FIVE CENTS

Workers Party Asks Protest on Arrest Of Polish Socialists

The arrest and threatened execution of some thirty leading Polish Socialists by the Stalinist regime in Warsaw brings to the attention of the world labor movement the systematic campaign of police terror by which the Stalinists aim to eliminate all opponents of their plan to force Poland ruthlessly into a totalitarian straightjacket.

The men who have been marked as the victims of the first large-scale political frame-up represent that section of the Polish Socialist movement which has refused to be either seduced or browbeaten into support of the pro-Russian Quisling regime. As can be seen from the records of the eleven victims whose identity is known, the arrested Socialists represent years of active participation in the struggles of the Polish labor movement. Some have records that go back to the struggles against Czarism, while all have taken an active part in the anti-Nazi underground during the German occupation. As a result, their prestige among the workers causes the Stalinists to regard them as especially dangerous enemies.

The Stalinists have chosen to strike first at the most left wing sector of the political opposition because they are fully aware of the fact that their By FRANK HARPER totalitarian plans can only be realized after they have crushed all working class opposition and succeeded in regimenting labor in a government-con-

This fear of the Socialist opposition was voiced in the Robotnik, organ of the pro-Stalinist Socialist Party which masquerades as the genuine Polish Socialist Party (PPS). Julian Hochfeld, chairman of the Government Socialists' parliamentary group, wrote as follows:

"The underground, including-perhaps even first and foremost-the underground, which masquerades as 'socialist' or infiltrates into the ranks of the working class movement-is an instrument of political crime which we are combatting and shall continue to combat without quarter or respite."

The Stalinists also bank upon the knowledge that the execution of their Socialist opponents will not bring forth a protest movement led by the American State Department and supported by the reactionary press, such as would be the case if the victims were conservative opponents of the Stalinists.

The accusations against the arrested Socialists run the usual gamut of Stalinist police charges such as having "maintained close contact with the Anders' intelligence network," "supplied a foreign intelligence service with espionage material and cooperated in the organization of terrorist activities," and "provoked strikes of a diversionary character, sent agents into workers' mass organizations, caused unhealthy unrest, indulged in anti-Soviet whispering campaigns, provoked war-mindedness, etc.'

. A release from the London emigre headquarters of the Polish Socialists comments on the accusations as follows:

'Monstrous as they are, these accusations show the gravity of the case. The Warsaw correspondent of the Manchester Guardian has reported that these Socialists are to be brought most probably before a military court, despite the fact that they are civilians. Two years after the cessation of hostilities in Europe, would-be political offenses in Poland may be still brought before military tribunals, which usually hold their sessions in camera, within the prison walls. According to the same correspondent, the accused Socialists may be liable to captial punishment. This threat cannot be taken lightly. As was proved in the case of the two Polish-Jewish Socialist leaders. Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter, executed in Russia in December, 1941, under the shameful pretext of working for Nazi Germany, neither the absurdity of the charges nor the integrity of the accused constitutes a sufficient defense or guarantee that a crime will not be committed against these

DEFENSE OF SOCIALISTS AN ELEMENTARY DUTY

The views of the Workers Party on the situation in Poland have been repeatedly set forth in considerable detail in these pages and in the monthly theoretical organ, The New International. It is our opinion that the revolutionary Marxists must give support to all popular and democratic forces in Poland that are engaged in the struggle against the Warsaw Quisling regime, while subjecting all these forces to political criticism from the point of view of the Marxist program. The crying need in Poland, today, as is the case in most of Europe, is the organization of a revolutionary Marxist party with wide support among the working masses. The most likely place where such a party can find its origin is in the independent socialist movement, in the form of its left wing.

For the revolutionary Marxists, therefore, the defense of the arrested Socialists is not only an elementary duty based on international labor solidarity and concern for democratic rights everywhere, but a defense of the movement in whose ranks lies the greatest promise for the re-creation of a genuine revolutionary Socialist Party in Poland.

The Workers Party calls upon all organizations concerned with the democratic and socialist struggle against Stalinist dictatorship to join their forces for a united protest movement on behalf of the arrested Polish So-

Polish Socialists Appeal For International Help

The following is the text of an appeal we have received from the Polish Socialist Party Delegation for Abroad:

At the end of May and the beginning of June, 1947, arrests were carried out by the secret police in Poland of veteran socialist leaders -including some who had joined the Government Socialist Party. Among the victims were Kazimierz Puzak (secretary general of the Socialist Party before and during the war and chairman of the underground Parliament during the German occupation) and Jozef Dziegielewski (secretary of the Warsaw branch of the Socialist Party before and during the war).

All the names are not yet known, but the majority of these comrades have a record of long years of work and struggle under the banner of socialism. They were in the forefront of the resistance to the Germans carried out by the underground Polish Socialist Party which—for reasons of security-had at that time adopted the name of the WRN (Freedom, Equality, Independence). And today, it is these self-sacrificing and devoted leaders who are held in the cells of the Security (political)

The slanderous and utterly false accusations of espionage brought against them by these Communist tools are intended to justify their arraignment before military tribunals and condemnation to penal servitude or even death. But they in fact betray the fear which Poland's present-day dictators feel toward men who have remained faithful to the ideals of socialism and democracy and who, though banished from political life, have yet remained a living symbol of independent democratic socialist thought and the embodiment of hope for the terrorized working masses of Poland. This is the true reason why the Security Police cover them with abuse and leave them to rot in their cellars—so that they may more easily strangle the Polish working classes and force them into subservience.

Are we facing an attempt to re-enact in Poland the Moscow "witchhunt trials" and to liquidate the whole of the splendid old guard of Polish socialism? Let those who have not yet lost their sense of justice raise their voices before this crime takes place. Soon the prisoners will face the military tribunals which are often held in the prison cell, cut off from all possibility of effective defense. But there is still time for a common effort of socialist and democratic world opinion to stay the executioner's hand raised over the heads of the best sons of the Polish

We appeal to Socialists throughout the world to leave nothing undone to prevent this new crime against Socialist leaders, tried and true fighters for freedom and democracy.

Polish Socialist Party Delegation for Abroad.

Mass Action Is the Key To Real Price Control!

Hit Scheme To Keep WP, **SWP off Ballot**

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 20 — I. Jack Rader, Frene P. Le Compte and David H. H. Felix tonight charged that there is a Republican and Democratic conspiracy to keep independent labor candidates off the ballot in Philadelphia.

Speaking at a rally and social sponsored by the Provisional Committee for the Defense of Independent Labor Candidates, the two candidates of the Workers Party and Socialist Workers Party and their defense attorney recounted the details of the deliberate attack by the Democratic - Republican coalition which resulted last week in the sentending of four participants in the election campaign on charges of contempt of court.

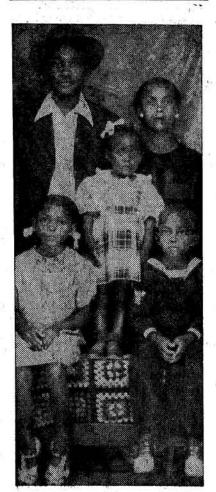
Originally charges were filed by the Democratic attorney, Thomas Minnick, claiming irregularities in the petition forms and signatures. The Election Board, headed by Republican Morton Witkin, only too glad to be of service to their alleged rivals, subpoenaed the WP and SWP candidates, pre-emptors and affiants. Before this hearing by the Election Board could be held, Minnick filed an appeal in the City Court, Since the latter court has precedence over the Election Board, Defense Attorney Felix advised his clients not to answer questions before the Election Board. This refusal to answer questions on advice of counsel led to charges of contempt of court being filed against the candidates and affiants by the Election Board. Hearing on these charges before Judge Harry S. McDevitt on September 12 resulted in the sentencing of the defendants, who were subsequently released on \$4,000 bail pending decision on the appeal to the State Superior Court next March.

ASK WRIT OF MANDAMUS

In the meantime and without any testimony being presented, the County Board of Elections rejected the Workers Party and Socialist Workers Party nomination papers. The two groups have requested Judge McDevitt to issue a writ of mandamus to the Election Board to reinstate the parties on the ballot. Hearing on this action will be held in the City Hall on Friday, September 26.

During the legal proceedings the WP and SWP have worked closely together and carried out joint activities. The experience of the sentencing of the four comrades without

(Continued on page 4)



Mr. and Mrs. Hickman and three of the children who were burned to death. See story by Willard Motley on page 2.

Better Yet - - Eat Cake!



CIO, AFL Unions Pledge Aid to Hickman Defense

CHICAGO-Organizations representing tens of thousands of Chicagoans get the tenants out "even if it takes are still pledging their support to the fight to free James Hickman from the threat of death. The real issue involved in his case is becoming clearer daily.

On July 16 Hickman shot and killed his unscrupulous landlord, David Coleman. To Hickman, it seemed that Coleman was directly guilty of murdering four of the seven Hickman children who perished in their fire-trap flat last winter in one of the South Side Negro ghetto's worst fire disasters of the

The Hickman family of nine had Avenue in a 14-foot square third floor attic flat, without light, gas, water or protection from fire, where Landlord Coleman made all kinds of promises to Hickman, all of them broken. Witnesses later testified that could convert the flats into kitchen- attic doorway. ettes, thus considerably increasing his income. They testified that Cole- over the death of his four children

man stated he would do anything to a fire to do it."

On the night of January 16, fire swept through the attic cubbyhole and the four youngest Hickman children were burned to death. They were Leslie, 14; Elvena, 9; Sylvester, 7: and Velvena, 3. The mother, Anne, 40, and two other sons escaped with serious injuries.

NO REPAIRS MADE

In its February 27 verdict on the death of the Hickman children, the coroner's jury castigated the owners of firetrap tenements, condemned vigorously the conditions where the found a "home" at 1733 Washburne "Hickmans lived and condemned especially the landlord for permitting such conditions to exist. The case was turned over to the State's Attorthey lived "like rats in a hole." ney for investigation to see if the fire was of incendiary origin, since testimony indicated that an unknown man who warned of fire in the build-Coleman had on numerous occasions ing was present just before the fire stated that he wanted to evict the broke out, and an unidentified kerotenants of the building so that he sene can was found by the Hickman's

Months of grief-stricken brooding

and the injuries to his wife and son brought James Hickman to the point of shooting David Coleman, who, Hickman states, confessed to him that he actually set the fire. Mr. Hickman now is held in prison on the charge of "murder."

