled prices" during the war. This fiction is reinforced by completely false government figures on the rise in the cost of living. Any sound study which takes into consideration quality deterioration, price ceiling violations and black market operations will show that living costs had DOUBLED by the end of military hostilities.

Since last July, the OPA has maintained scarcely the pretence of "price control." Aside from the fact that its enforcement powers are negligible, the OPA actually has been helping to open the flood-gates to inflation.

OPA has removed price ceilings entirely from more than 3,000 items in the past nine months. It has granted 528 industry-wide price increases. It has granted in full the price demands of some 6,000 companies claiming "individual hardship," and met partially the demands of 2,000 others.

If the workers are to combat the black marketeers and expose the profiteers, they will have to depend solely on their own independent mass action. Let the unions, farmer and consumer organizations "deputize" their own members, organize mass price committees and themselves go to town on the price-gougers in a militant and effective fashion.



"Fifi's so smart! Now she's snubbing that Russian wolfhound."

A Workers BOOKSHELF

In this column two weeks ago we reviewed the first issue of The New African, published in London as the official monthly organ of the West African National Secretariat for African unity and independence. This week we have received from Paris the first issue of La Lutte Anticolonialiste (The Anti-Colonialist Struggle), an anti-imperialist publication in the French language.

The appearance of these two publications testifies to the growing strength of the revolutionary movements striving to throw off imperialist rule and capitalist exploitation within the colonial countries.

In their initial statement of purposes the editors of La Lutte Anticolonialiste declare that although they are "of different nationalities, race and political affiliation, they agree upon struggling for immediate and unconditional independence of all nations under colonial status or trusteeship."

"We have had enough of seeing our brothers pay with their sweat and their blood for the so-called 'civilizing mission' of the big capitalist countries," they write. "We have had enough of being beasts of burden and cannon-fodder for the bankers of Paris, Wall Street, London, Amsterdam and Antwerp."

"We want national independ-

ence. Unconditionally. Total administration of our own affairs. And to guide our own respective countries toward technical, political and social progress. We need the aid of advanced countries, but we reject the prevailing subjection which uses this aid as a pretext for maintaining the majority of our fellow countrymen in ignorance, filth, misery and slavery for the greater profit of the bankers and colonial slavemasters.

"In this fight to the death against national oppression, we believe that the colonial peoples of the entire world ought to learn to know and to unite against the common enemy: imperialism. We say imperialism deliberately because, if the different imperialist clans were to divide and redive our lands, they always get together to repress us when we raise our heads a little too high.

"Every day, in Indo-China and Indonesia hundreds of our oppressed brothers are sacrificed to the 'glory' of the 'grandeur' and 'interests' to the rapacity of the oil, rubber and coal trusts, which all unite when it is necessary to drown in blood the colonial 'slaves'..."

The editors say that they seek support above all "from all those who throughout the world are struggling for the independence

of their countries and in the labor movement of the capitalist countries." Despite the fact that the official leaders of these labor movements have again and again sold out the colonial peoples to their own capitalists, "we do not lump together the rubber worker in the Michelin tire plant with the rubber planter of Indo-China, but aim for consistent action of propaganda, support and solidarity with the oppressed of the advanced countries..."

"We, who have been a hundred and a thousand times deceived, deceived, betrayed, massacred in the name of the 'purest humanitarian principles,' no longer believe in the promises of the bankers, generals, ministers. We trust only in our own strength, in our independent actions."

The first issue of La Lutte Anticolonialiste contains news on the political parties, elections and events in Indo-China, a report on the second National Congress of the Annamites, and a letter from a soldier fighting in the French imperialist forces in Indo-China. There are articles on Morocco and Algeria, the Belgian Congo and the Cameroons as well as texts of the declarations and resolutions adopted at the Fifth Pan-African Congress held at Manchester, England, in October 1945.

Congressmen At Work

Why Wall Street wants to blow up \$450,000,000 worth of ships in an atom bomb "experiment" in the mid-Pacific was made deadly clear by Congressmen on March 11. The decision to destroy this colossal amount of public property in a single disintegrating atomic blast is part of Wall Street's calculated moves toward a Third World War against the Soviet Union.

The reason for Wall Street's haste with the demonstration is its fear that the monopoly of the atomic bomb will not last long. And as Representative Voorhis of California explained, "Every single person will know that the only advantage that can be gained from their use is to use them first and ruthlessly. Voorhis, however, expected the first bomb to fall on Washington."

Representative Holifield of California revealed that it is "not necessary to spend \$2,000,000,000 (billions) to make an atomic bomb factory now. Most of that amount was spent in experimentation." Leo Salard, one of the scientists most prominent in developing the atom bomb, "testified before the House Military Affairs Committee" that "\$100,000 was all that was necessary to make an atomic bomb factory with the knowledge the scientists have at this time."

HIROSHIMA BOMB OBSOLETE

Holifield revealed that "We are spending \$500,000,000 right now per year, making atomic bombs." Moreover the destructive capacity of the atom bomb is constantly being increased. "Do you realize that the Hiroshima bomb is obsolete? There are bombs in existence that are a thousand times more fearful." But the "talk of keeping this atomic bomb know-how secret is foolish. It is child talk. It cannot be done any more than you can keep the law of gravitation



secret... There is no possibility of keeping this discovery secret for over a year or so... Every one of these famous scientists have said that certain foreign nations may have this secret very soon."

Holifield then got down to naming names. "This is no time to rattle the saber against our former ally, Russia. Russia will have the secret whether we like it or not."

Johnson of California explained further why the atom bomb experiment is being rushed: "This experiment will demonstrate to the world that America has power beyond any description... In my opinion, this fact will aid persuasiveness to the words of our diplomats, our President, and our Secretary of State in trying to bring the nations together and settle their disputes in a Christian way around the conference table."

To indicate that he at least had no illusions about what he called the "Christian way" of settling a dispute, Johnson added: "A curious fact is that all the wa: that have been generated in the last 250 years have been generated right in the Christian countries where they talk about the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God. These countries are the ones that have these brutal, devastating, ghastly wars."

Representative Rankin, one of

the chief defenders in Congress of race hatred and lynch law, spoke still more clearly about the atom bomb and the Third World War: "Almighty God has placed this great weapon in our hands at a time when atheistic barbarism is threatening to wipe Christianity from the face of the earth."

"FIRST ON DRAW"

Rankin outlined the strategy to be followed in the new war Wall Street is preparing against the Soviet Union. "My distinguished friend from California (Mr. Voorhis) says that in case of an atomic war the first bomb would fall right here in Washington. He is wrong on that. If any country forces an atomic war on us, we will drop the first bomb — and the last one."

Voorhis was startled enough to ask: "Does the gentleman really believe that our Nation would strike an atomic bomb blow?"

Rankin answered with blood-chilling cynicism: "If our Nation found out that some other Nation was getting ready to bomb us we would beat them to it... When we find some outfit getting ready to attack us with atomic bombs, as the boys say, we are going to 'beat them to the draw.'"

The mid-Pacific "experiment" is intended to frighten the rest of the world with a display of Wall Street's power. "I am convinced," said Representative Johnson, that "with the knowledge this experiment will bring to the whole world about our atomic might and the devastation which we could bring to the nations of the world, the peoples of the world and its rulers will realize that they should join with us now to fashion a world of peace."

Johnson's phrase about "peace" naturally is as phony as it sounds. What better word than "peace" could a war-mongering Wall Street Congressman utilize to disguise a calculated drive toward another world slaughter?

PROBLEMS FACING WAR VETERANS

By CHARLES CARSTEN

Vets' Pensions And Price-Boosts

Here is a letter which should be of interest to veterans since it presents one of the most critical problems faced by disabled men who are desperately trying to make ends meet on their meager pensions.

Dear Mr. Carsten, I was seriously wounded by a bursting shell in France in August 1944. After about eight months in hospitals, the medics said they had done all they could and released me.

Before I was discharged from the Army, the doctors said I was 100 per cent disabled. However, I hadn't lost an arm or leg so I was given a pension of \$115 a month, the maximum without "anatomical loss."

Now, what I want to know is how the government figures a fellow can live, let alone live decently, on that pittance.

Even when the law was passed \$115 a month wouldn't have been enough to provide a decent living. And now, in spite of the ballyhoo about "price control," everyone knows prices are a lot higher than they were then.

For example, the other day I tried to buy a pair of shorts. I used to get them for 50 cents. They were asking \$1.60 a pair and I'm sure the quality was no better, probably not as good, as before the war. Other clothing costs are about the same.

Look at the price of food! Eating in restaurants is, of course, out of the question on my "income." I haven't seen any figures on the cost of groceries and vegetables, but I'm sure they must be 150 per cent higher than they were before the war.

There is a lot of talk about rent control. And in some cases rents may not have gone up much. However, I know this dump we have to live in wouldn't have rented for more than \$35 a month in 1941 and we are paying \$80. And it hasn't been painted or repaired for God-knows how long.

Neither the government nor the newspapers admit it, but everyone knows that the cost of living has more than doubled since 1940. What about us fellows who have to live the rest of our lives on a pension that is frozen while prices skyrocket? What are we going to do? Prices are rising every day and our living standard is sinking lower all the time.

Is this the pay-off on all those lush promises they made us when we were being drafted to fight for "freedom from want?"

Yours, Bill Harris

Thousands In Same Boat

Thousands of disabled veterans are in the same predicament as Bill. The soaring cost of living is raising havoc with their lives. Yet the government is ignoring the problem. The war propagandists who made those glowing promises not so long ago have no intention of fulfilling them now. They want to forget all about them and would like the veterans also to forget them.

Not only Congressmen and newspapers ignore the plight of the disabled; veterans' organizations have not done much better.

Some of the unions, however, have begun a battle to raise pensions for the disabled. The United Auto Workers Executive Board adopted a program last week which demands "an increase of 30 per cent in pensions to all disabled veterans to compensate for the rise in living costs."

The UAW-CIO is a powerful union and can make its voice heard and its weight felt in Washington. The UAW and other sections of the labor movement have taken up the cudgels in a fight for the real interests of the veterans. The labor movement which is the one major force in the country genuinely devoted to the welfare of the veterans, should receive unstinting support from every veteran.

GE Mouthpiece Relates Strikebreaking Tactics

How the giant General Electric Corporation tried to break the recent strike of its workers through advertising is revealed in the March 22 issue of Printers' Ink by Frank LaClave, GE's assistant advertising director.

"When the strike started on Jan. 15, some 18 men and six secretaries reported at propaganda headquarters," LaClave disclosed. "The first advertisement prepared several days in advance appeared on the afternoon of the first day of the strike. Headlined 'For the first time in 26 years, all machines at GE are idle today,' the advertisement showed pictures taken days before during noon recess of idle production time."

That same day GE started the first of a series of twice-a-day five minute radio broadcasts. "GE did not trust this important assignment to a commercial broadcaster. It selected three men from among its personnel for the job. They were selected on a basis that each was known to the workers, had a good voice and was 'one of the gang.' One of the men selected was a Catholic since Bridgeport was largely a Catholic community."

