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American Stalinism And Anti-Stalinism By James P. Cannon

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MINERS AND PHONE WORKERS FIGHT IN DEFENSE OF LABOR'S STANDARDS

Telephone System Shut Down In First Nation-wide Strike

By Alan Kohlman

APRIL 8—In the mightiest upsurge of the communications industry, some 350,000 telephone workers set up picket lines at dawn yesterday in a virtually complete tie-up of the nation's long-distance and manual phones.

Switch-board plugs were replaced with picket signs; "number please" became transformed into songs of solidarity; "the voice with a smile" was saying "Ma Bell must give us a living wage."

This is the first nation-wide phone strike, involving tens of thousands of newly unionized workers and a total of 230,000 women, the greatest number ever participating in a single strike. Yet not a single major instance of wide-spread scabbing has been reported.

The bulk of the strikers were members of the Independent National Federation of Telephone Workers which accepted the challenge flung down by the huge 7½ billion dollar AT&T monopoly. AT&T owns and controls the long-distance lines, the Bell phone subsidiaries throughout the country and the Western Electric manufacturing units. For months the phone trust had arrogantly refused to meet or even arbitrate the union demands which include \$12 a week raise, union shop and other long-needed improvements. (See other story on this page.)

Underlying these demands is an attempt by AT&T to prevent the consolidation of the organized phone workers unions. In recent months the NFW has been moving from a loosely-knit federation of autonomous unions to a strong centralized national union. AT&T, which itself exemplifies concentration of monopoly power in the camp of Big Business, deeply fears nationwide union solidarity of the phone workers. Its strategy has been to refuse to negotiate, to force a strike and then try to get the government to smash the strike and destroy this rising unification of the phone workers' national union.

The phone workers accepted this challenge. They are conscious of their great power to paralyze the communication nerve center of the economy. Their determination to fight

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N. J. Telephone Workers Defy State Seizure

NEWARK, N. J., April 8 — Governor Driscoll yesterday invoked the State's Public Utility Act to seize the phones, but 21,000 Bell union workers defied the Governor's edict, kept their picket lines intact and maintained complete solidarity with their union brothers on a nation-wide scale.

This militant action of the New Jersey phone workers, who are backed up by another 20,000 striking Western Electric employees not affected by the seizure, is of great political significance. It demonstrates that the phone workers understand that state seizure is completely in the interests of the AT&T-Bell trust.

STATE STRIKEBREAKING

Driscoll's action is a clear expression of state strikebreaking — and it was so branded by striking phone workers, by a statement of the State CIO Council pledging full support to the phone workers, and likewise by a statement of the Socialist Workers Party.

Governor Driscoll, rebuffed by this magnificent demonstration of union strength, declared this morning that he would seek new laws for compulsory arbitration and serious penalties for violating state seizure. He thereby gives further proof of how the government stands on the side of Big Business against the rights of labor.

In self defense, the entire New Jersey labor movement must give all-out support to the phone workers and achieve united action to block the State Legislature from enacting new and more restrictive anti-labor laws.

Murder For Profit!



Memorial For Dead Extends Into Battle For Safer Mines

APRIL 8—Continuing their dramatic protest over the Centralia disaster, 350,000 coal miners yesterday refused to enter pits which violate the Federal Mine Safety Code. Reports from the coal fields indicated that the men were resuming work only where new inspectors certified the mines as safe.

The same government agencies which broke the United Mine Workers strike through the courts last December and have been held responsible for the deaths of 111 miners at Centralia, are now considering various measures to get the men back into the unsafe mines.

Washington reported yesterday that the Department of Justice would ask Federal Justice Goldsborough of strike-injunction fame to crack down on the miners again. According to this report, he will be asked to raise the fine against the UMW, fixed by the Supreme Court at \$700,000, back to his original and unprecedented figure of three and one half million dollars.

On April 3, by closing 518 mines violating the Federal Safety Code, Krug's office virtually admitted its responsibility for the safety of the men in the mines, including those needlessly killed at Centralia. The Coal Mines Administrator, Captain Collisson, sent UMW President John L. Lewis a letter listing these mines. He asked Lewis "to submit for my consideration the names and locations of any other mine which the United Mine Workers of America considers to be so hazardous as to require closing." Lewis replied: "I suggest that you order closed forthwith all of the bituminous coal mines found to be in violation

Steel Union Strike Possible In May

If U. S. Steel continues to stall on contract negotiations with the CIO United Steel Workers, Philip Murray may call for a meeting of the union's Wage Policy Committee to consider preparations for a nation-wide strike on May 1, the N. Y. Times reported from Pittsburgh on Apr. 8.

of the Federal Mine Safety Code by the Bureau of Mines."