The tenants of the Washburn Avenue building have organized a tenants' union and have been on a rent strike since the day of the fire, struggling to force the landlord to put the building in a safe, sanitary and livable condition, But they still for it and getting inferior clothes, as have no water, gas or light. The fire's damage to the roof has never been repaired. No fire escapes have been installed. The water department and utilities companies refuse to provide facilities until the wiring and water pipes are repaired. Four families, unable to find other housing, are forced to continue living under these miserable conditions. Coleman had repeatedly tried to force them to va-

A COMMON STORY

As the Hickman Defense Committee states: "The story of James Hickman is the story of millions of com-(Continued on page 2)

Government **Plan Means** "Eat Less!"

By SUSAN GREEN

While Republican Senator Taft was telling us to eat less to solve the price crisis, he was taking all the nourishment to which he is accustomed. While Democratic President Truman was leisurely wending homeward aboard the Missouri. hoping perhaps that God would solve the food situation, he was eating his three squares a day, plus no doubt the in-between snacks usual aboard ship. While the politicians of both parties, with their eyes on the 1948 election, pussyfoot and delay on committing themselves on the food question, their stomachs are satis-

fied and their bodies amply clothed. They are far removed from the human deprivation that dollar meat, butter and eggs mean. Here, however, are some of the facts of working class life under stratospheric prices, which worry the workers.

As the CIO News points out, the constant rise in prices has been equivalent to constant cuts in wages. These wage cuts by the mounting cost of living are as actual and as serious as if the money were taken out of the pay envelope and make immediate wage increases impera-

The high food prices have upset the family budget to such an extent that many families are now "eating their clothing." Money formerly set aside for clothing goes for food. Home economists report this alarming fact. Parents want to give proper food to their youngsters and are using clothing money for fairly nourishing meals, but they also ask: "Now what will we do when Junior's

shoes wear out?" It is not the new fashions in silhouette and hemline that bother the low-income family. The problem is how to keep warm in the coming fall and winter. Where will the money come from for blankets, for warm coats, for shoes, for overshoes? With so much of the budget used up for food, what is left for clothing is insignificant, clothing prices also being much too high. What will happen inevitably is that such families will buy clothes on credit, paying more is customary in installment buying. They will have this additional burden with no foreseeable means of getting out of debt.

But not all low-income families give up their clothing money for food. Some try to buy a little of both, with the result that serious undernourishment is evident.

Health Commissioner Weinstein of New York reports that high food costs are having a bad effect on the diets of expectant mothers and of children, both needing high protein foods such as meat, eggs and milk. A child health station physician reports that when he tells mothers

(Continued on page 2)

Crisis Marked by Parallel Developments. Mass Discontent Rising in Italy

By IRVING HOWE

A general strike of the peasants of northern Italy has recently ended with a minor wage increase as the tangible result. Other strikes have broken out among the peasants of the Rome area and the steel workers of the North. The American press describes these strikes as provoked by the Italian Communist (Stalinist) Party in order to overthrow the pro-U.S. de Gasperi government. The Stalinists, in turn, speak of a threatening revolution, which they have done their best to hold back. What, then, is the relationship between these mass actions and the immediate political needs of the Sta-

We are here up against the central

with certain differences, to France as any socialist party in Italy, that well. Italy is on the verge of bankruptcy; its economy has made no appreciable recovery since the war; its people have lived in a state of perpetual semi-starvation; its present government is unpopular among the masses. Were it not for the support of the U.S. dollar, the regime would no doubt crumble.

The Italian masses unquestionably desire the most thoroughgoing social changes-that is, a social revolution in which they will take over the economic and political life of the country. It would be idle to attempt from this distance to analyze the specific temper of the masses, whether they are ready for an upward swing of revolutionary activity or whether they are acting out of desperation in problem of European socialist poli- a downward swing of militancy. If tics. What is said for Italy applies, there were an influential revolution-

would be of secondary importance: such a party could galvanize this vast discontent into aggressive ac-

TWO DEVELOPMENTS

But the tragic fact is that the Italian masses, by and large, follow the leadership of the Stalinists. A smaller section follows the "left" Socialist Party of Pietro Nenni which is by now completely in the hands of the Stalinists. No matter how mistaken that belief may be, the Italian masses believe that the Stalinist party is a revolutionary party which will bring socialism for them. (This statement by no means exhausts what has to be said about the nature of the Stalinist party, but in this instance it is primary in importance.)

Consequently there have recently

occurred two parallel developments. On the one hand the situation of the workers has become increasingly desperate: rising prices, black markets. etc. Grumbling has spread through the factories and farms, outbursts of unorganized action. Sensitive as they are to the moods of the workers whom they mislead, the Stalinists have been aware that it was necessary to provide some show of action to convince the workers that they, the Stalinists, were still their most aggressive and militant leaders. And at the same time, the independent needs of the Stalinist bureaucracy have required a show of force against the de Gasperi regime. As the relations between Stalinist Russia and the Anglo-American bloc have worsened, Italy has become one of the battlegrounds in their conflict*to con-(Continued on page 3)

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Reuther Blisters Addes-Stalinists Bloc

By WALTER JASON

DETROIT, Sept. 21-The pre-convention struggle in the UAW-CIO between the Reuther caucus and the Addes - Stalinist bloc began with a blistering attack by Walter P. Reuther, UAW-CIO president, on the record of his opponents, and a sharp retort by R. J. Thomas, one of the spokesmen of the Addes-Stalinist

In two fiery speeches before large caucus meetings on the East and West sides of Detroit, Reuther told his cheering supporters that the time had come for a showdown with the Addes-Stalinist forces and he urged the rank and file to throw them out

An article reporting the sessions of the UAW Board in Buffalo arrived too late for inclusion in this issue. Watch for it in next week's LABOR ACTION.

of office at the coming convention to be held November 9,

Reuther's speeches came at the same time he released a report to the entire membership through the medium of the United Automobile Worker, official union publication. Without mentioning names, Reuther tore into the factional record of his opponents in his first real report to the union on the factional struggle.

The Reuther report presumably was read by Philip Murray, CIO president, before Reuther released it. Likewise, Murray came to Detroit and presented Reuther with the CIO national award for special recognition on FEPC work. This was an obvious, if indirect, endorsement of Reuther.

CONCEDES TO MURRAY

Reuther blasted the expenditure of \$500,000, ostensibly on the Thompson Products organizing drive, but actually used for "pork - chopping" by the Addes-Stalinist group. He outlined in more detail the terribly irresponsible and factionalist approach of his opponents on all questions facing the union in the past two years. He sharply attacked the Sta-

linist party for its reactionary role in the union movement. As he usually does, he added that he was against "all outside interference in the union movement."

In one major point the written report of Reuther to the membership constituted another retreat from his previous position, and this one was president, who evaded the serious against the decision adopted at the national Reuther caucus. At that meeting, the statement of policy on political action spoke clearly on the used against Reuther were "another need for independent labor political Homer Martin, a red-baiter, a dictaaction. This was dropped for vague tor, a social-fascist," thus indicating and even more opportunistic formu- the kind of character assassination

las on political action. This repre- which would mark the bankrupt polsents another concession to Murray, iticians' struggle to save their jobs who is expected to demand support for Harry Truman for President in 1948 from the entire CIO leadership.

The first reaction to Reuther's report to the membership was a statement by R. J. Thomas, UAW vicecharges Reuther made and simply answered by name-calling of Reuther. In the shops some of the terms

from the wrath of the rank and file, who seem to be strongly with Reu-

ther, as during the FE merger fight. Beginning Monday, September 22, the International Executive Board was to hold its last session before the convention and here a counterattack against Reuther and a series of organizational moves against him were expected. The intensity of the struggle in its first week indicates that the faction fight is going to assume the most violent character in

Key to Real Price Control --

(Continued from page 1)

they should include eggs in their children's diet, "they either shrug or laugh bitterly at the advice." From similar sources we learn that the consumption of milk is going down. Furthermore, high prices have reduced the buying power of government appropriations for school lunches, so that children suffer there too.

"VOLUNTARY RATIONING"

"Let them eat less" doesn't seem as good a remedy to those who are forced to eat less by high prices, as it does to well-fed Senator Taft. Nor is Taft alone in advocating this quack cure-all. Aside from such inadequacies as meatless days and the silly talk about victory gardensfor the fall and winter, no less-Washington seems to favor what they call "voluntary rationing."

This is another way of saying "Let them eat less." The Departments of Agriculture and of Commerce have come out for tightening the belts of the people. The congressional committee is now "investigating" in New York, and in Washington President Truman's cabinet food committee is "advising" him-probably along the line of "voluntary rationing" or "eat

The assorted left-over New Deal-

a stand for price control and ask for an extra session of Congress to pass a law. Arthur Krock, hardheaded Washington columnist for the New York Times, thinks the chances of an extra session are slight, in spite of Secretary Marshall's view that a special session is necessary to provide some immediate aid for Eu-

Krock is of the opinion that calling Congress together now will stir up a witch's cauldron, with unpredictable results for the 1948 election, by which all politicians are today guided, and Truman won't take a chance. The Republicans are also not eager for a congressional rehash of the price situation now, since it is this very Republican Congress that ended OPA, inadequate as it was.

It is foolhardy for the working people to place all their hopes on an extra session of Congress. Indeed, let the AFL, the CIO and all working class organizations demand price control and an extra session of Congress to pass such a law. But selfreliance is the best bet for the working people. Really curative action

ers, the AFL and the CIO have taken can come only from the workers and consumers themselves.

RELY ON OURSELVES

Again, LABOR ACTION urges the formation of neighborhood consumer committees cooperating with the unions. Together they can make a buyers' strike work. They could temporarily fix prices by deciding what they will pay and what they won't. They can picket and boycott. With neighborhood education, they can develop solidarity among housewives and efficiency of joint action by housewives and workers.

Demands upon the government by such acting mass organizations will carry weight and give substance to the necessary provision that any price control law to be effective must be carried out in the neighborhoods by consumer and worker committees, not by politicians.