The keynote of the entire campaign, repeated in the radio and newspaper publicity, was: "Nothing can be gained by striking that could not have been gained while remaining at work." GE's aim was to start a back-to-work movement which could serve to undermine the morale of the strikers, disrupt their ranks, and cripple the strike action.

Five 1,000-line advertisements were published each week in the papers of Bridgeport and the six other cities where GE workers were on the picket lines. These ads, cynically designated as "the hardship series," were designed to whip up public anger against the workers and to split the rest of the community from the strikers.

Ad headlines hypocritically shrieked: "Bridgeport's stores and shops lose consumer buying power as \$44,700 vanishes every day, due to strike at GE." "Main Street pulls its belt tighter," etc.

A scare theme addressed to the workers was also used: "The flip of a switch cannot start full production." Strikers were presumably warned by this means that production wouldn't be resumed immediately even if the strikes were settled.

Together with this barrage in the capitalist press and over the radio, the GE plant house-organs, filled with poisonous scab propaganda, was mailed directly to the homes of the strikers.

To alienate veterans from the strikers and create a potential squad of strikebreakers, GE announced "with appropriate advertisements" that it was opening up an "information headquarters" for ex-servicemen. Although some 800 GI's made use of the service, GE failed to make scabs out of them.

This strike-breaking campaign cost GE \$4,500 a week.

P. S. — Westinghouse Electric, take notice! The GE strike wasn't broken. The workers went back with united ranks and an 18-cent an hour raise.

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.

Another Day In A Working Woman's Life

Editor:

Here is an incident in a rubber factory where I work. I was searching for a roll of stock for my machine in the course of my work this morning when I saw a woman lying in among the rolls on one of the lower shelves. Her hair was gray and her thin, worn body hung over the rolls and the edge of the shelf like folds of cloth.

In a minute or two she sat up. Utter exhaustion was written in her eyes and the lines of her face. There was tiredness in that face that didn't come from a day's work, but from a life of constant toil. She was coughing, a deep throaty cough that shook her. Tuberculosis? Or perhaps too much work and breathing of factory dust.

When she stopped coughing she just sat motionless and silent. She does janitorial work, sweeping the rough block-wood floor of the plant. I thought about the boss who would have told her to get back to her sweeping had he seen her, and I thought about the need for a better world.

The shift ended and she wearily got up to go make out her time card. It was just another day in an endless sea of days of work.

Dan Dreiser
Los Angeles

Texas Worker Describes Veterans' Housing Plight

Editor:

This area is a real estate speculator's paradise, but did you know that in many cases real estate values have advanced as much as 1,000 per cent in the last three years? Yes, there are three naughts on that figure — I do mean a thousand per cent! Shacks that were selling for a thousand dollars a few years ago are anywhere from five thousand up now, depending on how close they are to the industrial plants — the closer the more expensive. That's the deal the vets (and the rest of us) are getting now.

Or, if a vet has a little initiative and wants to build — no lumber. Of course, there are plenty of materials for million-dollar Sears-Roebuck stores, for Maxim freezer-locker buildings, for new theaters, business houses, bank buildings, etc.

But that all gets here at night in trucks. What comes in openly on the trains is two sheets of plywood and a two-by-four to be divided between fifteen or twenty lumber yards. You figure it out!

Renting is a relatively unknown quantity down here; most people build. But a vet can rent a bedroom, maybe — if he has no kids, no pets, no habits and anything from fifty a month up to spend on rent.

But don't get me wrong, we're really doing something for the vets here in Texas. In this town, which is lousy wit' boys wearing the ruptured duck and trying to get started on a new life, we have actually stirred our stumps and gotten housing for 627 families! Can't say Texas is letting the boys down! The "housing" consists of old barracks prefabricated out of plywood about four years ago with plywood floors, questionable wiring and of dubious safety in the event of fire. But with a coat of paint, linoleum on the floor and a brief prayer for good luck, they'll be all right — maybe.

Bob Dallas
Houston, Texas

Unemployment And Hunger In Oregon Require Action Now

Editor:

Unemployment in the state of Oregon continues to rise sharply. Recently I have seen several reports by anxious businessmen, who fear a depression when the present boom has run its course. The 115,000 unemployed who have current claims filed in the United States Employment office in Oregon might be astonished to learn that we are now experiencing a boom!

Forty thousand of these claims are filed by veterans. New claims are coming in at the rate of 4,000 weekly, half of them from veterans.

A large percentage of these unemployed are concentrated in Portland. The boom in this area seems to be a boom in unemployment. The Negro workers who were brought into Portland for war work are particularly hard hit. Even janitors' jobs and housework are for whites only.

Among the unemployed, both white and Negro, there are thousands who receive no compensation because for one reason or another they are not eligible. Many families are eating just one meal a day.

The Portland organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, C. M. Hesser, has five years' experience in the unemployed movement of the West, and took part in the National Hunger March in 1932. The Socialist Workers Party branch in Portland has talked to many unemployed workers and pointed out the need of organizing the unemployed through the unions if possible. If this cannot be done, unemployed councils should be formed to demand action from city and state officials.

Joyce Hesser
Portland, Ore.

People Must Ask "What Is Wrong?"

Editor:

Greetings. I have been reading *The Militant* for several months. The paper is written from a Marxist view. It is a very good paper for the politician and party members. I like to read it. But I am not a party member. Your articles were good reading too.

Walking the streets of San Francisco, I see many incidents. I see humanity on the sidewalk, through hunger, sickness physically, and mentally. Outcasts, their misery can be observed in their features. Will these human beings fight? Can these human beings be awakened to fight for their life?

I have seen two men beat an inebriated man down to the cement walk. A third, who looked as if he was the owner of the establishment, where the fight, or beating happened, deliberately aimed his shoe, and kicked the man while he was lying helpless in the head. Then dragged him half a block away. I asked a gas station attendant to call the police, showing him where the man was. He refused to do so, telling me to do it. I informed him it was not my business. The man stood up about that time, his face bloodied.

I said a great deal more too. For though I do not belong to any revolutionary organization, I still constantly talk to people about the necessity to fight for their lives. That they can, too fight for cleanliness and decency by discussing with others about economics, fascism. That they should converse where those in power can hear them — asking themselves, just what is wrong? What is wrong?

Paul J. Kollinski
San Francisco, Calif.

Philadelphia Reader Tells Why He Joined The S.W.P.

Editor:

As a member of the human society I believe I am invested with certain powers to express my opinion concerning the sphere in which I live. At this particular time I am aware of the fact that we live in a world which is governed by capitalism and imperialism. For perhaps three centuries capitalism has been the prime factor in the development of the United States of America. During this processing period capitalism has played an exploiting role towards labor. Under previous forms of society the problems of labor have not been solved but these problems could be solved under socialism. Under the Socialist order there would be production

for use instead of production for profits.

The time is now ripe for an economic revolution. You have only to read the daily newspapers and it is plainly seen how much controversy has been brought about concerning labor and capitalists. Personally, I see a period of economic inequality which will lead to unrest and devastating conflict between capitalists and the working class of people. Consequently, it is the worker who must bring about this revolution. It is obvious there will be quite a struggle before the ultimate objective is reached; nevertheless, we must fight untiringly.

It is quite clear to me that there will be much persecution during this struggle. Yet that which is worth having is worth fighting for regardless of how great the suffering might be. If the hardships of a few will bring about the goal that has been so very much longed for, then they will not have worked in vain.

For years capitalism has used many instruments to cause division among the races of this country. To capitalists it was a benefit to them that they keep the races divided so that they might easily rule all of them. So long as there is economic inequality there will be struggles existing between the peoples of the world. It is obvious that people want a change from this era of differences. Now the peoples of the world are looking for a way out of the sea of turmoil and despair. It is the workers who must bring about this economic revolution. Under socialism efforts would be used towards the preservation of all people and production for use rather than for profits. When there is plenty for all there will be no need for conflict and discord.

Apparently, time plays quite a role during this struggle. However, when the Socialist Workers Party has gained representation in the government a definite voice will express the views of the workers. Throughout the history of the world there have been cycles and many turns of cycles.

Now we enter into the Atomic Age. Let us make the Atomic Age the Socialist Age, the age of all ages.

S. V. L.
Philadelphia, Pa.

They Are Fatherless Now



On their return from a carefree trip to the grocery store in McCoy, Va., these three youngsters passed by the Great Valley mine just after the explosion that snuffed out 12 lives. They stood and watched as rescue crews were leading their father, Paul Price, into an ambulance. At the hospital shortly afterwards he died. Two of their uncles, Frank Price and John Duncan, also were killed.

Letter Of UMW Official Answers Attacks On Mine Strike Demands

Editor:

The following letter was written by UMW District 29 President George J. Tidler, on April 18, the day of the McCoy disaster, before the news had reached the outside world. It appeared in the Beckley, West Virginia Register. It is a good exposition of what the miners are striking for.

A Reader

To the Editor,
Raleigh Register:

I have read with interest your editorial of April 17 under the caption of IT'S A QUEER STRIKE.

We wish to differ with you in some respects regarding your editorial, and especially where you say "not much has been given in explanation of the U.M.W. of A. plan for the use of the Health and Welfare Fund. The Rank and File members of the Union, as well as the general public is not informed properly on just how the fund will operate, neither are the operators."

Much information has been furnished the public and the operators regarding the Health and Welfare Fund. This subject was thoroughly aired and was one of the demands a year ago. The miners are well aware, and so are the operators, for what purpose the Welfare Fund will be used. The operators have been told in policy meetings, as well as sub-committee meetings, how the money will be expended. The mine workers have been advised through the medium of the *Mine Workers Journal*, their official organ. For years men have been maimed in the coal mines by carelessness of the operators, and made subjects of public charity because the operators are only interested in the accumulation of the almighty dollar.

After a miner is injured, his compensation claim is invariably contested by the operator if there is any chance for the coal operator to relieve himself of a financial obligation of workmen's compensation.

Since the beginning of coal mining in West Virginia, the mine worker has paid for doctors and hospitals, and had no say in who should hire the doctor, nor what hospital he should be taken to if he is injured. . . . The United Mine Workers propose that the industry pay for this care, and that the fund be administered by the union. This money would be spent for doctors, hospitals, life insurance, and health and accident insurance, as well as to rehabilitate the broken-down coal miner who has been cast aside by the industry and placed at the mercy of public charity. . . .

50 per cent of the coal operators in West Virginia and elsewhere throughout the country collect group insurance from miners and charge insurance companies 8 per cent to 10 per cent for collecting the money. . . .

Youth Group Activities

- NEW YORK**—For information on the Trotskyist Youth Group send name and address to 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.
- Open Forum:** Every Friday, 8 p.m., at 116 University Place, followed by dancing and refreshments.
- Friday, May 3:** "American Imperialism Over the World." Speaker: Sandy Robertson.
- Harlem:** Weekly discussions on current problems every Friday, 8 p.m., at 103 West 110 St. (Lenox Ave.) Room 28. Dancing, refreshments.
- Brooklyn:** Class on "Struggle for Negro Equality." Instructor: Harry Robinson. Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Brooklyn headquarters. SWP, 635 Fulton Street. Dancing, refreshments.
- BUFFALO** — Militant Youth Club meets every Sunday, 7 p.m. Discussion, music, dramatics. Refreshments served. Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor.
- PHILADELPHIA**—Youth Forums held every Saturday, 2 p.m. 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor.
- LOS ANGELES** — Write to SWP headquarters, 145 S. Broadway, for information on Youth Group activities.