In the whole nation only two mines, in Wyoming, were found by the Federal Bureau of Mines to be living up to this code. The government, though in possession of the mines for a year and though pledged by contract with the UMW to enforce this code, had never taken any steps to make the mines safe. "No coal mine is safe which is operating in violation of the code," Lewis pointed out in his letter.

Acting on Krug's orders, Collisson has refused to close those government-operated mines which violate the government's own safety code.

In a telegram to all UMW districts today, John L. Lewis confirmed "the policy of immediate resumption of production at each mine as fast as it is certified by federal mine inspectors as being in conformity with the federal mine safety code."

Shutdown Of 518 Mines Confirms Krug's Guilt

By George Lavan

APRIL 1 — Secretary of the Interior Krug's closing of 518 coal mines because of their unsafe condition was on open admission that the government had previously

neglected to care for the safety of the men in the seized mines. This belated action confirmed the charge by United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis that government officials must be held responsible for the death of 111 miners in the explosion at Centralia, Ill.

Krug's step was taken under pressure of the six-day stoppage ordered by the UMW in protest against the killing of the Centralia victims. By closing 518 mines, Krug evidently hoped to head off further action by the men who dig the nation's coal and to protect his department and the coal operators against the demands Lewis was raising before the House Labor Committee.

Carrying the attack to the labor-hating inquisitors, Lewis demanded the removal of Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug for "criminal negligence." Lewis stated, in reference to the Centralia victims: "I say that by his inaction he permitted them to die."

Lewis' second demand was for federal legislation to make the Federal Safety Code compulsory for the mines even after they were returned to their private owners. The present safety code has no teeth in it for privately run mines. It is supposedly in force now at government-seized mines only by virtue of specific paragraphs in the contract signed by Krug and Lewis.

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Dollars For Greece Part Of "Oil Grab"

Senator Glen H. Taylor (D., Idaho) in a radio address April 4 declared that Truman's demand for authority to send American military supplies and dollars to Greece and Turkey is part of "an oil grab" in the Middle East.

"It becomes unmistakably clear," declared the Senator, "that the objective is not so much food for the Greek people as oil for the American monopolies—the oil that lies in the great underground reservoirs in the lands just east of Greece and Turkey."

He added that Truman's "doctrine" involved "a new American imperialism" based on "dollars and atom bombs."

Senate Foreign Committee Backs First Step Of Truman War Policy

By Joseph Hansen

The first step in carrying out Truman's newly-announced doctrine of openly bolstering reaction throughout the world to safeguard Wall Street's economic, financial and political interests was unanimously approved by the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee on April 3.

The Republicans and Democrats in this committee voted 13-to-0 in favor of handing the Greek monarchy and the Turkish dictatorship \$400,000,000 out of the U.S. public treasury and sending military missions to stream-line the Greek Army. Senator Taft, boss of the Republican steam-roller in the Senate, predicted swift passage of the bill.

By the same unanimous vote, the committee rejected the Pepper-Taylor substitute, which proposed restricting the measure to relief aid for Greece alone. And they likewise rejected proposals of Senator Edwin C. Johnson of Colorado to exclude Turkey and bar military intervention. Johnson's proposal to demand an end to the Greek monarchy met a like fate.

The 13 Senators agreed on including the Vandenberg amendment paying lip service to the United Nations. The amendment ostensibly permits the UN to over-see Washington's intervention in Greece and Turkey and end it if it sees fit.

GILDING THE UN

This amendment was designed to allay the great resentment of the American people over the Truman "doctrine" which they fear will lead straight down the highway to an atomic war. After ballyhooing the UN as the only means of preventing a Third World War, the Administration's by-passing of this body shocked all those who had accepted the propaganda at its face value.

Besides Vandenberg's amendment, Washington has tried to re-gild the badly-tarnished UN

by a series of statements from leading Wall Street political representatives about Truman's doctrine really helping the UN.

But this sucker-bait is belied by the campaign touched off April 1 by Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia. This influential leader of the Democratic Party demanded the "Greek-Turkish problem" be tossed into the UN. If the Soviet delegation exercised their right of veto, then Byrd would call for a "showdown" even if this "means

a retirement of Russia from the United Nations."

"I say the time has come to be realistic and to reorganize the United Nations," said the Virginia Senator, "if such action is necessary . . ."