Such active mass organizations would also show by example that workers' committees could control the food industries under a plan for socialization, which is the only complete solution for this food problem.

DETROIT NEGRO FIRST ASSAULTED BY COPS. THEN ARRESTED ON TRUMPED-UP CHARGE

DETROIT - The Police Department of Detroit need no longer go unaided in intimidating and insulting people within city limits. It seems to be open season for brutality. The only requirement: a policeman's uni-

Two squad car policemen from the neighboring city of Ecorse stop a worker driving through Detroit and demand to see his driver's license. When he does not respond quickly enough, they seize his wallet from his hand and tear his license to bits. He protests. The two pounce upon him, handcuff him and begin to beat him with their fists. Then they arrest him on a trumped-up charge of drunkenness and throw him into

This little incident took place in Detroit at the corner of Ethel and Peters on Saturday, September 13, at 6:00 p.m. In order to give a partial legal justification to their criminal assault, the Ecorse policemen falsified their records and reported the blocks away, within the city limits

Darby Barber, the victim of the assault, who works at the U. S. Rubber Company has been subjected to a constant campaign of intimidation by these policemen. Sergeant Campbell and his aide. Several months ago Campbell stopped Barber in Ecorse and gave him a ticket for an alleged minor traffic violation. Barber was not humble enough to the insulting policemen. At that time, they threatened to beat him if he didn't keep his mouth shut. Ever since, these policemen have followed Barber's automobile whenever they saw it enter Ecorse limits. Finally they took their long awaited and long planned

Barber is a Negro. The two cops who practiced criminal assault upon him are also Negroes. There is a little lesson in this unprovoked police brutality: A cop is a cop...white or black.

incident as taking place several

squeeze, but Jim's wasn't disheart-Then, there was another catchcoming from the lips of Coleman, the landlord. "One hundred bucks for the apartment downstairs when it is vacant. One hundred bucks on the spot before you move into the attic." im paid up. Meanwhile, for the attic space where they were stacked like baggage they were charged six dollars a week. Five months passed. There was still give him back his hundred dollars. Coleman told him to move out. Coleman told all the tenants in the build-

ing to get out. He was going to convert it into kitchenettes. He'd make more money that way. Nowhere to go. No one in the building had anywhere to go. Coleman said he'd get them out. He'd get them out if it took a fire to do it.

the best-selling novel about Chica- you out." AND THE FIRE COMES

"Coleman Murdered My Kids!"

Noted Writer Presents a Picture of James Hickman

go's West Side, "Knock on Any

pears on page one of this issue.

By WILLARD MOTLEY

Hickman did kill a man!

other "unwritten law."

given the same circumstances.

Look at Mr. Hickman, pictured

above with his wife and three of his

ine the facts. These are the facts:

from the South to find more oppor-

tunity for his family—a better

home, better wages, better schools.

Jim found his job in the steel mills.

And then there was the problem of a

home. He found that too. After

many months of searching he found

black belt of great sprawling 'indus-

trial Chicago, was it a better home?

It was one attic room on the third

floor of a tenement house. A room

without water, without gas, without

lights. One cramped room in an attic

into which he, his wife and his seven

children moved. Yes, it was a tight

LANDLORD THREATENS FIRE

Today I talked with Hickman. To-

other man it seems to me that Hick-

Door." His article was released by The fire came. One night last Janthe Hickman Defense Committee. The picture referred to below apuary the fire started at the door of the attic room. Willis, the 20-yearold son, pushed his mother to the window, lowered her down the brick wall and dropped her to the hard pavement below. There were flames The picture above is of a man all around him by now. He could not whom the State charges with murget to the others nor to the stairway. der. Pictured with him are three of He jumped from the window, serihis children who, with a fourth, ously injuring himself. His arm will were burned to death in a fire. James never be right again.

Charles, nineteen, awakened in a daze. He fled down the flaming stairday I well understood how and why way before he realized the others he could have killed another man. were still back there upstairs. But And if one is justified in killing anthen it was too late. In the smokey, firey room were still the four youngman was justified. If a man may kill est children. Awakening, they crawlanother man when his wife is involved ed under the bed, secure there, they and they call it the "unwritten law" felt, from whatever threatened them. then perhaps there is another "un-Leslie, fourteen, protectively shieldwritten law." Perhaps if a landlord ed his brother and sisters with his allows conditions that undeniably own body. And they waited. No help lead to the death of four members of came. There was no way up to them. a man's family, if a landlord threat-Just the fiery steps, swaying now, ens that he will burn you out of your and ready to fall in flames. When home, if the home does burn down the fire was extinguished the charred and four of your children are burned body of the fourteen-year-old boy to death—then perhaps there is this was found still shielding his brother and sisters, aged nine, seven and Today I talked to Hickman. Tothree, from the death that came horday I felt that perhaps I, too, or ribly. These are the facts: almost any other man, would have done the same thing as he has done,

And further facts: A kerosene can was found sitting outside the attic door. No one had ever seen it before. A stranger had run through the house warning the tenants of the first and second floor that the building was on fire. No one ever saw him again.

children-a common enough picture. Had Coleman started the fire as When you look at it you can't see he threatened? Jim, when he came death in the children's eyes, nor home, found the fire Coleman had grief in the mother's nor desperapromised him. He found the charred tion in the father's. That came later. bodies of his four youngest children. Look at Mr. Hickman and exam-Had Coleman done it? The question nagged him as he moved in a daze Like many Negroes, Jim moved around the ruins of what had been a

Willard Motley is the author of To Jim Hickman he said, "I'll burn home and a family. It nagged him. Over days and weeks it nagged him. Over months it pursued him. No, no human being could be so cruel to another human being. To a child! To four children. . . . They had done nothing. . . . The question pursued

> him. He couldn't talk to his wife. He couldn't falk to anybody. He couldn't think. . . . The question nagged him. It itched inside him until he knew Coleman had killed his children. At: the coroner's inquest Coleman was reprimanded for violating fire ordinances. But he had been reprimanded before-and even fined. Coleman murdered my kids, Jim told himself. The law knows it.

It was not a question any more. It was a certainty. And the certainty itched and nagged, nagged and itched, and Jim remembered only one thing: "I'll burn you out,"-Coleman had said.

So this is a picture of a man who has killed another man. You have seen many pictures of men who have killed. You have seen the photographs of the returned soldier. Perhaps next door lives a boy who killed some other boy during the war. In the war millions of men killed other millions of men because they believed they were a threat to their homes, their wives, their children. This threat was thousands of miles from home. These were strangers killed, with whom there had been no personal contact. James Hickman killed the man who had threatened his wife and children with a death more horrible than the Nazi gas chambers. And carried it out. This is what I was thinking of as I sat talking to Hickman today.

Hickman needs help. There are three children left who need him. A wife who needs him. Will you help

Hickman Defense - -

(Continued from page 1)

But was it a better home? In the mon people who are victims of the scandalous housing shortage and of landlerd greed. His action was not an answer to the problem, but it was an expression of the frustration and resentment of the underprivileged against those responsible for their misery.

"The real criminals are real estate interests who, put profits above the welfare of the people. The real criminals are those who foster racial segregation and condemn millions to the congested, vermin-infested firetraps of the black ghetto. The real criminals are the public officials who permit landlords to violate all safety regulations and refuse to launch a public housing program to relieve the shortage.

"Demand an end to firetraps, slums

"Organize tenant leagues! "Demand an end to racial segregation.

"Demand a large-scale, low-rental public housing program!"

COMMITTEE NEEDS SUPPORT

The Hickman Defense Committee,

chaired by Willoughby Abner, vicepresident of the Chicago CIO Coun-

cil, has in the few weeks of its existence won the support of the CIO movement, a significant section of the AFL in Chicago, particularly in the Building Service Employees Council, the NAACP, CORE, and numerous churches. On Sunday, September 28, it plans

to hold a defense rally at the Metropolitan Community Church eat 41st and Southern Parkway, with prominent speakers, such as Tallulah Bankhead, actress; Willard Motley, author of the best-selling novel; "Knock on Any Door"; Ralph Helstein, president of the United Packinghouse Workers of America, and Henry McGee, president of the Chicago NAACP.

Considerable interest has been expressed by wide segments of the Chicago population in the Hickman case because it stands as a symbol of what can happen as a result of the desperate housing crisis. Those persons who desire to aid the Defense Committee's work financially may do so by sending their contributions directly to the Hickman Defense Committee, 4619 Southern Parkway, Chicago 15, Ill., or to the committee through the Chicago Local of the Workers Party, which supports the Defense Committee.

With the Workers Party All readers of LABOR ACTION are invited to attend meetings, class

tures and socials sponsored by local branches of the WORKERS PARTY. Visit our headquarters listed below to purchase Marxist literature, the NEW INTERNATIONAL and LABOR ACTION. For information of WORKERS PARTY, activities in cities not listed below, write to WORKERS PARTY, 4 Court Square, Long Island City 1, N. .Y.

AKRON Write to Box 221.

BALTIMORE

International Fellowship House. 21 West Preston St., 2nd floor.

Monday at 8 p. m., 2nd floor. Public forums every second Friday of each month. Socialist Youth League meets every

Monday at 8 p.m.

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1501 W. Madison Ave., 2nd floor, Chicago 7. Telephone: CHEsapeake Office hours: 3-5:30 p. m. daily. Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

CLEVELAND WP Branch meets Sundays, 8 p.m., in Room 4, Slovenian Hall, 6409 St.

DETROIT Election rally: Friday, September 12, 8 p. m., at Venetian Hall: For volunteer work in election campaign, send your name to local office.

6341 Gratiot, Room 10. Telephone:

LOS ANGELES 3314 So. Grand, Los Angeles 7, Cal. Telephone: Richmond 7-3230 (if no answer, phone AX 2-9067). Office hours: 2 to 5 p. m., daily.

LOUISVILLE Write to: Robert Durant, Box 11812 Louisville, Ky.