Pioneer Notes

- In a recent issue of *The Militant*, Pioneer ran an ad offering to send our new catalog to anyone who wishes it. We have had exceedingly good results from this ad. Almost every mail brings in several requests for the catalog. Write for your copy today.
- Growing interest among the working class on the question of a labor party is evidenced by the increasing number of orders from Socialist Workers Party branches for Joseph Hansen's excellent pamphlet, *American Workers Need a Labor Party*.
- Alma Seton of the Philadelphia branch sent us this rush order this week: "We have two important mobilizations next week — The Stalinist May Day Meeting and the meeting for Walter Reuther. We will need an extra supply of the Labor Party pamphlet to sell at these meetings. Please rush this order."
- Al Lynn, enterprising literature agent for the Los Angeles Local, sends us this interesting report on the wonderful sales of their own publication, *Vigilante Terror in Fontana*: "The Fontana pamphlet has been having spectacular sales. . . Last week we sent a dozen comrades to San Bernardino, a town which is right near the scene of the Fontana vigilante arson-murder of the O'Day Short family. One comrade sold 20 copies of our pamphlet in 20 minutes. Another sold close to 40. In the evening a crew covered a meeting called to discuss the case, and sold copies to nearly all whom they approached going into the meeting. In all we sold more than 300 copies that one day."
- In San Pedro the comrades are combining sales of the pamphlet with their call-back work for Militant subscription renewals. They reported last week that they have sold pamphlets to 100 per cent of those visited and obtained 80 per cent renewals of subscriptions to the paper."
- American Workers Need a Labor Party**, by Joseph Hansen, 15c. **Vigilante Terror in Fontana**, by Myra Tanner Weiss 10c. If you live east of the Missouri River order the Fontana pamphlet from Pioneer Publishers. If west of the Missouri from the Socialist Workers Party, 145 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif.



A reading of "Labor Challenge" for mid-April 1946, Canada's revolutionary socialist paper, shows that they are now running a subscription campaign to obtain 1,000 new subscribers by July 15.

The campaign manager's report on the sub drive reads in part: "In less than a year, Labor Challenge has achieved recognition among the advanced workers as Canada's best labor paper. Since the appearance of the twice-monthly paper Labor Challenge has become a more popular workers' paper. Without watering down its revolutionary socialist program it has added new features, which now give it an even wider appeal."

The campaign offer is a six-month subscription for only 26 cents. Quotas for the various areas in Canada are to be established, and to mark the progress of the campaign, there will be a scoreboard, pace-setters listing, reports on experiences of sub-getters, etc.

We have every confidence that this campaign, as exemplified by previous campaigns, will be oversubscribed.

C. Blake of Philadelphia writes: "In a distribution of copies of *The Militant* to the workers of Westinghouse at the Lester plant, we were very pleased by the response and receptivity of these militant unionists to our paper. These workers who have been out on strike for four months were eager to read the excellent coverage of the Westinghouse strike that they found in the April 13 issue. We received many comments of praise concerning the paper's sensitivity to the cause of the Westinghouse workers."

"The paper was not only accepted by the men on the picket line but also by the picket captains who requested that we leave bundles of papers for the other shifts of pickets.

"The distributions at both the Westinghouse and the Budd plant are becoming traditional and it has reached that point where if we don't show up with some *Militants* for a week or two we are met with questions of: "Where have you been?"

Charles Jackson's popular column, "The Negro Struggle" has

again been reprinted by the Tampa Bulletin of Florida. The reprinted columns were: "Who Won In Tennessee," (*Militant*, March 23) and "Spotlight on Fontana," (*Militant*—April 30).

George Rook of Kansas City, our traveling sub-getter, writes: "While travelling, I was delayed in Louisiana for a while, and what better way to utilize the time than by selling subs to *The Militant*, and Pioneer pamphlets. "As I walked down the street, I saw a middle-aged man leave his doorway, and I went over and began to talk to him about *The Militant*. He invited me in and we talked together for about an hour and soon became fast friends. He was very impressed by the contents of *The Militant* and took a year sub. When I got ready to leave, he said he was thankful that he had walked out of the door just as I was coming down, or he might never have met me, or known about *The Militant*. He is quite well known in town, and I'm sure he'll get many more *MILITANT* readers for us."

"I then spoke with a very intelligent Negro garage repairman. He took a sub, and then called over a couple of preacher friends who promised to buy subs, after they had read the sample copy of *The Militant* I left with them. They each bought some pamphlets.

"It sure was wonderful to speak with these people. They are real fighters."

This week's breakdown of top scoring branches are as follows:

Cleveland — 11 six-month, 7 one-year renewals.

Newark — 1 six-month and 1 one-year new sub in addition to 11 one-year combination subscriptions to *The Militant* and Fourth International.

Boston — 16 six-month and 2 one-year new subscriptions.

St. Louis — 5 six-month new subs and 1 six-month renewal.

Minneapolis — 4 six-month and 2 one-year renewals in addition to 2 one-year combinations to *The Militant* and Fourth International.

Philadelphia — 5 six-month new subs plus 1 one-year and 2 six-month renewals.

OUR PROGRAM:

- 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!
- Independence of the trade unions from the government!
No restriction on the right to strike!
- Organization of the war veterans by the trade unions!
- Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!
Down with Jim Crow!
- Build an independent labor party!
- Tax the rich, not the poor!
No taxes on incomes under \$3,000 a year!
- 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!
- 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!
- 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 _____
STREET _____
CITY _____
POSTAL ZONE _____ STATE _____

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Of The New Pioneer Catalog

Books and Pamphlets on Socialism and the Labor Movement

- including
- works on the American Labor Movement
 - pamphlets on the Negro struggle
 - works by Leon Trotsky
 - resolutions of the Socialist Workers Party
 - documents of the Fourth International
 - books and pamphlets by James P. Cannon

PIONEER PUBLISHERS

116 University Place
New York 3, N. Y.

- Send me a free copy of your new catalog.
- Send a free copy of your new catalog to all of the names which I enclose.

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
Zone _____ State _____

'MILITANT' SUSTAINING FUND GOES OVER HALF-WAY QUOTA; TOTAL HITS \$7,638

By Justine Lang Campaign Director

With still another week to go before the halfway mark is reached in the Militant Sustaining Fund Drive, our comrades, readers and friends have generously contributed to the campaign by sending in \$7,638.17, over half our goal of \$15,000.

Since the inception of the campaign six weeks ago, the response from week to week has been extremely gratifying. The indication that the half-way mark would be reached in advance of schedule has been more than adequately borne out with the attainment of 51 per cent of our goal at the end of the sixth week.

In addition, our request for a minimum of \$1,000 has been more than fulfilled. This week our supporters have sent in \$1,528.59, or 153 per cent of their weekly quota. This is indeed a most inspiring record.

The scoreboard this week is still headed by the New York Trotskyist Youth Group who have obtained 166 per cent above their quota. Their contributions to the Militant Fund Drive have been one of our consistent weekly sources.

Grace Wayne, Militant Campaign Director, writes: The New York Trotskyist Youth Group has just started to roll on the campaign. We didn't stop at 100 per cent, and we don't intend to stop at 200 per cent. The sky's the limit!

Our comrades and friends should know that the money collected by our Youth Group is made up of small amounts. The total sum is accumulated from nickels, dimes and quarters of comrades and friends who have small weekly allowances or part-time jobs. We intend to hold the top place until the end of the campaign, and we challenge any comers to replace us.

MORE 100 PER CENTERS The Boston Branch of the Socialist Workers Party has now joined the "100 per centers." This category comprises those branches who have either completed, or gone above their quotas.

G. Worth of Boston sent this note with her recent payment: "We are enclosing our check for \$87 which brings us into the 100 per cent bracket. This sum represents \$47 from comrades' pledges and \$10 from a young man from Maine who is a sympathizer and who says The Militant is the best paper."

"All of us up here will be very happy to see that we are one of the branches on the top of the list in the Militant scoreboard." Needless to add, we are happy Boston has completed its quota, and we hope to have a number

of other branches with completed quotas very soon. Another interesting item from our mail is the following letter. H. Burns of Milwaukee: "Enclosed is \$13.45, another payment towards Milwaukee's quota. \$3.45 of this sum represents contributions from Militant subscribers and sympathizers on the collection lists."

READERS CONTRIBUTE "I am enclosing one of the completed lists which a comrade took into his shop, one of the local big breweries, and circulated among fellow workers, and Militant readers to whom he had sold subscriptions during our sub-campaigns. He received small contributions, but the important thing was that these people, among them older German brewery workers, wanted to support a working class newspaper like The Militant. We will see those non-subscribers and try to obtain subs from them."

The sharp increase in this week's scoreboard appears particularly in the category marked "General." This category includes contributions from Militant readers who have sent donations on the "I Want To Help" coupon, have filled "Militant Collection Lists", etc. K. West of Minnesota sent \$1 on the "I Want To Help" coupon with this note attached: "Here is a very small contribution to your Militant Sustaining Fund Drive. I think you have a perfectly grand paper. It seems to get better with every issue. I do hope that you reach your goal of \$15,000."

E. Carmona of New York sent \$5 with this letter: "Enclosed is the 'widow's mite.'"

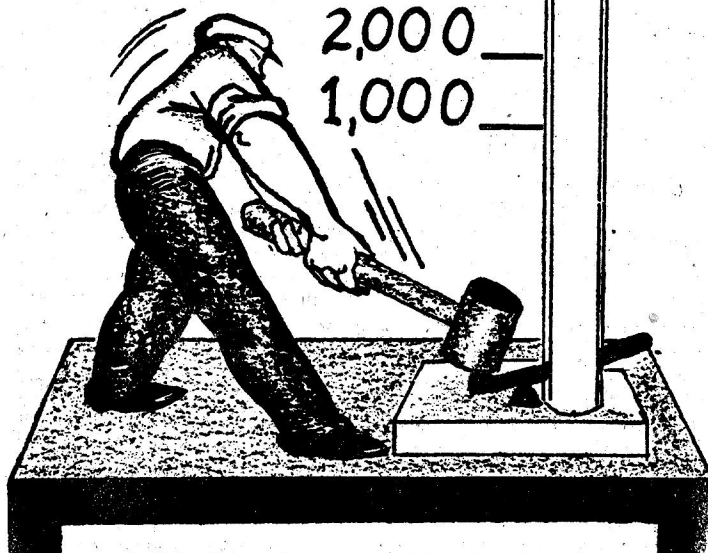
"Would that I were an orator. I would tell all Harlem what the people behind The Militant are doing for the struggling and oppressed peoples everywhere. My people have been fooled so often with the 'divide-and-rule' method, that they are slow to realize truth when they see it, fearing another trap. Oh, but when they do wake up, you'll find them solidly behind you. "Thanks for this opportunity. My only regret is that it is so small."