Eric Johnston, well known spokesman of Big Business, followed up the next day with the accusation that Russia is "sabotaging" the United Nations. The N. Y. Times on April 3 added its editorial voice to the chorus.

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Indo-Chinese Send Thanks For Help In Their Struggle

How the Indo-Chinese people look to the American workers for aid in their struggle for freedom from imperialist France is graphically revealed in a letter sent the Socialist Workers Party by the Viet-Nam Government.

The letter was sent to show that the picket line organized by the Socialist Workers Party, the Workers Party and the American Viet-Nam Friendship Association in front of the French Consulate in New York on January 25 had not gone unnoticed in Indo-China.

The placards of the 200 demonstrators in the picket line demanded "Hands off Indo-China" and "No U.S. Guns to France."

The Indo-Chinese people have long fought for their independence. During the war they resisted the Japanese conquerors while the former French authorities collaborated with the representatives of the Mikado.

With the fall of Japan, the Indo-Chinese set up their own government, the Viet-Nam Republic.

But the British sent troops to Indo-China to try to put down this government just as they

tried to put down the Indonesian Republic. Later the French took over, and have since been drenching the soil of their former colony with the blood of Indo-Chinese patriots.

Most of the French arms and munitions are supplied by the American government. The mark "Made In the U.S.A." is now a

familiar sight to the Indo-Chinese. Stamped on the weapons mowing them down, it has come to signify Wall Street's reactionary role in the Far East.

As can be seen from the letter, any signs of opposition by American workers to Wall Street's policy touches the deepest emotions of the Indo-Chinese people.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM "Independence—Freedom—Happiness"

Dr. PHAM-NGOC-THACH,
Under Secretary of State
Near Hanoi, Feb. 15, 1947

Chairman, Socialist Workers Party
New York

Dear Sir:

We were deeply moved by your big demonstration in New York in favor of the struggle for Viet-Nam's independence. On behalf of President HO-CHI-MINH and the Government of Viet-Nam's Republic, I convey to you and your organization our gratitude.

On the other hand the Viet-Nam's Labor Federation asks me to send you and your organization their warmest greetings and thanks.

It was the first time American people openly supported our present fight. We hope through your activities American progressive organizations would send us arms, ammunition and medicines in order to help us wipe out the French imperialism.

Sincerely yours,
(signed) P. N. THACH

Accepting The Challenge Of The AT & T Empire

By B. Anders

APR. 7 — Finally united in action on a national scale, the 280,000 members of the National Federation of Telephone Workers today accepted the challenge of one of the largest and most arrogant monopolies in the country—the AT&T empire, which directly owns and controls all long-distance phones, 90% of controlling stock in the Bell subsidiaries and the manufacturing Western Electric units.

Strike was the only recourse left to the phone workers after AT&T's obstinate refusal to meet or arbitrate union demands. During two months of bargaining, in the words of Joseph Beirne, NFW President:

"Not a single Bell Company has offered a penny of wage increases as a counter-proposal to our demand for a \$12 a week increase . . . In most of our bargaining sessions, company representatives have proposed that seniority provisions be discarded and that promotions, transfers and reassignments be left entirely in the hands of the company. They have proposed that the number of paid holidays be reduced. They want to reduce sick pay provisions, they

would make grievance procedure less effective."

Such has been the provocative position of the Bell Companies as well as the manufacturing subsidiaries of the AT&T trust, which stubbornly refuses to bargain on a national basis. AT&T has insisted on the legal fiction that each of the operating companies bargain independently with local and regional unions.

But the puppet-like unanimity of the company statements and the uniformity of their anti-labor advertisements in the press show clearly that the Bell Companies are being operated from a central switchboard — AT&T headquarters at 165 Broadway in New York.

The over-all attitude of AT&T compelled the telephone workers to take united strike action to force the monopoly to treat employees as human beings.

The justice of the telephone

workers' demand for a \$12 a week increase is fully supported by the figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, an agency that certainly is not biased in favor of labor. The Bureau's reports show that the telephone workers are among the lowest paid utility workers. On the average they receive \$8 a week less than workers in electric light and power; \$10 a week less than transportation workers; etc.

Other union demands of the phone workers consist of a union shop, shorter apprentice periods, narrowing of wage differentials, a better pension plan and improved holiday and vacation schedules. These measures are necessary to correct the onerous Bell practices.

The NFW, organized in 1939, has been a loose and autonomous federation, whose full strength has never yet been felt. The "divide and conquer" tactics of AT&T have shown the crying necessity of a strong union organization. In last year's brief strike, the phone workers perceived the need for united action, and planned accordingly.