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CITY CENTER: 114 West 14th St., 3rd floor. Open every day from 16 a, m. to 7 p, m. Wednesday and Thurs-day until 10:30 p. m. Telephone: CHelsea, 2-9681. BRONX BRANCH: Thursday, 5:15 m., at Wilkins Hall, 1330 Wilkins

HARLEM BRANCH: Wednesday, 8:15 p.m., at the Workers Party head-quarters, 2143 Seventh Ave. (near 126th St.) Room 16. CENTRAL BRANCH: Wednes

8:15 p. m., at the City Center, 114 West 14th St. CHELSEA BRANCH: Thursday, 8:15 p. m., at the City Center, 114 West 14th St.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH: Thursday, 8:15 p. m., at the City Center, 114
West 14th St.
B'KLYN - DOWNTOWN BRANCH:

Thursday, 8:15 p. m., at the Workers Party headquarters, 276 Fulton St., Breoklyn, 2nd floor. B'KLYN-BROWNSVILLE BRANCH: Wednesday, 8:15 p.m., at the De Luxe Palace, 538 Howard Ave. (near Pitkin

SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE: Friday, 8:15 p.m., at the Workers Party headquarters, 276 Fulton St., Brooklyn, 2nd floor.

SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE MANHATTAN UNIT: Open forums, Friday nights, 8:15, at WP City Cen-ter, 114 West 14th Street. For more information write to above address. BROOKLYN UNIT: Open forums, Thursday nights, 8:15, at De Luxe Palace, 558 Howard Avenue (near Pitkin). For more information write to Socialist Youth League, 4 Court Square, 4th floor, Long Island City 1, N. Y.

PHILADELPHIA 1139 West Gerard Ave., 3rd floor. Meetings Wednesdays at 8 p. m. Forums every Friday, 8:15 p. m.

READING Write to P. O. Box 1671.

ST. LOUIS Write to: Douglas Bridge, 6517 Corbitt Ave., University City 14, Mo. SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA Write to: Labor Action, 466 Tenth St., Room 206 Oakland 7, Calif.

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(Please print)

We Eat Less Dear Comrades: I am sending along a clipping from

Taft Proposes

the capitalist press that is really a gem. Perhaps you can make use of it; the original I am keeping because I intend to read it at my union meetting. In the September 12 issue of the Seattle Times, page 5, there appeared the following:

"EAT LESS TO BEAT PRICES, TAFT URGES

"SANTA CRUZ, Calif., Sept. 12. (AP) -Senator Robert A. Taft, Republican, Ohio, predicted today that the high cost of living may be a prime issue in the 1948 political campaign. He called on Americans to eat less food as a means of combatting soar-

."Taft, here for two appearances before the state bar of California, told a news conference rising prices may be far more important to the average American next year than the controversy over the Taft-Hartley Labor Law.

"If the labor leaders try to make this bill an issue in the 1948 election they will be overwhelmingly defeat-

Taft, starting here on a tour to determine whether he will seek the Republican presidential nomination in 1948, said increased domestic consumption was keeping prices high and suggested that people eat less food, particularly meat, as a means' of meeting the situation.

There we have it, plain and simple, right from the shoulder by a ture President: we are eating too of Elections in Philadelphia. My SWP or the WP doesn't obtain here. much, and if we could only learn to thoughts flew back to 10:30 a.m. Had control our appetites no doubt our, I been wrong in flinching under Martroubles would be over.

Comradely. John Howard, Seattle.

Thoughts Inspired By Freedom Train Dear Friends:

Today was an auspicious one. Martial music filled the air, political heelers waxed eloquent, and Kate Smith's "God Bless America" blared forth from all the radio stations. This diversified melange celebrated the launching of the Freedom Train in Philadelphia, referred to sometimes as the "City of Brotherly Love." Senator Martin of Pennsylvania unleashed his demagoguery and hackneyed platitudes extolling the rich heritage that we in America enjoy. He pulled out all the stops and the crescendo of his oratory reached its peak. My mind by force of habit went back to Sacco-Vanzetti, the Haymarket Affair, Harlan County, Centralia, the South, ad infinitum. As I thought, the thread of his oratory mingled with visions of the rich heritage that labor has had in America. I winced and writhed and suppressed my real feelings.

When I arrived home I found a letter awaiting me. It was an appeal from the Provisional Committee for Labor Candidates. A personal note from the Philadelphia WP Branch organizer called upon me to help out

tin's rhetoric? A sample of some of his statements deserves attention. "We have a Constitution and a Bill

Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor

of Rights. We have our civil liberties." The Senator would deem it impertinent to challenge that-but... Just what are civil liberties if they are not allowed to function? Why pay lip service to something which is yanked back like a bone on a string when the time comes to exercise those liberties? Further: "If people here talk dangerous foolishness we guard against it not with slave camps or firing squads but with intelligent education with our great channels of free expression and with even-handed laws" (emphasis supplied). Dangerous foolishness means the public's comprehension of tweedledum and tweedledee politicians and the growing awareness of the need for independent labor action. Intelligent education in Martin's sense means merely that 99 per cent of our "free press" educates us by misinformation, distorted information, and no information. "Even-handed" apparently are those laws which are even-handed to citizens of doubtful "Americanism." but which are withdrawn at the precise moment they would like to benefit by them. Laws which aren't applied to them, as say, to a giant corporation or a financial tycoon.

"Guard these precious civil liberthe Political Rights of Independent ties for all," he goes on. "If we permit them to be wiped out for some minorities-political, racial or religious-then we shall lose them for financially, morally and vocally in all the people." Disallowance from great politician and a possible fu- calling to account the County Board the ballot of a minority such as the Neither does it obtain in New York, Minneapolis, 'Houston or San Francisco. However, it makes for good platform verbiage.

"I feel strongly about the dangerous crackpots and fractional Americans," he states. No doubt he does. He also felt equally strong in his opposition to "hooded men who take the law into their own hands." Does he feel strongly about the men in robes who daily climb onto their benches and render decisions out of harmony with those laws? These men do not take the law into their own hands. It is placed there and they then proceed to mold and shape it as fits the faction on the opposite

The American Committee for European Workers Relief

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4-5820 or at the door

side of the bar. No strong feelings about that, eh Senator?

The method of "hooded men," etc., is not the way to beat Communism. (Or any other disfranchised party, he might have added.) "Persecuted people will turn in bitterness from Americanism, (enunciated from deep down in the abdomen with a sanctified look on the face) to Communism" (with horror, pleading and disdain mingled in the voice).

What Americans must do, according to this pundit of high capitalism, is to file docilely through Freedom Train and imagine themselves back in the eighteenth century, adamantly believing that the men who promulgated these documents intended the kind of America which "duly elected" administrators such as Martin tell us we must have. He, a mere tool of employing capitalism, voiced his lesson well, and hoped fervently that his employers gave him a passing grade for his work. They should.

> Norman Johnstone, New Jersey.

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By PAUL FROELICH

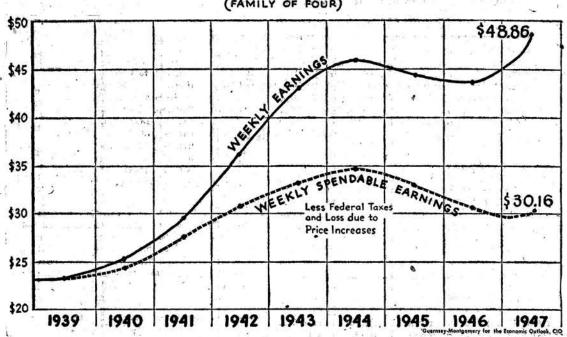
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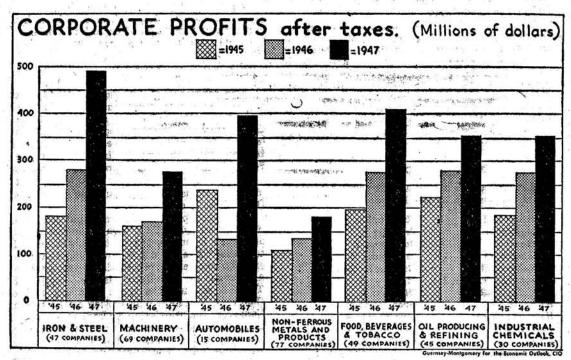
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Editorials-

Profits, Wages and Prices

WEEKLY TAKE-HOME PAY IN MANUFACTURING, 1939-1947 (FAMILY OF FOUR)





The graphs which appear above are from the July issue of the CIO's Economic Outlook which will shortly be republished as a pamphlet, "What's Ahead?" We think the facts make sufficient editorial comment on the price situation."

Issues in the Santo Hearing

The muck contributed by both sides in the hearings initiated by the federal government to secure the deportation as an "undesirable alien" of John Santo, organization director of the CIO Transport Workers Union, has so far served to obscure the real issue. The issue, as we see it, is the Justice Department's attempt to regulate political thinking, hence political affiliation. It is an attempt which must be resisted, for it represents a foul blow at civil liberties in general, and specifically contains within it the threat of incalculable harm to the labor movement.

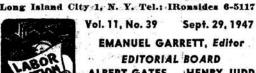
The Department of Justice claims that Santo is a Communist, and therefore an undesirable alien. When it first undertook action against Santo some years ago, it claimed that he had entered the country illegally. Little is made of this now, inasmuch as Santo served in the Army and re-entered the country legally. Just what Santo's attorney, Harry Sacher, is trying to prove, is hard to say. So far he has occupied himself almost entirely with a vulgar display which has little to do with the main issue, but which is presumably intended to discredit the prosecution stoolpiegeons. (The Daily Worker has treated its readers to a field day of moral hypocrisy such as is rarely matched even in the worst tabloid press, with blaring headlines accusing Budenz of having violated the Mann Act, and its accounts of Sacher's indignant fulminations on behalf of the "sacrament of marriage." The Stalinists, however, have not been alone in this. And, not to be outdone by the Stalinists, the Social Democratic New Leader, over the signature of Liston Oak, indulged in its own sanctimonious hypocrisy.)

Now, Santo may well be a member of the Communist Party; he is certainly a Stalinist fellow traveler who carries into the union of which he is an official the poison of Stalinism. Our readers are sufficiently well acquainted with our views on Stalinism. They are not, however, the question

NMU CONVENTION

The National Maritime Union is meeting in convention as we go to press. It is too early to predict the outcome of the convention, which began with an open declaration of war between the Curran forces and the Stalinist wreckers, but it is clearly the most important convention in the history of the union and may prove to be one of the most important union conventions in recent labor history. LABOR ACTION next week will carry a full account of the convention. Do not miss it!