We appreciate these and the many other contributions our Militant readers and friends have sent in. It is this devoted loyalty that enabled us to reach our halfway mark ahead of schedule. Continued support will insure our reaching the Militant Sustaining Fund's goal of \$15,000 ahead of the June 15 deadline.

\$15,000

Ring the Bell!

- 14,000
13,000
12,000
11,000
10,000
9,000
8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000



APRIL 25 - \$7,638.17

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: QUOTA, PAID, PER-CENT. Rows include various locations like NEW YORK YOUTH, PORTLAND, ROCHESTER, etc., totaling \$7,638.17.

Worker Tells Why He Aids 'The Militant'

By Charles Henry PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—One of our Militant subscribers at the social affair held by the Philadelphia branch of the Socialist Workers Party on April 6 contributed \$1 to the Militant sustaining fund. "As a reader of The Militant I want to help see that it comes out regularly, speaking the truth and fighting for a world without Jim Crow," he said. "I'm a paper hanger and decorator by trade, but I am barred from working as a union man because of the ily-white practices of the AFL union. I can contribute only a little, but The Militant has my full-hearted support."

Notice To Subscribers

According to postal regulations your address is not complete unless it shows your postal zone number. For example: The Militant's zone number is New York 3, N. Y. The postal authorities are now insisting that this regulation be carried out in the mailing of The Militant. Check the wrapper in which The Militant is mailed to you and if the zone number is not included, be sure to send it to us at once to assure delivery of your paper. Send your zone number to: Business Manager 116 UNIVERSITY PLACE NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

NEW YORK Cabaret Frolic Sat., May 4 Gypsy Music Fun Dancing 116 University Place

Singapore Reader Praises Program Of 'The Militant'

Dear Editor:

It is through a service friend of mine that I happened to see your paper. I have to congratulate you for the way you are championing the cause of the Colonial peoples' struggle and the struggle of the workers. We are glad to know that at least there is a section of American Workers who are interested in us and in our struggle for freedom and emancipation from the Imperialist clutches. The only hope for the world workers is the mutual understanding and cooperation and I hope your paper will pave the way for that.

I would like to subscribe for your paper but the exchange rules does not permit to send any money to America; so I will wait till such time when I can remit money. Yours sincerely, J. J. Singapore

25th March 1946

LATEST F.I. FEATURES REVIEW OF STRIKE WAVE

"The strike wave which America has just experienced will be recorded as an historical labor upsurge," declares the May issue of Fourth International, now on sale.

The many aspects of this upsurge and the perspectives it opens up for the labor movement are discussed in "The Great Strike Wave and Its Significance," by E. R. Frank. It was historic because: "first... it was fought on the most far-flung battle front, with the unions challenging the bulk of the major monopolists."

"Second, because it involved the first major test of strength between the industrial union movement and the ruling capitalist oligarchy, since the mass production unions first established their right to existence 10 years ago."

"And last, because it brought into focus the social development and revealed the vast, latent power of American labor, power enough to beat back the offensive of the employers and to win significant concessions."

The heightened morale of the labor movement which has grown out of the strike wave is today reflected in the CIO's "organize the south" program and the UAW's pledge to organize the white collar workers in the automobile industry, the article points out. The social aims raised by the unions during the strike, however, still remain to be realized in the coming period which is foreseen as "a turbulent one."

UAW CONVENTION

An evaluation of the United Auto Workers recent convention in Atlantic City, written by Art Preis, associate editor of The Militant, throws further light on the auto workers' wage struggle

and the role of the present union leadership.

The Wall Street foe which American labor confronts is subjected to a careful economic analysis in "American Imperialism at Home and Abroad," by William Simmons, which also appears in the May Fourth International. How Wall Street's program of economic domination of the world determines its foreign policy and affects the living standards of American workers are central themes of this important article.

MAY DAY ANNIVERSARY

In its feature editorial, Fourth International appraises the position of the working class of the world on the sixtieth anniversary of May Day, the international working class holiday. "In the final analysis the decisive gain which the world working class records on this May Day," the editors explain, "is the emergence of much stronger Trotskyist parties in country after country." Though the world working class has suffered terrible defeats since 1923, the growth of the Fourth International gives every reason for confidence that workers throughout the world "will prove wholly capable of building a revolutionary party" which can lead them to final success in the proletarian revolution.

Militant readers are invited to take advantage of Fourth International's special offer of a six-month subscription for only \$1. Write to: Business Manager, Fourth International, 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.

Packers Create Meat Famine, Say Farmers Union Officers

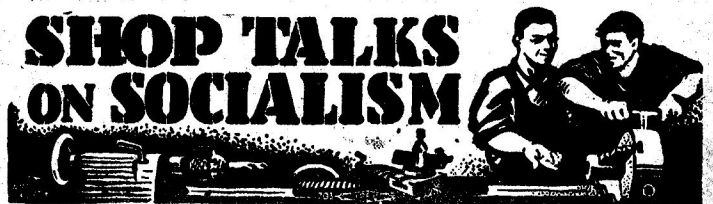
By Barbara Bruce (Special to The Militant)

ST. PAUL, Minn., Apr. 28—While millions of people are starving all over the world, the packers refuse to process or sell meat unless they can increase their already mountainous profits. This was revealed by the Farmers Union which this week exploded the packers' lie about a "lack of livestock."

Fred Stover, president of the Iowa Farmers Union, offered on April 25 to "find plenty of cattle for any packer who is having difficulty finding beef supplies." In an interview he declared, "Cattle are plentiful and the farmer is willing to sell but the big packers aren't out to buy." PLENTY OF STOCK

In Minnesota the situation is the same. Marvin Everson, manager of the Farmers' Union Livestock Commission in South St. Paul, reports that there are plenty of meat animals available on Northwest farms.

Joe Ollman, regional director of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers, said that huge supplies of pork are being stored in hopes that price ceilings will be removed. He challenged the packers to open their plants to an investigation of union charges. Workers in all the big meat packing plants in the South St. Paul area bear out the UPWA statement by reports that tremendous quantities of uncured pork are being stored in freezing rooms. The fact that hams are being stored before curing reveals that packers do not expect to sell them for a long time. The curing process alone takes about 28 days, not including thawing or smoking. Meanwhile, the "big 1" in this



Use Value Cannot Be Measured

By V. Grey

What does this statement mean: "Use Value Cannot Be Measured?" It means there is no yardstick that can mark off the different degrees of usefulness different things have.

A smart engineer might tell you that usefulness can be measured. He puts steel beams in a certain part of a building he is working on, because they will outlast wooden ones. They will not only outlast wood. They will stand a much greater strain at any given time than wooden beams. Experience and mechanical theory enables him to compute exactly how much longer they will last, and how much more they will stand.

A glass of milk and a cup of coffee have about the same exchange value. But their usefulness to the human body is very different. This difference can be measured pretty closely by a good doctor. He could show you that the number of calories and other health-giving elements in milk are just exactly so many times greater than in coffee.

This can be repeated a thousand times with all kinds of items in all kinds of ways. But if you stop to reflect a moment you can see that it's only one particular side of usefulness that can be so measured. You can measure calories, pounds, hardness and other qualities. But you cannot measure calories against pounds, color against hardness, or one usefulness against another.

The usefulness of things lies in their filling the needs of mankind, making people happy, contented or comfortable. In that sense they cannot be measured.

Even where certain aspects of usefulness can be measured, as for example, durability, strength, etc., these measurements do not at all enter into the determination of value. Thus tool steel is not merely several times as hard as mild steel. It is infinitely harder in its service to man. If mild steel were used for a cutting tool on a lathe it would just burn up without doing any work at all. But a steel that is just a little harder can cut a turning shaft on a lathe as though it were wood. Without hard steel we couldn't have lathes or machine shops at all. But tool steel is not infinitely more expensive than mild steel.

If you've ever had to change a tire in the middle of nowhere and tried to get the wheel off a car without a lug wrench, you know what a wonderfully useful thing that wrench can be. You know how many hours of fruitless tapping of the lugs with a hammer you save by using a wrench.

Use-Value And Exchange-Value

And yet for all its usefulness the wrench costs very little. It costs perhaps 75 cents or so. It may be a blessing to the user, but it has little actual exchange value.

If you work in a shop you may have had trouble with the old time crescent wrenches, occasionally breaking a handle. But the new crestalloys and other alloy wrenches will stand five to ten times as much pulling. You can put a six-foot pipe over the handle and still they won't break—yet the crestalloy costs only about a quarter more than an ordinary wrench.

Some people might say the crestalloy was ten times as valuable when they really mean that it is much superior to ordinary metal. Usefulness and value are two entirely different aspects of things (Marx sometimes used the phrase use-value and exchange-value, sometimes use-value and value).

Usefulness — use values — were constantly increased under capitalism. Factory production made things available to everyone that formerly even kings could not get. Automobiles, for example, and electric light bulbs. Since commodities have to be useful, the capitalist was forced to look for more and more useful things to produce—and encourage inventors to invent still more of them.

But that day is past. Now the monopoly capitalist discourages inventions and new use-values and he tries to keep up the exchange value (the price) of the old ones.

Next Week — Can Exchange Value Be Measured?

CIO Faces Bitter Struggle In Drive To Organize South

(Continued from Page 1)

Northern industrialists established their political and economic power over the nation and the system of chattel slavery was destroyed. But the Southern landowners and growing business class have maintained their wealth and privileges by inhuman labor exploitation, fortified by the Jim-Crow system.

This system has kept the poor whites and virtually enslaved Negroes apart, divided them by social barriers penetrating into every phase of life. Upholding and enforcing this division is a network of Jim-Crow laws and government agencies, backed by a tremendous and continuous physical terrorism. That terrorism, which operates most savagely against the Negro masses, but has also struck at union organizers and political opponents of the Southern ruling class, is summed up in the phrase: Lynch Law. "Operation Dixie" means nothing less than a ruthless struggle against a sector of the American ruling class which is completely steeped in the traditions and practices of reactionary violence and is utterly cruel and remorseless in its opposition to any force which offers the slightest threat to its vile system.

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Here in the second largest meat packing center in the world, housewives wait in line to purchase a few weiners, when they are available. Packing workers who are still employed have been working only 36 hours a week most of the time since their strike ended in January, so they cannot afford to buy meat when it does appear in local markets.

What the CIO drive must envisage, if it is to be successful, is not a "simple" trade union campaign, but a real crusade of social, economic and political emancipation. It must be prepared to wage war against the whole system of exploitation and Jim Crow that forms the bed-rock of the power of the rich Southern whites.

The basis for such a crusade has been developing since the first World War, and has grown to great proportions in the 16 years of depression and World War II. Northern capital, ever eager to exploit "cheap labor" and escape the encroachments of unionism, has been industrializing the South at an ever more rapid pace. The industrial working class has grown simultaneously. Organized in militant struggle, these industrial workers can and must lead the whole of the backward and oppressed masses of the South to emancipation. In fact, they will need the fighting alliance of the Negro people and the millions of white agricultural workers and share-croppers to achieve victory.

FAR-REACHING

The CIO is in reality launching a movement in the South that, to be successful, must go far beyond the traditional bounds of "simple" trade unionism. That is dictated not by the wishes of the CIO leaders, but by the very nature of Southern social and economic conditions. Any policy that ignores this, that seeks to confine the drive to the most narrow trade union aims or tries to adapt itself in one way or another to the prejudices of the Southern system, can only hamper and weaken "Operation Dixie." Such a policy would be a great disservice both to the Southern workers and to the Northern workers against whom the present South stands as a bulwark of anti-labor reaction.

BRONX

Open Forum "Russia And The Postwar World" speaker: JOHN G. WRIGHT

Sunday, May 5 Questions Discussion 1034 Prospect Ave. 8 p.m.

DETROIT May Day Social

Saturday, May 4 From 9 O'clock On Refreshments Dancing - Orchestra 6108 Linwood Ave.

I Want To Help!

To The Militant: 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

I like The Militant because it tells the truth. I know that it depends entirely upon workers like myself for support. That is why I want to do my part in contributing to The Militant's \$15,000 Fund Campaign.

I enclose \$..... toward your work.

I want a contribution-list to circulate among my friends and fellow-workers, so they can help The Militant.

Name (Please Print)

Street Apt.

City

Postal Zone No. State

Lichfield G.I. Guard Imprisoned For Brutality Ordered By His Officers

The second Lichfield Army atrocity trial ended in London last week when an enlisted man, Sgt. James M. Jones, was found guilty of beating prisoners at the 10th Reinforcement Depot guardhouse and sentenced to six months' hard labor and a fine.

Jones admitted brutal treatment of U. S. Army prisoners, but defended his action on the ground that he was obeying orders given by officers at the guardhouse. "I was taught to take orders," he said. ". . . In striking prisoners . . . I was only carrying out the orders of my superior officers."

Testimony by a junior officer at Lichfield, Lt. Branville Cubage, fully supported this contention. In fact, there was so much evidence along this line that the trial judge advocate was compelled to assert to the court:

"INVIDIOUS SITUATION"

"This is an invidious situation here—it grows and matures because the officers had given orders and condoned acts which the enlisted men believed was the policy of the commanding officer and which other officers wanted carried out."

Nevertheless, the Army intends to court-martial seven more enlisted men who had been guards at Lichfield before proceeding to try the six Lichfield officers charged with giving the orders. This procedure has been defended as legally sound by Undersecretary of War Kenneth C. Royall, although it was denounced by the original prosecutor in the Lichfield case, Capt. Earl J. Carroll. Carroll withdrew from the "flagrantly mishandled" case at the beginning of the second trial because, among other reasons this procedure "may seriously preclude a successful prosecution of higher ranking officers."

Evidence by Cubage at the second trial showed that what went on at Lichfield was not at all unique. He had taken guards and

Army Courts-Martial System Hit By Sweeping Indictment

(Continued from Page 1)

Army courts in Europe adjudged two sentences of life imprisonment for A.W.O.L. Hundreds, probably thousands of bewildered boys with no really disloyal intentions were sentenced to five years' imprisonment for absence without leave . . . It is the opinion of competent observers that Army sentences generally err on the side of severity."

In addition, it declared, the War Department does not provide "adequate review of their findings" since the record shows that sentences imposed were approved by a 99-to-one ratio by the Judge Advocate General's office.

As in all other spheres of Army life, officers get different and more favorable treatment than enlisted men facing the same charges. In Manila the Army issued orders to arrest all speed law violators. Enlisted men were fined on the first offense, it said, but officers were not punished until the third offense—and then got off with a reprimand in place of a fine.

"An enlisted man has the right to bring charges against a commissioned officer," the report observed. "This is largely a paper provision. An officer of long experience has said that when it did happen the enlisted man always found himself court-martialed or transferred."

OFFICERS SELECT COURT
But, as every soldier knows, an officer not only can bring charges against an enlisted man, but he can often also select the members of the court-martial. Of course his testimony bears ten times more weight with the court than the enlisted man's."

In addition to its general observations, the sub-committee presented 16 specific recommendations. But the adoption of these recommendations—which is not likely, since the War Department is preparing its own list of proposed "reforms"—will do little to change the situation fundamentally.

The sub-committee calls for amendments to some of the present Articles of War, when the need is for the complete abolition of this barbarous military code and the adoption of a code which will recognize the democratic rights of members of the armed

STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS . . .

"There is no system in the world, I believe, which insures to the persons in confinement a more thorough, a more level-headed, and a more just consideration of their rights and of the interests of the public, than our own military justice administration . . ."

"Basically, as they are now constituted, courts-martial offer to accused persons the equivalent of all rights which our civil courts afford to defendants in criminal cases . . ."—From a speech to the American Bar Association, Cincinnati, by Major General Thomas H. Green, Judge Advocate General of the Army.

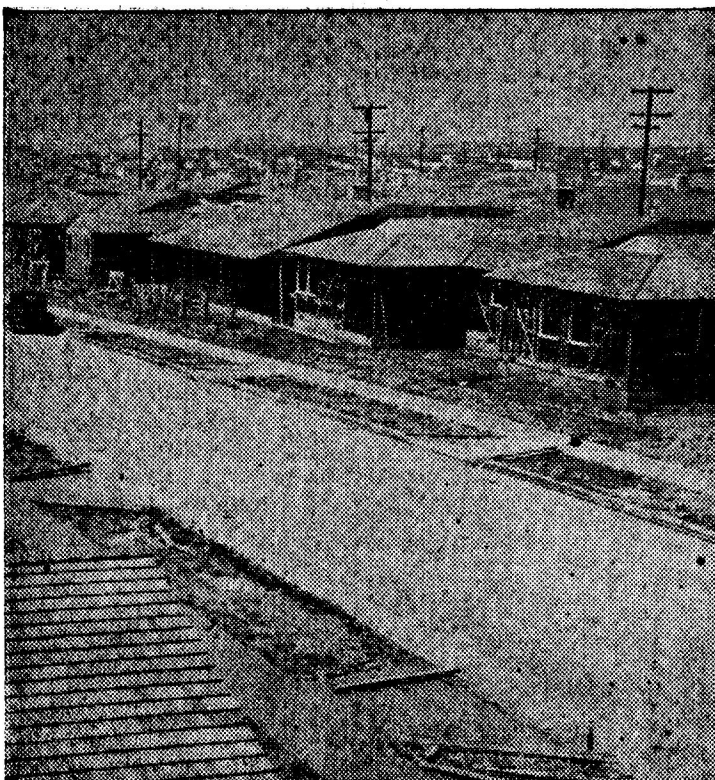
prisoners with him to a number of DTC's (Disciplinary Training Centers) and observed the treatment of American prisoners there.

LAUGH AT MISERY

"When we returned from DTC 3 at Sudbury, England, I told our guards that the commandant there had told me his men used clubs for beating prisoners. I told the men that at Langford (DTC 2913) they had a dungeon far below ground, you couldn't see the light and the officer in charge laughingly told me that occasionally someone fell down these stairs on his face."

Cubage reported that the Lichfield commander, Col. James M. Kilian, had set down the policy that Lichfield "could be as tough as any DTC."

While Vets Go Homeless



These houses stand unfinished and unoccupied while thousands of veterans in Los Angeles cannot find decent places to live. Failure of Congress to provide funds for housing construction and to expedite building materials is responsible for this.

Trotsky's Book On Stalin Released After Five Years

(Continued from Page 1)

to Moscow," thus placing the seal of official approval upon Stalin's infamous frame-up trials of the old Bolsheviks. This brazen whitewash of Stalin's crimes was written by Joseph P. Davies, former U. S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union and spokesman for the administration, who personally appeared in the picture.

Today, the growing friction between Washington and Moscow has made it expedient for Harper Brothers, with the approval of the administration, to lift the ban on Trotsky's book. But even now, Trotsky's words will not appear as he wrote them.

The volume is issued with interpolations and alterations by Charles Malamuth, who, originally hired as translator, was assigned by Harpers to "edit" the unfinished chapters after Trotsky's death.

SWP STATEMENT
"The printed text is only in part the product of Trotsky's own pen," James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, pointed out in a recent press statement. "At the time of his assassination Trotsky had completed only the first seven chapters . . . The remainder of the manuscript consisted of a rough draft of the five final chapters and notes for an introduction."

Malamuth's unauthorized alterations and interpolations, the SWP statement continues, "express views contrary to those held by the author, and in effect, pervert and falsify Trotsky's political standpoint."

To illustrate the scope of these interpolations, almost two-thirds of Chapter XI, is NOT from the pen of Trotsky. More serious than the length of these additions is their false political content. The gist of the distortions is the fraudulent contention that Stalinism is the inevitable outgrowth of Bolshevism.

INVALUABLE STUDY
Nevertheless, a reader who remains on guard against these flagrant and malicious falsifications in the present edition will find "Stalin" an invaluable study. It is an analysis of the rise to power of the head of the totalitarian Kremlin bureaucracy, written by the man who explained from the beginning to the workers of the world what Stalinism really is.

Militant readers are invited to secure the book from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

BROOKLYN Open Forum
Sunday, May 12
"Can Capitalist America Bring Freedom to the Negro?"

Speakers:
RICHARD MILTON
SANDY ROBERTSON
Socialist Workers Party
635 Fulton St. 8 p.m.

DETROIT "Recent Wave Of Anti-Negro Terror"

Speaker:
CHARLES JACKSON, 'Militant' Columnist
Sunday, May 12, 3 p.m.
Socialist Workers Party
6108 Linwood Admission Free

MILWAUKEE May Day Meeting
Sunday, May 5, 8 p.m.
Speaker:
JACK O'CONNELL, SWP Organizer
Chorus --- Refreshments
SWP Headquarters
424 E. Wells St. Room 215
Admission Free

and interests of the working people on a fighting political program."

Named as SWP candidates are:
GEORGE BREITMAN FOR U. S. SENATOR. A veteran Trotskyist, Comrade Breitman is well known to Newark workers for his years of activity in the unemployment movement, and the building of the SWP in Jersey. He was the SWP candidate for U. S. Senator on an anti-war program in 1941. Thereafter he was inducted into the U. S. Army and, having just been released after a year and a half overseas, he again takes his place as the leading SWP electoral spokesman in this state.

ALAN KOHLMAN FOR GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY. In the labor and socialist revolutionary movement since his 16th year, Comrade Kohlman assisted in organization of CIO workers in Louisville, Ky., was active in the Cleveland unemployed movement and, in recent years served as grievance committee-man and Educational Director of Local 2194 (Crucible Steel) of the United Steelworkers, CIO. He is now Newark Organizer of the SWP.