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ALBERT GATES HENRY JUDD IRVING HOWE

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at Issue. Stalinism, its party and its agents are abhorrent enemies of the working class. The labor movement must, therefore, be vigilant against these servants of Kremlin despotism. But it is a job that cannot be done for the labor movement by the government without grave danger to the labor movement. It is, in short, a job for the labor movement itself. In the particular case of Santo, it is a job for the transport workers. That is, it is their responsibility to oppose him in the union. But while we think the transport workers ought to oppose Santo in the union, we think they ought to defend him against the government's move.

There is no contradiction in that whatsoever. Victory for the government in this case will mean defeats for labor in other cases. It will mean that the government can determine the political views of any worker. The same rules invoked against a Stalinist today may be invoked tomorrow against any worker who is fed up with this rotten system of want and joins a socialist organization to do something about it. It has always worked so.

The alien aspect is especially important. Stalinism is objectionable. There is nothing whatsoever objectionable in being an "alien." Why shouldn't an "alien" take his place in the ranks of the labor movement, as leader or militant? We should welcome the contributions of our brothers from other lands. Deportation has ever been one of the most revolting weapons in the hands of reaction. Today when deportation may mean starvation, it must occasion special protest. And let us remember that the deportation of a Santo may next be followed by the deportation of an anti-Stalinist worker, a Polish socialist, for example, to a Stalinist prison.

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WORKERS PARTY INFORMATION BLANK

I am interested in joining the Workers Party of the United States. Will you please send me all information as to your Program and how I can become a member.

Parallel Developments Mark Rising Discontent in Italy --

(Continued from page 1)

trol Europe. The Stalinists have not decided as yet to attempt to capture power in Italy; that would be provoking a full-scale crisis prematurely. But they are conducting a kind of guerrilla political warfare against the Anglo-American puppet regime led by de Gasperi.

Hence the Stalinists have been able to utilize to their own advantage the discontent of the Italian masses. Where in the past they had to risk losing their hold on the masses because the dictates of international Stalinist policy required that they restrain the masses' revolutionary fervor, now they are able to go along with it to a certain extent. Hence their leadership of the peasant and worker strikes.

"HUNGER MARCH" FAILS

But this is not an automatic process, not a vicious circle. For a point is reached where the interests of the Stalinist bureaucracy and the needs and desires of the masses clash. That was clearly indicated in the recent events. The Stalinists called a "hunger march" for September 20 which the de Gasperi government fearfully labeled a "prelude to revolution." Actually it was nothing of the kind but de Gasperi was trying to drum up another U.S. loan by impressing Washington with the danger of a "Communist" regime.

Now the masses had responded enthusiastically and overwhelmingly to the call for a general strike which had preceded the "hunger march." Instances were reported of peasants seizing lands and workers taking temporary control of the factories. Yet the response to the "hunger march" was poor, quite below the response of previous comparatively routine demonstrations. Why should the climax of what began as a vast mass movement have fizzled?

The answer is the key to the situation. Once de Gasperi started shouting that the "hunger march" was a prelude to revolution, the Stalinist leader, Togliatti, issued a public statement denying that it was anything of the kind. Togliatti didn't want revolution; he just wanted pressure. In that case, then, the "hunger march" was just another demonstration, like many that preceded it; the "hunger march" was just a fancy name for more speeches. And the time had come for action. That was why the Italian workers did not respond in nearly the proportion to the 'hunger march" that they had to the previous general strike: they realized that nothing would come of it.

Here, then, is the weak spot in the Stalinist armor, through which a wedge could be driven between them and the workers. Here is the point where the legitimate interests and desires of the workers conflict openly with those of the Stalinist apparatus. And here is the point at which a revolutionary socialist party in Italy could have gone to work.

SIGNIFICANT SIGNS

By A. CALVES

most important.

Now the undeniable truth is that the worsening of relations between Russia and the U.S. has resulted in the Kremlin allowing its puppet par-"more rope." It has allowed them to play a more "militant" and oppositionist role in Western Europe. This, in turn, has enabled the Stalinists to solidify their hold over the workers in these countries. All reports from France and Italy indicate that the Stalinists' going over

BREST, France.—Among the tasks

of the Trotskyists in France, "prole-

tarian Fraternization" is one of the

The German occupation and Nazi

atrocities naturally increased chauv-

inism in France. The Stalinist Party

did not fight this chauvinism. On

the contrary, it reinforced it. The

arguments of the Stalinist leaders

on the attitude of the German sol-

diers are not valid, for these Stalin-

ist leaders never fought to win over

a single German soldier, even at the

beginning of the occupation. They

were too busy flirting with the "kom-

During the occupation, the Trotsky-

ist group of Brest succeeded in or-

ganizing cells comprising 27 anti-

Nazi German soldiers. Many were

members of the German Communist

Party before 1933. (It was sufficient

to show them underground Stalinist

papers for them to be disgusted with

the chauvinist political line of Mos-

During 1943, we distributed "Ar-

beiter und Soldat" and "Arbeiter

im Westen" (this latter small paper

was put out at Brest). The soldier

comrades placed our papers in the

barracks and stole the seals of the

Todt organization, in order to make

out false labor permits for young

militants resisting compulsory labor

This activity was dangerous. In

in Germany.

MEET REPRESSION

mandanturs" up to June 1941.

from the cabinets has strengthened their position among the workers, to whom they can now again appeal as "anti-government" parties.

Yet there is this equally present that Russian unwillingness and lack of readiness to provoke a war prevents them—among other reasons from attempting to seize power in Italy and France. Reports that have reached us here indicate that there is a small but symptomatically significant turn against the Stalinists in the French trade unions and that there is a leftward tendency among the youth of the Sarragat Socialist Party (which broke away from the pro-Stalinist Nenni group) in Italy. That offers opportunities to the revolutionary socialists of both coun-

There are, to sum up, two extreme, and extremely wrong, ways of looking at the present situation in Italy. One is to see the whole strike wave merely as a Stalinist maneuver, with the working class as merely a passive tool in the hands of the Stalinists. Such a view ignores the genuine needs, demands, aspirations and internal movements of the Italian workers; and it attributes to the Stalinists a superhuman and superhistorical power. It ish.

to the opposition and withdrawal says, in effect, that the Stalinists can do whatever they want with the workers. That is simply untrue.

The other and equally wrong view ignores the Stalinists or at most admits them as an unimportant and halter on the Stalinists: the fact temporary impediment. This view sees a mass uprising; the "masses are in motion" and revolution is on the way. This view is one-sided and therefore dangerous.

The truth is that the masses of Italy are in motion, but at the moment the Stalinists are still in a position to control the speed, direction and intensity of that motion. That does not. however, mean that they will always be able to control it. But it does mean that we cannot sit back and see what the revolutionists alone can do as being accomplished for us by "history." There are possibilities for breaking the Stalinist hold on the masses, but these possibilities will not develop themselves spontaneously. The hold of the Stalinists must be broken and that can be done only by a revolutionary party.

That is the lesson of current events in Italy, as it has been the lesson of all contemporary European history. Neither the masses alone nor the vanguard alone; only the two in close relationship can achieve that basic transformation of social life without which Europe will per-

These Are the Men Arrested By Stalin's Police in Poland

We print below a brief summary Played key role in resistance moveof the records of some of the Polish Socialists who have been arrested by the Stalinist totalitarian regime in Poland:

Kazimierz Puzak: Joined Polish Socialist Party in 1904. Sentenced to eight years of hard labor by the Czarist government. Spent seven years in irons in solitary confinement at the notorious Schlusselburg fortress. Released by the February, 1917, revolution and returned to activity in the PPS. Since 1921 he was secretary general of the Central Executive Committee. Organizer and leader of the Socialist underground during the German occupation. Chairman of the underground parliament of Poland. Played leading role in epic 63 day rising in Warsaw in August and September, 1944. Announced himself to Russian authorities for purposes of negotiation and was arrested along with 15 other underground leaders. Taken to Moscow and tried in notorious frame-up trial in June, 1945. Sentenced to 18 months' penal servitude. Released at end of 1945 in general amnesty and returned to Poland. Lived under close supervision of Security Police (Polish GPU) until recent arrest. He is now 63 years

standing scientist and writer on political economy. Deputy secretary general of PPS underground during German occupation. Employed in the Cooperative Institute on scientific work at time of arrest.

Josef Dziegielewski: Arrested by Germans in First World War for activity in PPS Fighting Squad. Released by German Revolution. Member of Polish Parliament, 1922 - 30. in resistance.

zation of Brest. Twelve German sol-

diers were shot. Our French organ-

izer, "Robert Cruau," was shot by

the German police. Thirteen French

Buchenwald and Ravensbruck. Five

militants died in the camps. The

comrades who were able to escape

arrest became active in other cities

or in groups of Francs-Tireures-

and electoral campaigns, we attacked

Stalinist chauvinism. The Stalinists

answered by treating us as "Hitler-

ites" . . . but they never explained

why Stalin fraternized with Marshal

Von Paulus, butcher of the Ukraine,

sought by Belgium as a "war crimi-

Today, the thousands of German

1) The French officers who forbid

them to hold meetings or read anti-

fascist papers . . . even Stalinist

ert the greatest effort to maintain a

wall of hate between the population

and the German war prisoners. (If

a prisoner enters a cafe, one can be

sure that there will be an article in

the local Stalinist paper, Scandal).

However, chauvinism is gradually

declining, and that is due in part to

our meetings and propaganda. Reg-

ularly we give the prisoners our pa-

per "Solidaritat." We have also pub-

IMPORTANCE OF WORK

October 1943, the Gestapo destroyed lished revolutionary song sheets in

2) The Stalinist leaders who ex-

prisoners at Brest have two princi-

After the "liberation," in meetings

Partisans.

PCI Pursues Revolutionary

ment. Gestapo, unable to capture him, shot his wife, Elizbeta.

Ludwik Cohn: Chairman of National Executive of Socialist Youth Organization at time of Pilsudski coup d'etat and active in struggle against dictatorship. Taken as prisoner of war in 1939. Returned after liberation by American army. Returned to Warsaw and served as legal adviser to Building Trades Guild.