WILLIAM E. BOHANNON FOR CONGRESS, 11th DISTRICT. This Negro Trotskyist has lived most of his 33 years in Newark's poverty-ridden Jim-Crow Third Ward. He is well known to Negro workers as an activist in unemployed and CIO organizations. A former independent candidate for Newark's City Commission, Comrade Bohannon is now ready and eager to appear as the Party's spokesman against Jim Crow persecution and for full equality for the Negro people.

MRS. ARLENE PHILLIPS FOR CONGRESS, 13th DISTRICT. A member of the SWP for many years, a former CIO shipyard worker and now a member of an AFL local, Comrade Phillips takes in her stride the responsibilities of keeping house, rearing a 6-year-old son, while she carries on political work to build the SWP in the stronghold of the reactionary Hague machine. Both as spokesman of the SWP and as a representative of working women, Comrade Phillips is well qualified to oppose Mary Norton, Hague's present Congressional representative.

JERSEY SWP LAUNCHES ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN

(Continued from Page 1)



GEORGE BREITMAN
SWP candidate for Senator in New Jersey.

What does May Day mean to the minority groups such as the Negro people here in America? May Day, for sixty years the international workers' holiday; May Day, the symbol not only of the birth of a new generation of plants, flowers and animals but also the symbol, among the workers of the world, of the birth of a new world society—a Socialist society—where the people who produce the world's good things will be permitted to share and to enjoy them?

Certainly the celebration of this holiday should mean as much or more to the Negro people than to any other group of exploited and oppressed peoples anywhere on this planet. First of all, we are at the mercy of the same ruthless and arrogant capitalist class which through its ownership of all the means of production, education and government has repeatedly carried all the American workers through the vicious cycle of war and depression.

In the second place, the ruling class, in order to try to keep the working class divided against itself, has through its control over these same organs of information, insidiously and cleverly injected white workers with a vicious anti-Negro prejudice and hatred. It has subjected Negroes to the most terrible types of discrimination, terrorism, rigid segregation and oppressive discrimination in practically every phase of daily activity—especially in employment.

CYNICAL WRAPPING

This racial persecution is cynically wrapped up in dozens of "democratic" documents for outside consumption which are in reality not worth the paper on which they were written. Despite the famous "Bill of Rights," millions of Negroes as well as poorer white workers are still denied the ballot by the poll tax and other subterfuges.

Negroes throughout the country are robbed of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" despite Constitutional guarantees.

Colored veterans of this imperialist war have returned to find neither the freedom from want, freedom from fear, nor freedom of speech that was so beautifully promised by advocates of conscription and "war effort" in the recent slaughter. The murder of the Fair Employment Practices Committee, the kicking around of the anti-poll-tax bill, the Columbia, Tenn.

New York SWP Demands Inquiry In Ferguson Case

NEW YORK, April 27—Over 50 comrades and friends of Local New York, Socialist Workers Party, mobilized tonight in Harlem for vigorous protest action on the Jim-Crow murders of the Ferguson Brothers in Freeport, Long Island.

About 2,500 signatures were collected on SWP petitions demanding that the State Commission Against Discrimination (SCAD) set up a public investigation committee, under the Ives-Quinn Law, to uncover the conditions which led to this atrocity. The petition demands the indictment of the Freeport policeman who shot and killed two of the Ferguson Brothers, and the removal of the public officials who whitewashed the crime and freed the murderer.

Despite the fact that a cold northwest wind blew hard to night, shaking the scores of banners carried by SWP members and friends, many of Harlem's residents stood in line waiting their turn to sign the petitions. 116 tickets were sold for the Socialist Workers Party May Day Rally, where speakers will include Edward Ferguson, oldest brother of the four who were brutally assaulted by the Freeport policeman.

GIs Protest Imperialist Role In Philippines

There are GIs in Manila who know why they're there, and are saying so these days in no uncertain terms. In an "Open Letter to Fellow GIs" which was written by the GI Committee for Democratic Rights and appeared in the April 10 issue of the Philippine Press, the charge was made that "the mission of our GIs now is to protect American imperialist interests." The letter then proved this by citing the following:

"1. U. S. High Commissioner Paul V. McNutt said (in Manila) 'The United States as a nation is not going back home, not even on July 4th. We cannot. We should not. . . I am thinking at the moment of the role these islands can play as a base of operations for young Americans and for established American business. The Philippines is a land of certainty for American business.'"

"2. The U. S. Army intends to maintain 79,000 troops in the Philippines, even after independence.

"3. Now being rushed through the Congress is the Bell Bill which . . . allows the U. S. Government to retain all its property and to acquire other property for the U. S. Army, Navy, Marines, FBI, trade and other agencies of the U. S. Government."

The letter closes with a bitter comment that American capitalists seem reluctant to provide jobs for the workers at home, but are anxious to invest funds in the Philippine islands.

SAN DIEGO Books By Pioneer Publishers
Are Now Carried At 'Ye Olde Book Shop'
900 Broadway (cor. 9th St.)

The NEGRO STRUGGLE by CHARLES JACKSON

"Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a black skin is branded."
—KARL MARX

May Day and The Minorities

What does May Day mean to the minority groups such as the Negro people here in America? May Day, for sixty years the international workers' holiday; May Day, the symbol not only of the birth of a new generation of plants, flowers and animals but also the symbol, among the workers of the world, of the birth of a new world society—a Socialist society—where the people who produce the world's good things will be permitted to share and to enjoy them?

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He is finding, however, especially in the industrial centers, that the workers' struggle for a greater proportion of the wealth which they produce is also the struggle for liberation of minority groups. Many colored trade unionists now know that the Negro struggle, in order to really get anywhere, has to be tied in with the class struggle for the overthrow of the rotten capitalist system and the institution of Socialism with its economic security for all the producers, be they black or white.

Thus May Day is not only a symbol to the ever struggling workers and farmers here, in Europe, in the colonial countries and everywhere that the ravages of capitalist and imperialist economy remain with all their stretch. But it should be even more a fighting call to the doubly oppressed workers of the minority groups, be they Negroes, Jews, Mexicans or foreign-born.

WORKERS' STRUGGLE IS HIS

Well, the Negro of both the South and the North has found out that he cannot win his struggle for equality on a simple all-Negro scale where he is outnumbered ten to one. He has also found out that the program of pacifism whereby he was supposed to meet a smack in the mouth on bended knee and with upturned cheek to show his willingness to be a "good nigger" has netted him naught but further scorn and further intimidation.

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Come and meet other 'Militant' Readers At these Local Activities of The Socialist Workers Party

- AKRON** — Visit The Militant Club, 406-6 Everett Bldg., 30 East Market St., open daily except Sunday, 2 to 4 p. m.; also Mon., Wed., Fri., 7:30-9:30.
Wednesday evenings — Current events discussion.
- ALLENTOWN - BETHLEHEM** — Open meeting every Friday, 8 p.m., at Militant Labor Forum, S. E. corner Front and Hamilton Streets, Allentown.
Public Forums — First Sunday each month, 2:15 p.m.
- BALTIMORE** — For information write Box 1583, Baltimore 3, Md. Monthly forums to be announced.
- BOSTON** — Office at 30 Stuart St. Open Saturdays from noon until 5 p.m.; Wednesday and Fridays, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- BUFFALO** — Every Saturday night, Current Events Discussion and Open House: Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor.
- CHICAGO** — Visit SWP, 160 N. Wells, R. 317. Open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 7562.
Classes every Wednesday, 7:30 and 9:00 p.m.
SOUTH SIDE: 354 W. 63rd. Meetings Thursday evening.
- CLEVELAND** — Militant Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. at Peck's Hall 1446 E. 82nd St. 7-6267.
- HARTFORD** — For information, write P. O. Box 905.
- KANSAS CITY** — SWP Branch meets Saturday, 8 p.m., Rm. 203, Studio Bldg., 418 E. 9th St., for study and discussion.
- LOS ANGELES** — Visit SWP headquarters, 146 S. Broadway, Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Phone Vandyke 7936.
- SAN PEDRO**, 1006 S. Pacific, Room 214.
- MILWAUKEE** — Visit the Milwaukee SWP branch, 424 E. Wells St., evenings from 7:30-10:00.
- MINNEAPOLIS** — Visit the Labor Book Store, 10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.
Forum every Sunday, 3:30.
- NEWARK** — Branch meeting every Friday at 423 Springfield Ave., at 8:30. Reading room and office open Mondays-Thursdays, 4 to 10 p.m.
Tues., 7:30 — Basic Training class.
Discussion Group meets Sunday, 7:30 p.m.
- NEW YORK - CITY HQ.**, 116 University Place, GR. 5-8149.
Sat., 4:30 p.m., Tues., 7:30, rehearsal of Militant chorus.
Sat., May 4, 8 p.m. Cabaret Frolic.
Sun., May 5, 8 p.m. — "UNO — Towards War or Peace?"
HARLEM: 103 W. 110 St., Rm. 28. MO. 2-1866.
Sun., May 5, 7:30 p.m. — "Is MacArthur Bringing Democracy to Japan?"
BRONX: 1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor, phone TI 2-0101.
Wednesday class, 8:30: State and Revolution.
Friday Class, 8:30: Principles of Socialism.
Sun., May 5, 8 p.m., "Russia and Postwar World."
BROOKLYN: 635 Fulton St., Phone ST. 3-7433.
Men. Class — "Program of SWP," 7 p.m.
CHELSEA: 130 W. 23 St., phone CH 2-9434.
YORKVILLE: Discussion Group, 146 E. 84 St. Meets second and fourth Fridays.
- OAKLAND, Cal.** — Meetings Wednesday, Odd Fellows Temple, 410 - 11th St. For information write to P.O. Box 1351.
- PHILADELPHIA** — SWP Headquarters, 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open daily. Friday forum, 8 p.m.
Sunday classes, 7 p.m. "Basic Training in Principles of Marxism" and "Historical Materialism."
- PITTSBURGH** — Militant Reading Room, Seely Bldg., 5905 Penn Ave., corner Penn. Ave. & Beatty St., E. Liberty. Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 6:30 to 9:30. Sat. 2-6.
- PORTLAND, Ore.** — Visit the SWP headquarters, 134 S. W. Washington, 3rd Floor. Tel. ATwater 3992. Open 1 to 4 p.m., daily except Sunday, and 6 to 8, Tuesday, Friday.
Fridays, 8 p.m., Open House and Round Table Discussions.
- READING, Pa.** — Militant Labor Forum, Market Bldg., 10th and Penn St., Room 202. Public forums every 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Headquarters open Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 to 10 p.m., also Fridays from 1:30 to 3 p.m.
- SAN DIEGO** — SWP Headquarters, 1142 Union St. Room 6, open daily except Sat., 7 to 9 p.m.
- SAN FRANCISCO** — Visit the San Francisco School of Social Science, 305 Grant Ave., corner of Grant and Sutter, 4th floor; open from 12 noon to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Friday Classes: "Introduction to Marxist Economics." 7:30-8:30. "Fascism." 8:30-9:30.
- SEATTLE** — Visit our Headquarters, 1919 1/2 Second Ave.
- ST. LOUIS** — Visit our headquarters, 1023 N. Grand Blvd., Rm. 312, open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Forums every Thursday, 8:30 p.m. Phone Jefferson 3642.
- TACOMA, Wash.** — For information, write P.O. Box 1079.
- TOLEDO** — Forums every Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., 213 Michigan St. Open evenings, 7-9.
- YOUNGSTOWN** — Youngstown School of Social Science, 225 N. Phelps St., open to public Tuesday and Saturday afternoon from 2 to 5; also 7:30 to 9:30, Monday to Thursday.

Diary Of A Steelworker By T. Kovalesky

Old Mike screamed when the hot iron hit him. We ran to him, pulled him away from the runner, and ripped his charred shirt from him. The molten iron had struck him on the back and side of the neck, dripping down inside his clothing, flaming and smoking, searing his flesh. Soon they carried him away in a howling ambulance.

"I sure used to hate that Welfare Visitor," Jimmy told me with a grin. "Man, she used to come up into the house like she owned it. She'd look in the cupboard and lift the covers off the pans on the stove to see what my wife was cooking. She used to act like I didn't want to go to work, told me so once . . . and there I was working on the project as often as I had the chance and looking everywhere for a steady job, which I never could seem to find." Jimmy sat silently for a few moments. "I used to think it was just my color, but there sure was a heap of white fellows looking for work then too, and they couldn't get work either."

"My boy died that year," he said bitterly, "and I've always thought he'd still be alive today, only we were so poor then, we couldn't give him no kind of care . . ."

Stand there at the pit, silent and bitter. Stand there, patient, hopeless.

It has happened before, many, many times. Coal is mined not only with dynamite, not only with picks and shovels. Coal is mined with blood.

A stir, a breathless surging forward! Four bearded men carry a rag-wrapped, shapeless bundle from the opening. Somebody says, "Paw-lak!" A large woman with straggling brown hair stumbles wildly toward the coal-blackened bearers, leaving behind her a frightened, bewildered cluster of skinny-legged children.

Neighbors voices, kindly, comforting in her ears. Neighbors' arms, strengthening, reassuring, about her shoulders. The blind misery, the empty fear, the exhaustion of the wait and the hopeless hope, the black, desolate future, shaking shoulders, high, terrible keening . . .

Another stir. A voice says, "McCarthy!" Wait there, at the pit . . .

A great, smoky cloud rises in the center of the crowd. Men and women scatter, reeling, tears streaming from their eyes. Now is the time! Blue-coated, club-swinging cops in gas masks sweep viciously into the midst of the crowd, slashing murderously left and right, cracking the skulls of the pickets, who dared to fight against

Big Business, who dared to strike for decent living conditions.

The field is neat and orderly in the sunset. The long rows of wooden crosses darken against the reddening evening sky. Beneath them lie the dead, youth, many of them little more than children, murdered that the rich might become richer, that the capitalists might spread their power to the farthest parts of the earth. Dusk gathers with tropical suddenness.

(They had longed, desperately, poignantly to go home. Now this is their home, the shattered palm trees, the littered mud, the neat field and the wooden crosses. No more the concrete of Brooklyn, the mid-western farmlands, the housing project or the Union Hall. This is home, now!)

These are fragments of life, little photos of 1946. These are our words and our memories . . . and our grim predictions. These things have happened to us and to our friends. They are happening. They will continue to happen, for we are workers living, struggling for our livelihood in a capitalist state.

Why should these things be? Must we always suffer, always want? Until we organize in our might and topple the capitalists from their gilded thrones and take over the factories and the government ourselves, in a word, until the workers establish Socialism, these things will be!

It will be a hard job, a big task. We need support. We need people, fighters.

But we have a weapon. We have an organizer, our paper, *The Militant*. *The Militant* must be read from coast to coast, from Canada to the Gulf, and its message must reach every worker in the country and their brothers in foreign countries: "WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!"

Is it too much, brother, is it too much, comrade, to ask you to support *The Militant*? You read the paper. You agree with it. You want a better life for your children, and you have come to understand that this life can come only from the final victory of the working class.

So send us what you can afford. Send us as many dollars and cents as you can, that *The Militant* may reach the ranks of the poor that have never yet seen it. Support the *Militant* fund drive, that we may draw to our side as allies all the poor and oppressed.

Your dollars, even your pennies, will help to make real the slogan, "Workers of the world, unite!" Your aid will help to rip the price tags from a decent, healthy life and make it free to all men, women, and children. Will you help? . . .

CIO Veterans In Buffalo Hold Mass Rally To Protest Housing Crisis, Unemployment

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

BUFFALO, N. Y., April 28—Representatives from more than 10 CIO locals in Buffalo and a delegation of CIO veterans from nearby Lockport participated in a protest rally against the housing crisis and unemployment held here tonight by the CIO Council Veterans Committee. Many unemployed vets swelled the audience.

Hugh Thompson, CIO Regional Director and president of the Buffalo CIO Council, voiced the veterans' anger against the government policy of providing "billions for war, peanuts for housing." He charged that nothing is being done either nationally or locally to meet the emergency requirements of homeless veterans or to provide a long-range building program.

Real estate and building interests, Thompson asserted, have influenced Congress to cripple even inadequate housing legislation. And in Buffalo the City Council admits it "can do nothing," although there are vacant buildings in the city.

He urged all veterans to unite in the CIO Veterans Committee which "is taking action on this important issue."

WELL-PLANNED

Previous to tonight's rally, the committee had executed a well-planned publicity campaign highlighted by the pitching of a tent on the steps of City Hall as a dramatic demonstration of the need for housing. In addition, two radio speeches had been made and thousands of leaflets distributed.

Meyer Bernstein, Chairman of the National CIO Veterans' Committee, described the efforts of Big Business and government agencies to pit servicemen against labor. This campaign backfired, Bernstein pointed out. He told how in the recent strike wave, veterans took their place on the picket lines side by side with the rest of the workers. He commended the Buffalo CIO Committee for the fine work it has done in organizing veterans' committees in the locals.

CIO PROGRAM

A report on this work was given by Alexander Hall, vice-president of United Auto Workers Local 566, and a representative of the General Drop Forge committee. More than 15 committees have been organized in CIO locals here, Hall said. They have aided in securing unemployment compensation for striking veterans, settled veterans' grievances in plants through union procedure, and have shown the servicemen that the union protects his interests.

An appeal to unemployed veterans to join ranks with union vets on the job was made by

Inflation Brings Chaos In Hungary

Like the people in other war-devastated European countries, the workers and peasants of Hungary are suffering from an almost total breakdown of the country's economy. The extent of the economic chaos is illustrated by the fantastic inflation.

In the week ending April 20 the Hungarian pengoe dropped from a value of 43,000,000 to the American dollar to 80,000,000, according to the April 23 N. Y. Times. The Times correspondent added that "there seemed to be no immediate prospect" of stabilizing it.

The Christian Science Monitor correspondent in Budapest reported on April 24 that "The nation's currency is so completely collapsed that money no longer serves as a medium of exchange or measure of value."

Leon Rothman of the CIO Council Veterans Committee Board, explained, calls for a minimum of \$25 per week for veterans until they obtain jobs; for the opening of junked war plants to build housing and provide jobs at union wages for veterans; and for the continuation of dependency allotments.

Among the resolutions passed by the meeting was one condemning Governor Dewey for vetoing the Hollinger Bill which would have provided retroactive unemployment insurance payments to veterans on strike at General Motors. The veto action discriminated against ex-servicemen, the resolution pointed out, since non-veteran strikers received unemployment benefits during the same period.

A resolution was also passed demanding that the New York State Commission Against Discrimination (SCAD) set up by the recently adopted Ives-Quinn Bill, immediately investigate the brutal Jim-Crow murder of the Ferguson brothers. Additional resolutions gave support to unions still on strike in the Buffalo area, and condemned Congressional action in smashing the OPA.

3-MONTH FE-CIO STRIKE ENDS WITH WAGE BOOST

By Joe Davis

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, Apr. 20—After a bitter three months strike, some 30,000 members of the CIO Farm Equipment Workers at 10 plants of the International Harvester trust on April 15 won an 18-cent an hour increase, improved allowances for piece-workers . . .

and other additional gains. The corporation held out many weeks in an attempt to starve out the strikers and force price increases, despite the recommendation on February 18 of a government Fact-Finding panel that the 18-cent increase be granted without any increase in prices.

Prior to the strike, the company had offered only a miserly 10 per cent increase. By the third week of the strike, the solidarity of the workers had forced the company to offer 17 cents, but without any union security provisions or improvements in the vicious piece-work system.

While the union agreed to accept the government's recommendations as a basis for settlement, the company prevented resumption of production of vitally-needed farm equipment for spring planting by insisting on profiteering price boosts. The government, while raising a hullabaloo about food shortages and world famine, took no steps to force International Harvester to terms.

The Farmers Union convention, representing farmers in 37 states, backed the strikers and contributed funds to the I-H workers as well as the General Motors strikers. A Farmers Union delegation accompanied the FE-CIO leaders to Washington and demanded settlement of the strike on terms acceptable to the strikers based on the government's own recommendations.

The final contract, which was approved at a membership meeting on April 12, contains several suspicious clauses not contained in the panel recommendations and which the members did not know were in the contract at the time of its adoption. The Stalin-

ist leaders of the union forced a vote on the contract without permitting it to be read in full or allowing democratic discussion.

Subsequently, when union stewards secured copies of the contract, they discovered it contained a dangerous "company security" clause, stating that "the union agrees that any employe or employee who engage in or are responsible for any strike, work stoppage or intentional slow down in violation of this contract shall be subject to disciplinary action including discharge."

Puerto Ricans Seek Amnesty

NEW YORK — Apr. 24 — Amnesty for Rafael Lopez Rosas and some 40 other advocates of Puerto Rican independence who have been imprisoned for refusing to fight in the United States army, has been demanded by the Workers Defense League.

In a letter from the Free Lopez Committee, the WDL revealed the ruthless persecution of men who have dared to resist Wall Street's imperialist rule. These men "are in jail for refusing to serve in the army of what they consider a conquering nation . . ."

"Lopez, a leader of the Puerto Rican independence movement, is serving his second jail sentence, for refusing to report for induction while on probation. And when this sentence is complete, he faces a third term of five more years in jail as a probation violator—again for the same offense."

Packing Workers Demand Action In Meat Crisis

By L. Ray

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, Apr. 17—Protesting the lay-offs of 30,000 workers in the meat-packing industry and the deliberate sabotage of meat processing by the big packinghouses, more than 15,000 members of the CIO United Packinghouse

Charges Packers 'Just Not Buying'

Representative Sabath of Illinois publicly charged on April 26 that "the powerful big packers organized in the American Meat Institute are and have been conducting a sitdown strike against the government and the public" and called for a government investigation to "ascertain whether there is a deliberate agreement between the packers to create a meat shortage."

In Kansas City, OPA enforcement officials charged that the city's major packers were "just not buying any cattle for slaughter" although they could operate at big profits under OPA price ceilings.

Workers at a mass rally yesterday noon in the Union Stockyard, adopted a resolution calling on the government to operate the packing plants as public utilities.