Wladyslaw Wilcznski: Workers sports leader. Organizer of underground militia, Wounded in Warsaw rising.

Antoni Zdanowski: For years editor of Workers Economic Survey, monthly organ of Polish trade union movement. Deputy secretary general of trade union movement. Member of illegal Central Committee of PPS during German occupation. Joined government PPS after war. Elected chairman of Executive Committee of Warsaw organization. Election annulled by official leadership of party. Resigned along with Zulawski, present leader of Independent Socialist Party, in November, 1946, and presented himself as Independent Socialist candidate for Parliament. Arbitrarily ruled off ballot by National Electoral Commission.

Stanislaw Scholewski-Tadeusz Szturm de Sztrem: Out- trade unionist, leader of Warsaw Transport Workers Union. Stefan Zbrozyna: Outstanding so-

> cialist expert on local government. Previously arrested by Security Police in October, 1945. Feliks Misiorowski: Accountant.

> Active in resistance. Wiktor Krawczyk: Lodz trade un-

> ion leader.

Adam Obarski: Journalist. Active

Work Among German POWs the underground Trotskyist organi- German and French. Our work has borne fruit. Since a month ago, we have had regular contact with two former German Communist func-

ocean between communism and Stalinism. These two prisoners organized secret meetings on socialism in their camp. They have influence over many of the prisoners. They distribute our papers and have decided to remain

tionaries of Dusseldorf. These com-

evolution of the USSR, but they do

not require long explanations to un-

derstand that there is today an

comrades were deported to Dora, rades are not well informed on the

active when they return to Germany. Today, one can say that thousands of war prisoners in France know the

Fourth International. The development of a large Trot-

skyist party in Germany depends to a great extent on activity carried on mong the war prisoners. We realize this and that is why we actively pursue our work of proletarian fraternization, despite the traitorous Stalinist leaders who, after all, can do us less harm than the bullets of the Gestapo that killed our comrade Robert Cruau.

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THE NEW INTERNATIONAL



WHAT TO CALL IT?

What shall we call this present economic phase which the nation endures? Production is at an alltime high, employment is at an all-time high, profits are at an all-time high, farm income is at an all-time high, foreign trade for the year is at an all-time high. Does all this spell prosperity?

Viewed from the ruling class throne, it undoubtedly does. But viewed from the standpoint of the masses, it certainly does not. It is a strange sort of prosperity when prices are so high relatively that automobile workers cannot buy the cars they produce, when workers in household appliances factories cannot afford to purchase these goods for their wives, when packinghouse workers cannot afford to give their families pork and beef, and when coal miners earning \$65 and \$75 a week cannot afford to buy the meat to keep up their health

If it is not prosperity for the masses, neither is it a depression. You cannot call it a depression when over 60,000,000 people are employed, many of them at the highest peace-time wages they ever received. You cannot call it a depression when such basic industries as steel and auto and coal and oil and many other heavy industries have markets for all they can produce.

What we might call the economy today is a DEPRESSION-WITHOUT-UNEMPLOYMENT. A real depression is what we will see in X number of years-when both the market at home and the market abroad for U.S. goods have exhausted themselves.

Perhaps a more accurate term would be FEAST-AND-FAMINE . . . a feast for the bosses, a famine for the masses.

EUROPEANIZATION OF U. S. WORKERS

If we have not yet become "Europeanized" politically-that is, attained the level of political understanding where we at least have our own political party of labor, separate from the bosscontrolled parties—we are well along the road to becoming "Europeanized" as to our diet. Take the item of butter.

In Europe, the masses do not eat butter. In south Europe, if they are fortunate, they use olive oil, in north Europe, lard or some other form of shortening. "But the American workers, the best-paid workers in the world, eat butter," the patriotic demagogues exclaim. Let's see about

Butter today is approximately one dollar a pound in most cities. Margarine, the poor man's butter, the "Europeanized" spread, sells at 30-35 cents a pound. Is it any wonder that, as the Wall Street Journal recently reported, "a march to margarine is sweeping the nation." Already, margarine is outselling butter 2-1

and 3-1 in some stores. A chain store official in Boston reports that margarine sales have jumped 50 per cent to 100 per cent in three weeks, and another store official in the same city says his margarine sales have doubled. A big market chain in Philadelphia says "margarine sales are up 50 per cent over the past few weeks." The Lucky Stores chain in San Francisco reports that "margarine is now outselling butter two-to-one." A Detroit grocer states that during the last week his sales have been running approximately three pounds of margarine to one of butter. "The demand for margarine is heavier in lower-income neighborhoods, but all indications point to a mounting interest in the product among housewives with less modest grocery budgets," summarizes the Journal.

The manager of a market in a wealthy section of Pittsburgh says: "I've never handled margarine but I'm going to start selling it now. For the first time my customers are beginning to ask for it." . . . On Pittsburgh's south side, where many steelworkers live, grocers report margarine sales running 30 per cent ahead of butter. . . . Placards in 320 Grand Union food stores in the east urge patrons to buy margarine instead of butter. . . . All margarine producers report that demand for their product has jumped up to 35 per cent in recent weeks.

WILL MARGARINE BECOME TOO EXPENSIVE?

Back in 1939, the country ate about 303,000,000 pounds of margarine. In 1946 they ate 540,000,000 pounds, and indications are that 1947 consumption may go over 700,000,000 pounds. Meanwhile, the country's butter consumption fell from 2.2 billion pounds in 1939 to an estimated 1.4 billion pounds last year. If prices continue to rise, the sales of margarine will surpass those of butter. IF, INDEED, THE PRICE OF MARGARINE DOESN'T RISE BEYOND THE ABILITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO PAY.

Margarine is made almost entirely from vegetable oils—cottonseed and soybean oils principally. In recent weeks the prices of both these oils have been rising, and just the other day the government announced sharply increased allocations of oils to

Steadily we are becoming Europeanized. Margarine instead of butter . . . meat substitutes instead of meat . . . jalopies instead of new cars . . . bicycles instead of automobiles . . . deteriorating housing standards . . . poorer qualities of clothing . . . shoddier goods. . . .

At some point in his descent, the American worker will in all likelihood attain the historical realization that, if America's 60 Families and their system are going to depress his living standards to those of Europe, then he can only defend himself and open the road to the future by building a national labor party, and moving forward from that to the establishment of a workers' gov-

NEW YORK MEETING

Henry Judd

Just Returned from Europe Will Speak on

"Germany and the Future of Europe"

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 8:00 P. M. New York City Center, 114 W. 14 St.

Philadelphia Eviction Cases Mount; 1,300 Await Hearing

for City Council, Fifth District.

PHILADELPHIA—Evictions continue to rise. Last week the City Rent Commission had 1,300 eviction cases in its files waiting for hearings. In the first week of its existence the Rent Commission has handled 1,107 cases. In most cases the eviction was granted after some slight delay. But the new eviction notices are piling up more rapidly than the Commission can deal with them.

The only possible conclusion is that the City Rent Commission is a failure. It does not prevent evictions. It has no authority to prevent them. It is a body controlled by the Republican and Democratic Parties, which are tied to the Real Estate Board of Philadelphia.

From the beginning of the rent and eviction crisis, the Workers Party has pointed out the commissions are no good. They are frauds, established to fool people. They do nothing to solve the desperate crisis.

CHAIN-REACTION EVICTIONS

The chain-reaction eviction is still continuing. Each eviction notice starts a whole chain of evictions in which sometimes as many as a dozen families are forced to move. That is an indication of how desperate the housing shortage is here. Witness, for example, the case of William Lord, whose family of eleven faces eviction after living in the same house for ten years.

Richardson Dilworth, the Demos cratic candidate for mayor, began his campaign this week. He has delivered about a dozen speeches. Thus far he has exposed corruption, the tie-up of vice and gambling with the Republican machine. He has named Sheriff Justin Husband and County Commissioner Witkin as Republicans guilty of connections with bookies and dice-game protection from which the Republican machine gets a rake-

By HERMAN BENSON, Workers Party

DETROIT-The president of the

Detroit Common Council, the oh-se-

liberal George Edwards, introduced

a motion at the Council to discuss

the passing of a municipal rent con-

trol ordinance. The not-so-liberal

Corporation Counsel of the city

weighed the matter very carefully

for many days, during each of which

150 new eviction cases were filed by

landlords, and he finally advised the

Council that it did not have the le-

ation. This despite the fact that the

Detroit chapter of the National

Lawyers Guild cited twelve long

pages of precedents which indicate

clearly that the city does have such

ing in limbo-of "Is he a liberal or

is he not?"-pondered over the ad-

vice of his Corporation Counsel and

told the Council that just to be on the

safe side it would be best for the

Council to drop rent control from its

agenda and to pass the matter on for

consideration of the Republican Gov-

George Edwards, exhausted from

these mighty labors on behalf of the

common people, quickly agreed to

the suggestion made by Jeffries, the

man whom he is supporting for re-

election as Mayor just to "pay off

And so nobody has lost anything.

Edwards will recount his last ditch

struggle for rent control. Jeffries

will explain very patiently how he

must obey the laws although his

heart bleeds for the poor evicted

tenants. The only losers, as rent con-

trol is allowed to be snarled in the

red tape of legal opinion and counter

opinion, are the hundreds of families

who must leave their homes and look

for new dwelling places where there

Meanwhile, a bitterly fought strike

of UAW garage mechanics is taking

place in the city. Like most strikers,

these men are fighting to raise the

level of human existence one little

notch higher, to make the world a

their families to live in. Jeffries and

his police department have been very

efficient in protecting the right of

scabs and strike breakers to enter

Detroit Readers: ___

Hear: HERMAN BENSON

Workers Party Candidate

for Mayor of Detroit

Over Radio Station WJLB

On "Stop the Enemies of the

Working People"

Thursday, Oct. 2, 8:15 P. M.

little better place for themselves and

ernor Sigler.

a political debt.'

are none.

AID STRIKE-BREAKING

Mayor Jeffries, who is now hang-

Candidate for Mayor of Detroit.

true. The Republican machine has been in control of this city's politics for many years. And its friends among the crooks and racketeers are an essential part of its political control. The Democrats are involved just as deeply in all these shady deals, as the Republicans will no doubt prove before the campaign is over.

Dirty connections with the underworld, police protection for houses of prostitution, gambling-all these are the normal stock in trade of these two parties in every American city. REAL ISSUES

But these are not the issues. The people need homes. We must stop evictions. We must stop rent increases. These are desperate and immediate necessities. On these urgent and crucial problems Dilworth, for the Democrats, is just as silent as Samuels for the Republicans. He cannot have much to say because during the past year the Democrats on

All these accusations are no doubt the City Council and in the State Legislature have prepared no program on housing which is essentially different from that of the Republicans. As a matter of fact. Dilworth's law firm was the legal representative for the Philadelphia Hotel Association at the City Council rent

> The Workers Party proposes that the people organize to defend themselves. Rent commissions and Democrats offer nothing. Tenants' committees, supported by the labor movement, could stop evictions on the spot. And such tenants' organizations would stop landlords' rent demands. They could organize tenants' strikes if necessary.

Above all, without a vast municipal housing program the present crisis can only grow worse. The Workers Party proposes a program of 100,000 new homes each year for the next five years as the first step toward solving the crisis.

Hit Scheme - -

(Continued from page 1)

benefit of trial by jury brought sharply into focus the need of a permanent Defense Committee for Political Rights of Independent Labor Candidates. The two socialist groups have set up a provisional committee which sponsored this evening's rally

Over \$300 in donations and pledges was contributed by the audience of 100 friends and members. One hundred dollars of this sum was set aside by the provisional defense committee as a part of the necessary financial pool for the permanent committee. Labor, liberal and other socialist organizations have been invited to join the committee and ac-

the shops and many fights have bro-

ken out in the vicinity of the struck

plants. NO LEGAL SNARL PREVENTS

POLICE ASSISTANCE TO STRIKE-

ernment by liberal, and not so lib-

eral, capitalist politicians. A work-

ers' Common Council would do every-

thing necessary and possible to ad-

vance the struggle of the working

people. It would immediately pass a

law providing for a moratorium on

all evictions. It would call upon the

people to organize themselves in

every neighborhood to enforce this

of thousands were aroused and or-

ganized to enforce such a law, you

may be sure that the political agents

of the boss class would have to think

ten times over before they dared to

declare such a law unconstitutional.

It was just such a struggle in the days

of the depression which began in 1929

that compelled the government to

pass laws for the protection of peo-

And a workers' Common Council

would close every garage which is

operated by scabs and strike break-

ers. To those who complain of "dis-

order" at shop gates, it would reply:

Violence and "disorder" is caused

by scabs and strike-breaking em-

And when the people by the tens

law by their own mass action.

We have here a lesson in city gov-

Capitalist Politicians
Agree to Do Nothing

About Detroit Rents

BREAKERS.

ceptance by several important groups is anticipated.

Irene P. Le Compte, Socialist Workers Party candidate for councilman in the Seventh District, stated that the election campaigns were being continued by both groups. Write-in campaigns will be run in the event the ballot is barred. She emphasized that the fight now being

In elaboration of the technical charges lodged against his clients, Attorney Felix stated that the election law and its court interpretations are so contradictory and complicated that it is impossible not to violate one or more technicalities. An examination of the nomination netitions on the members of the Election Board themselves show enough violations to rule them invalid even though they were circulated by paid city employees and endorsed by such public servants as the Hon. Judge

Commenting on the contempt of court charges, Felix said that he intended to remind the Superior Court of the serious lapse of Anglo-Saxon judicial procedure in the denial of a jury to the four defendants charged

my living writing laws, therefore I can say that the Pennsylvania Election Code is the most damnable piece of legislation ever concocted by the two parties to keep minority parties off the ballot.

reality a 'kept woman' of the Republicans here in Pennsylvania, it results in a totalitarian ballot. This law has only been enforced for the last several years. It must be broken now. However, not only the Republicans are to blame. Let's give the Devil his due credit. The law was passed by the Democrats in 1936 during their one and only brief stay in power. At the same session at which it was passed it was amended five times in one section, all five amendments being contradictory.

Felix commended the, Workers Party and Socialist Workers Party for their united stand on the issues and expressed the hope that the united front of the two groups could be expanded to include other organizations and transform the Provisional Defense Committee into a permanent one.

PAC POLICY

ployers.

ples homes.

The bankruptcy of PAC policy in the Detroit elections is clearly exposed. After a big campaign urging the workers to get out and register for the October 7 primaries, the Detroit and Wayne County Council has decided not to endorse any candidate for mayor. At the meeting of the Council one of the very "radical" members of the Executive Board introduced a motion against any endorsements. Such a motion would have been equivalent to a passive endorsement of Jeffries, whom the CIO opposed for the last four years; not to oppose him now would be simply a passive endorsement. An amendment to the motion made it more palatable by stating: this is not to be construed as an endorsement of

A motion was made from the floor to repudiate and denounce Jeffries as anti-labor and anti-Negro. This motion was carried in several votes. But the Stalinists and their fellow travelers finally woke up and after a confusing debate over parliamentary technicalities succeeded in taking a recount in which this motion was at

last defeated. PAC policy on Jeffries is therefore as follows: we do not support Jeffries but we refuse to attack him. The only thing which prevented an honest and open endorsement of Jeffries by the local CIO leaders was the hostile reaction of the rank and file to the feelers put out early in SEEK PERMANENT COMMITTEE

waged is a vital one for all groups intending to run independent labor

candidates in the future.

Harry S. McDevitt.

with contempt of court.

"I always say that the court is right until proved wrong by a higher body. I make my living working in the courts. However, I do not make

Since the Democratic Party is in That is the law that still stands."

PROGRAMMATIC CAMPAIGN

Workers Party Candidate I. Jack Rader said that the conspiracy to keep the ballot monopoly was aimed at preventing the working people of Philadelphia from becoming class conscious, conscious that the ruling class (the Democratic and Republican machines and their big business backers) will not and cannot do anything in the workers' interest, conscious also that the working class must elect its own candidates on its own program.

Rader emphasized that the Workers Party will continue its campaign on a programmatic basis. The Workers Party is little interested in how Mayor Samuels or Democratic Mayoralty Candidate Dilsworth divides the spoils of City Hall offices, bookies and numbers rackets, but it is interested in showing to the people of the Fifth District and elsewhere in Philadelphia that only a working class candidate can fight for the interests of the working people.

Following the speakers, Al Rose introduced to the audience the prominent jazz artist, Sammy Price, who included among his piano numbers the Victory Boogie, his own composition written for and dedicated to the Workers Party and the Socialist Workers Party. Later in the evening the Fat Man and his troupe pleased the audience. Dancing and the serving of refreshments completed the

Congressional Directory Makes Instructive Reading

What Kind of People Are Congressmen?

By JACK RANGER

W HAT kind of people are they, anyway, who compose the 80th Congress which recently adjourned-the Congress which, through a majority of both Republican and Democratic parties, dealt so harshly with the people of the United States? Who removed federal price controls with the promise that prices would not thereafter rise? Who dealt a staggering blow to the union movement through the Taft-Hartley act? Who put money into the hands of the real estate operators through the easing of rent control? Who approved a foreign policy which, everywhere in the world, acted on behalf of the international slaveholders and against the slaves?

What kind of people are they? The answer to that question should be quite revealing. I have part of it. I got the information simply. I obtained a copy of the red, cloth-bound Official Congressional Directory. The directory opens with a section entitled: BIOGRAPHICAL. There, from pages 3 to 142, are the official biographies of all the members of the 80th Congress, as written lovingly by the members themselves.

That is why I said above that I have PART of the information as to who are the members of Congress. The other part of the information is not in the directory—the part that would list the hidden connections linking the members of Congress with Big Business—with the bankers' lobby, the real estate lobby, the food trust lobby, with the railroads, the steel trust.

Very well. Let us see what we can make of the information which the Congressmen reveal freely about themselves.

COMPOSITION OF THE SENATE

Who are the Senators? What did they DO before they entered the Senate. I constructed a box, and at the left listed various occupations: Lawyer, Businessman, Banker, Publisher, Worker, etc. As I read through the biographies, I made a check after each occupation. At the end of my task, here is the box score:

Lawvers: 61 Businessmen: 10 Bankers: 6 Publishers: 7... Broker: 1

Farmers: 3 Educator: 1 Embalmer: 1 Plain politicians: 4

There they are, 96 men, tried and true, 51 Republicans and 45 Democrats, and you can't tell the players without a scorecard. NOT ONE SIN-GLE WORKER AMONG THE WHOLE GAL-LERY OF RASCALS.

I ask a friend to pick a state at random, for close-up view of two Senators. "Rhode Island," he says, and I turn to page 115, and read this to

Theodore Francis Green, Democrat, of Providence, R. I.; born in 1867; educated in private schools . . . received A.B. degree at Brown University in 1887, and A.M. in 1890; Harvard Law School, 1888-90; Universities of Bonn and Berlin, Germany, 1890-92; admitted to Rhode Island bar in 1892 . . . engaged in the practice of law at Providence since 1894 . . . received a commission as lieutenant during the Spanish-American War . . . delegate to all National Democratic conventions from 1912 to 1944, inclusive; during the World War was prominent in many patriotic activities; director, National Exchange Bank of Providence; J. & P. Coats, Inc.; officer, director and receiver of various railroad companies and many other business corporations; president, Morris Plan Bankers Association (national); trustee, Brown University: chairman, board of directors. Morris Plan Bank of Rhode Island; director, Bankers Security Life Insurance Society; etc., etc.

Senator Green's colleague from Rhode Island Senator James Howard McGrath. His pedigree is fully as distinguished: Six honorary degrees; attorney; former U. S. district attorney; member J. J. McGrath & Sons, real estate and insurance; president, First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Providence; director in the following companies: Lincoln Trust Co.; Mortgage Guarantee & Title Co.; Pawtucket Broadcasting Co.; Lonsdale Co.; Flightex Co.; American Octonator Co. He is a sociable cuss, being a member of the Patrons of Husbandry; Royal Arcanum; Friend-Sons of St. Patrick; Knights of Columbus; Ancient Order of Hibernians; Elks; Eagles; Westchester Country Club; Clover Club; Turks Head Club; Town Criers of Rhode Island; Kiwanis; Rhode Island Yacht Club; Metacomet Golf Club; University Club, and 16 others.