The mass rally was also a send-off for 30 UPWA representatives from midwest packing centers who left for Washington to present union demands for continuation of OPA and government action to halt the deliberate-created meat shortages.

Since last January, when the government "seized" the Big Four packing plants in an attempt to break the packinghouse strike, operation of the plants actually has remained in the hands of the profiteering meat barons. They have been trying to eliminate all meat price ceilings and have conducted a wide-spread propaganda campaign to confuse the public on the real causes of the current meat famine.

STOCKMEN IN CHARGE

The government, which is still nominally in control of the plants, has taken no effective steps to get meat production. Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson and his man-in-charge of the "seized" plants, Gayle Armstrong, are wealthy stock raisers themselves, with investments in several of the large packing companies.

But the government continues huge subsidies to the packers, grants tens of millions in tax rebates which permit the companies big profits even if they don't operate, and allows the profits-fat packers to charge off to the consumers 11 cents of the 16-cent wage increase won by the packinghouse workers.

The packers opposed wage increases by arguing that the packinghouse workers would draw large pay-checks because overtime would be continued for a long time. The fact-finding panel used this as one basis for recommending only a 16-cent raise. Now, in addition to the thousands laid-off, most workers are barely making the 36-hour weekly minimum guarantee.

There is plenty of live-stock available. The packers are simply refusing to buy, slaughter and process it at ceiling prices.

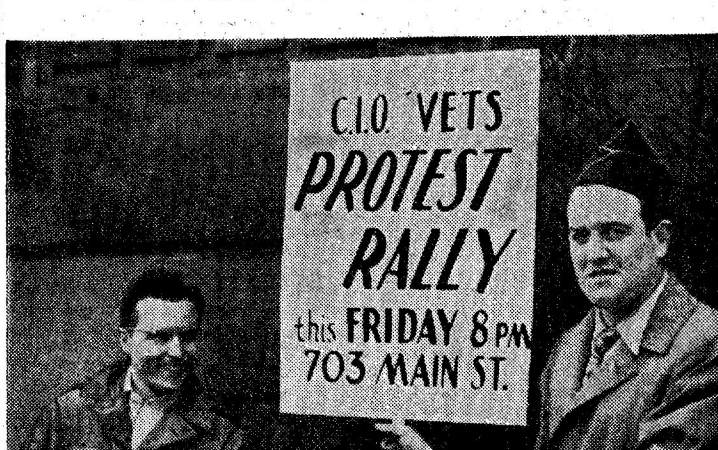
Nation-Wide Railroad Strike Voted By Engineers, Trainmen

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

CLEVELAND, Apr. 25—The possibility of a nation-wide railroad strike was indicated here today when a meeting of the General Chairmen of two railroad brotherhoods, the locomotive engineers and the trainmen, rejected the recommendation of a presidential fact-finding board for a 16-cent an hour increase and approved a strike of 295,000 operating rail workers starting May 18 if the carriers fail to meet their terms.

Truman's board, established four days before a previously-scheduled walkout set for March 11, not only rejected the union's demand for a 25 per cent raise and changes in 45 rules, but proposed a settlement below the 18½-cent pattern won by the steel workers and other CIO unions which went out on strike.

"Homes For Vets — Now!"



CIO veterans in Buffalo display banners in rally organized last week by the Buffalo CIO Veterans Committee to protest against vile housing conditions and growing unemployment.

—Courtesy Buffalo Evening News

Toledo Man Uncovers Lynching In Arkansas

By Harold Josephs

(Special to The Militant)

TOLEDO, O., Apr. 24—The scene of this hitherto unpublicized murder was not a concentration camp in Nazi Germany, but a small community in the United States, and it happened just a month ago. The story was revealed here in Toledo by the uncle of the victim.

Walter Reed, a 17-year-old Negro boy, was beaten and shot to death in Augusta, Arkansas, March 23, 1946. His body was hidden, his family refused even the right to bury it.

Young Reed worked as a sharecropper with his father on the property of Conner Stacy, a local land owner. He complained to Stacy of having to work every other night in addition to every day—a "day's work" in the field means at least 16 hours.

Stacy reported Reed's complaint to the deputy sheriff of McCrory County, who lived in the Stacy residence. The sheriff promptly threatened Reed with a beating if he should attempt to enter the armed forces as an escapee from his virtual slavery. The idea of such an escape had not occurred to Walter before, but . . .

Young Reed applied for enlistment in the navy. This innocent act proved to be his death warrant.

Informed of Reed's application, the deputy sheriff hurried to the field where Reed was plowing and there beat him mercilessly. He took the boy into custody, and presumably started for the McCrory County jail.

This kill-crazy sheriff, however, had no intention of reaching McCrory jail with a living

Walter Reed! He and his lynch gang again attacked their helpless prisoner. Reed attempted to run. The "peace officer" shot him in the back.

The sheriff then told Reed's family that the boy had been arrested for horse-stealing. Whose horse? When? Where? Neither the deputy sheriff nor his friends can answer. But this lie was all the excuse needed to satisfy the "law-abiding" white citizens of this typical southern community.

Walter Reed's body was hidden under a pile of sawdust until the next morning, when the sheriff returned to throw the body into a ditch filled 30-feet-deep with water.

Reed's worried family was told that Walter, while attempting to escape, had run into the river and been shot there. To substantiate this lie, the cartridge from the fatal bullet was planted on the river bank. Then, to prevent the truth from being learned, the family was refused permission to recover his body.

Shocked and bewildered, the Reed family sent a frantic appeal for help to Walter's uncle, Robert Goodman of Toledo.

UNCLE THREATENED

In Augusta, Goodman was warned not to investigate his nephew's death — "for his own health." Goodman ignored the threat. After overhearing a conversation between two women who knew that Walter lay in the water-filled ditch, Goodman found the boy's corpse.

Local authorities, learning of Robert Goodman's discovery, promptly jailed him on the charge that he had failed to obtain permission to recover Reed's body!

The concealed murder of 17-year-old Walter Reed exposes once more the terror under which Negroes live in the "democratic" United States, where wealthy land owners who maintain virtual slavery on their fields, not only go unpunished, but are aided by lynch-law officials.

Insanity No Bar

Indiana's Appellate Court ruled on April 16 that a public officer in that state may not be removed from office because he is insane, since there is no statute making insanity grounds for removal from public office.

Notes Of A Seaman By Art Sharon

A beautiful friendship has broken up. While it lasted it was a wonder to behold. Unlike many friendships that go their way quietly with little fanfare or public demonstrations, this friendship lost no opportunity to loudly proclaim its undying fidelity.

I refer to the touching relationship of the Stalinist leaders of the CIO National Maritime Union and the leading American shipowner spokesman, Basil Harris of the United States Lines. All during the war the propaganda of the Stalinists dinned into the minds of the NMU membership the "new idea" of union progress through cooperation with the shipowners. And Basil Harris was the man most exalted by the labor fakers of the Stalinist variety.

The climax came last year during the famous, or rather infamous, school organized by the NMU to teach capital-labor "cooperation" to the bewildered seamen members of the NMU. Basil Harris was invited to the school by the Stalinists to put his stamp of approval upon this enterprise. This he did with the warmness expected of a new-found friend.

In fact Harris went even further. Port Captains and Port Agents of the leading shipowners were sent to this school to help the Stalinist instructors break down the class feelings of the old-fashioned militants.

Basil Harris' picture appeared often in the *Pilot*, organ of the NMU, in an attempt to palm him off as the friend of the NMU instead of just the friend of the Stalinist leaders there. On

many a public platform in patriotic rallies the Stalinist leaders including Joseph Curran, president of the NMU, and Basil Harris exchanged mutual compliments.

These public manifestations of friendship are known to everybody as they were well publicized in the capitalist press which knows how to use these things for its own reactionary purposes. I am in no position to deny or affirm the truth of reports that these friends got together in more private gatherings that received no publicity.

Today when that friendship is not so close and direct, it is easy to see who got the most out of the collaboration. The Stalinists are working night and day to erase the record of their intimate relations with this shipowner.

Basil Harris on the other hand leads the shipowners in attacking the NMU from every quarter. In this he has not changed. The only change is the method of attack. During the period of open friendship with the NMU leaders, Harris was accomplishing the shipowners' purpose. The NMU membership was being oriented and confused. He was softening up that organization for the present period when the time for direct attack is in order. He never forgot to serve his class interest—the interest of private capital.

The same cannot be said for the Stalinists. They gave themselves over shamelessly in their wartime relationships with the shipowners. To show their sincerity they gave away a good many of the rights and conditions of the seamen who followed them. That was their part of the bargain. And all they received in exchange was a lot of "sweet talk" for this from Harris and his fellow shipowners.

Shortages Affect Babies By Grace Carlson

A news story in the April 22 St. Paul Dispatch reports the fact that we are now in the midst of the most severe diaper shortage in American history. The babies of the country are now short some 7,800,000 diapers a month and there is no relief in sight.

But this did not come as news to me. When I read the news item about the terrible diaper scarcity, I just thought wearily, "You're telling me!"

Because the arrival of twin boys at my sister's home on April 14 had meant that a number of us had to scurry around to find extra diapers and shirts and nightgowns and kimonos and what not! Anyone asking for two or three dozen diapers in a department store was met with the same kind of amazed stare as the person who comes in to buy 25 pairs of nylon hose.

After a few experiences like this, one learned to approach the diaper buying problem somewhat more intelligently. The thing to do was to

go into the baby department in the store and order several other items of babies' wearing apparel, then look the clerk in the eye and say firmly, "And I'd like to get a dozen diapers, please!"

Sometimes this would produce the desired effect. Looking around to see that no other customers were near, the clerk would reach under the counter, bring up a box of diapers, and say in the best bootleg style, "I think that I can let you have a dozen today!"

And so, by hook and by crook, we have gathered together some diapers for the twins. There aren't enough of them for comfort and convenience. It will mean that there will have to be daily or twice-daily washes done in this household. But no one is going to let these babies suffer because the country is in such a mess!

They are only 11 days old. It isn't their fault that shortages of diapers and various other consumer goods are plaguing the country.

They had no part in determining the official farm policy of the early New Deal whereby every third row of cotton was plowed under and farmers were paid not to raise cotton.

They are not responsible for the colossal destruction of World War II—for the blowing up of billions of dollars of wealth in the battles of the imperialists.

They have no connection with the present sabotage of the big industrialists, who are refusing to produce the things that people need unless they are guaranteed still greater profits. The twins do not belong to the American Cotton Textile Institute, which hinted that the diaper scarcity could be ended if the Civilian Production Administration would grant them "price incentives."

Militant Readers:

Observe May Day By Aiding Workers Abroad!

Funds — Food — Clothing are desperately needed for labor's fighters who survived the fascist terror and face famine today. Express your solidarity by a contribution to:

American Committee for European Workers Relief
116 University Place
New York 3, N. Y.

All of the poverty and greed, bloodshed and suffering on this capitalist-dominated planet is a part of a world they "never made." But we're going to change it for them!