Like Senator Green-and like Philip Murray and Dan Tobin and hundreds of other indomitable leaders of labor-Senator McGrath is a Democrat. Either Rhode Island must be entirely composed of bankers and other wealthy citizens, to elect two millionaire bankers as Senators, or else the poor people there are being misled by their leaders to support political company unionism.

What chance do you think any decent social and labor legislation has with such Senators as Green and McGrath?

COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE

Let us look at a similar box score listing the social composition of the House:

Pharmacist: 1

Brokers: 5

Ranchers: 7

Insurance: 7

Military: 3

Doctors: 4

Architects: 2

Missionary: 1

Veterinary: 1

Public Relations: 1

Contractors: 2

Lawvers: 241 Businessmen: 37 Realtors: 8 Accountants: 4 Publishers: 21 Personal Managers: 2 Educators: 22 Bankers: 17 Newspapermen: 7 Farmers: 3 Preacher: 1 Stage Star: 1 Just politicians: 48

Ex-Union Official: 1 The above total adds up to 447, there being some duplication, as a Representative may list himself as both lawyer and businessman, or rancher and banker, etc. Of the 434 members of the House in the 80th Congress, 245 are Repub-

licans, 188 are Democrats, and one is an Ameri-

can Labor Party man. AGAIN THERE IS NOT ONE SINGLE WORKER AMONG THE RAS-

A visitor from another planet, sitting in the halls of Congress and studying the Congressional Directory could not be convinced that fairly juniversal suffrage exists in the United States, or that the overwhelming majority of the American people are workers and farmers. Instead, he would reason that the majority of the population must be lawyers, and that the rest of us are business men, real estate operators, brokers, publishers, ranch owners, bankers and professional politicians. Or that the only people permitted to vote were those in the above categories.

It would be necessary to lead this stranger aside and explain very gently to him that there are today only two political parties represented in Congress; that Big Business operates impartially through both parties; that though the majority of the population consists of people who work hard for a living, they are shunted aside by the two-headed boss party; and that the reason the workers and farmers haven't been able to do anything about the situation yet is because their union leaders are political company men who play ball with the old parties and refuse to launch a labor party or let the workers launch one.

HOW MICHIGAN IS "REPRESENTED"

To show the really piteous affects of this treacherous policy, one could choose one of the great industrial states, such as Michigan, having hundreds of thousands of organized workers who have built the most progressive union movement in the country. Yet, IS THERE ONE WORKER FROM MICHIGAN IN CONGRESS? Of course

Who represents the workers of Michigan then. In the Senate, two Republican skates, both attorneys, Arthur H. Vandenberg and Homer Ferguson. Of the seventeen Michigan representatives, ten are lawyers, two are business executives, one is a contractor, and four fail to list their occupations. Fourteen are Republicans, three are Democrats.

Approximately the same proportions hold for other big-industry states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, etc.

But perhaps these lawyers and businessmen in Congress sympathize with labor and take care of labor's interests, the visitor might ask. "It is true that there are a few lawyers and even bankers who are very sympathetic to organized labor, and even to socialism," is the reply. "BUT THESE are not the types that are elected to Congress. You have only to look at the actions of Congress, the legislation passed, to see the hostility of Congressmen for the American people."

It is quite a story that the Congressional Directory tells. The Directory fairly shrieks to the American worker: Force your union leaders to break their political alliance with the boss parties. Don't take any more legislation weakening the unions and forcing up prices and rents. Get out the ax and use it on those who dare to keep you helpless suppliants of the Big Business political machine. Now, begin to build the Labor

Bolivia: On the Road To Dictatorship

By J. ROBLES

The government of "national which consists of President Hertzog's Republican Union and the Liberals and Stalinists of the Liberal-Stalinist coalition is, in spite of arliamentary appearances, a "strong government," much stronger than its nationalistic predecessors. This Bolivian government knew how to put down the Indian uprisings with an iron hand, and how to prop up the feudal regime on the big estates of the Bolivian plateau. Repression in the Bolivian country-side marks the general reaction, and the ebb of the revolutionary tide, at the same time exposing the fakery of all the mystifications about the bourgeois-democratic revolution in Bolivia as an independent phase, which even penetrated the circles of the Fourth International.

In the recent crisis of the government of National Unity, precipitated by the agreement among all the capitalist parties to exclude the Stalinists from playing a leading part in the Bolivian Congress, the contradictions of this coalition were revealed, as well as the part played therein by the Stalinists. When the Stalinists presented their resignations from their cabinet posts after being slapped down by their capitalist colleagues in Congress, President Hertzög reiterated his confidence in them, declaring that the government of National Unity had to continue until it completed its

CAPITALIST RULERS AIM AT POLITICAL DICTATORSHIP

What are these tasks? To overcome the sharp economic crisis of this semi-colonial country, the crisis of the mining industry caused by an increase in prices which has not been accompanied by an increase in the price of minerals, the Bolivian feudo-bourgeoisie wishes to depress the already low living standards of the mine proletariat still further. The powerful Patino mining enterprises proceeded to fire its "demoralized" workers in order to replace them with "submissive" workers at lower wages. The Rothschild enterprises closed the San Jose mine firing the entire labor force. All of this takes place despite the continued demand for Bolivian minerals in the international markets.

The mine bourgeoisie wishes to introduce its absolute rule in the mines, a capitalist dictatorship which was relaxed and weakened a little by the revolution. The intervention of the trade unions, of the trade-union militias, of the miners deputies in parliament, of the trade-union secretaries,

"hurt" the bourgeoisie a great deal, Stalinists as shock troops against the hampering its program of capitalist rationalization and the transfer of the burden of the crisis onto the ing the defenses the workers have created, the trade-unionists, the union militias, the parliamentary representation, the Fourth Internationalist movement, etc.

The bourgeoisie cannot introduce its absolute capitalist dictatorship in the mines without the political dictatorship of the government, without the destruction of the miners parliamentary representation, the miners union and the Revolutionary Workers Party, the POR. Opposing the bourgeoisie-Stalinist National Concentration, the miners movement headed by Fourth Internationalists. acquired an enormous political importance as the potential expression of the rebelliousness of the masses against the government. Hence the need of having the Stalinists in the government to take over the job of executioner of the workers movement. The government of National Unity, therefore, is to continue "until it finishes its tasks."

USE STALINISTS AGAINST FOURTH INTERNATIONALISTS The bourgeoisie is preparing to

deal a mortal blow to the mining proletariat and the Fourth Internationalist movement, the strongest in South America in terms of influence over the masses. The first step will be the destruction of the parliamentary representation of the mine workers, which has eight deputies and senators. The capitalist-Stalinist majority is readying its preparations to exclude the mine deputies, among them two members of the POR, from Parliament, using the provocative pretext that they insulted the Congress by calling it "domesticated." The Government prosecuting attorneys are asking for permission to initiate criminal proceedings in the courts against the mine workers dupties for "instigating the masses to revolution."

In one locality, the sub-prefect and the police force invaded the home of the deputy Salamanca with machineguns, not accomplishing its mission only because of the accidental absence of the deputy. The Stalinist Minister of Labor, Mendisabal, attacks the "Nazi-Trotskyists" when the opportunity presents itself. Notwithstanding all of this, the task is somewhat difficult, given the weakness of the captialist police apparatus, and the strength of the proletariat, which possesses arms it seized during the revolution. The bourgeoisie uses the

organized workers movement. When Stalinism in Bolivia will be finished. cannot do this without first destroy. Well the base for its own participation in the government.

The Bolivian feudo-bourgeoisie in its backward march wishes to install a Bonapartist dictatorship, thereby balancing the various social and political forces. The political and social reaction, the massacre of the peasant movement, the offensive against tent of the "bourgeois-democratic revolution" proclaimed by the Stalinists in Bolivia.

The final stage is the creation of Bonapartist dictatorship in the Peron style, adapted to the feudal conditions of Bolivia. Given the international conjuncture and the Yankee pressure against them, the Stalinists can have no great hopes, no great perspectives under this dictatorship. Their mission exhausts itself in clearing the way and opening the gates to the dictatorship by destroying the revolutionary and anti-Stalinist workers movement.

TASKS AND PERSPECTIVES OF BOLIVIAN REVOLUTION

Some comrades of the POR had illusions about the possibility of the bourgeois-democratic revolution in Bolivia as an independent stage in its own right. The isolation of the workers movement of Bolivia in South America, and the internal evolution of the country completely wipes out this perspective. .

The task of the Bolivian proletariat is limited to defending step by step the social and economic aspirations of the working-class and the democratic rights of the laboring masses against the Bonapartist intentions of the bourgeoisie. To venture any other policy, that is to say, the conquest of political power by the proletariat in an isolated country, economically weak, and without the support of the international working-class, would be to expose the proletariat to defeat and bloody massacre. The social revolution in South America must be an event of international scope, a common labor of the South American proletariat in alliance with the North American workers.

August 15, 1947

Translator's Notes:

News reports last week confirmed Comrade J. Robles' analysis of the reactionary political trend in Bolivia, as well as his prediction that

the Stalinists would be forced out of the Hertzog government of "Nationthis job is done, the historic task of al Unity." Associated Press despatches from Bolivia's capital, La shoulders of the proletariat. But the When it has destroyed the workers' Paz, stated that the Stalinist Minisbourgeoisie of the mining industry movement, it will have undermined as ters had resigned from the governpurely bourgeois government had been formed, and that this government was continuing the offensive begun by the "National Unity" regime against the workers. Thousands of miners are being fired by the large mining corporations and rehired at lower wages with the permission of the government.

The revolution to which C. Robles refers in his article is the popular uprising which overthrew the dictatorial Villaroel regime in the summer of 1946. An account of how the Stalinists managed to give the power back to the bourgeoisie and joined the government as "executioner of the working-class" will be found in the August issue of the New International under the title "Stalin's Agents in Bolivia."

A. F.

COMING IN LABOR ACTION:

Jack Ranger does a job the equal of his story on Stassen in "Henry Wallace—the Big Wind from lowa." Also articles on the telephone union UAW, etc., which have been omitted through lack of space.

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