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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1937

MARITIME STRIKE ENDS WITH VICTORY

Auto Strikers 'Hold the Fort' In Flint Plants Celery Workers Act When Bosses Stop

Epic Struggle Centers On Maneuvers To Eject "Sit-Down" Strikers from Occupied Plants

The publicity spotlight on the greatest auto strike in January 27, in response to labor history this week swung back from futile Washington maneuvers to stern class struggle in Flint, Michigan. Thirty-five thousand National Guardsmen, sent in by Governor Frank Murphy, patrolled the blood-flecked streets of the nation's key auto city.

For Column

In Campaign for

Spain

CHICAGO.—With a Chi-

SOUTH SIDE MEETING

promises to raise enough to fi-

Crucial issue of the strike remained the sit-down capture of the Fisher Body plants. Fifteen hundred new sit-downers were added to the army of occupation when they forced their way into ture of the Fisher Body plants. Fif-4-Chevrolet Plant No. 4 in spite of company and police violence which brought injury to fifteen men.

SIT-DOWN POWER

Every test of strength during the thirty-five day old strike has centered on the question of the auto workers right to remain in the plants that they alone can operate. Socialists Take Leading Part strike ten days ago and have been Every move of corporation officials has been directed toward fighting this new weapon which has tre mendously increased the power of American labor. The sit-down has demonstrated its ability to bring cago Chapter of the Friends one of the greatest mass produc of the Debs Column now estion industries to a stand-still, and tablished in Chicago and opened November 14, 1936, and broemployers know that defeat in autos means cracking the iron front of the open shop and a swift march to unionism in all the basic indus-

helpless, but the courts and state to render the quickest and sociation composed of the land national government officials most effective aid to the Shipper-Growers, notified the are busily testing every possible Spanish workers and peas- unions that they were turning the method of driving or luring the ants in their struggle to matter over to The Farmers Pro-

MURPHY OFFER

Latest maneuver, according to organization of a local group of Wednesday press reports, is a pro- the Friends of the Debs Column, posal offered by Governor Murphy tors is asked to guarantee that "the taken to organize four regional United Automobile Workers will be groups of the Friends of the Debs recognized as the only workers' Column in addition to the North agency involved in this dispute." Side division which is already

The union has been asked to functioning. withdraw all sit-down strikers from plants at Flint in return for Governor Murphy's "flat guarantee, seconding the Friends organizabacked by the National Guard, that tion and taking a leading part. General Motors will not resume The South Side meeting for Norproduction in those plants."

REAL OBJECT

At press time neither workers or taken over by the Friends of the GM officials had accepted this pro- Debs Column which will use it to posal. If accurately reported, it organize the South Side division marks a considerable retreat from of the Friends of the Debs former government demands that Column. This promises to be the the unions abandon the plants un- hottest meeting in near-univerconditionally. Essentially, how-sity precincts in a long time. ever, the proposal is as dangerous The 7th Congressional District as all that have preceded it. Dis- Branch had already got a highly crediting and outlawing the sit-successful raffle and card party down tactic is more important to scheduled for its headquarters at employers and government than 1241 No. California Avenue for the outcome of this particular the evening of February 20th and

If the union consents to abandon nance at least one volunteer or the plants, it is admitting that more. All receipts will be turned there is something wrong, or illover for aid to Spain. A north legal, about the sit-down. That ad-side divisional meeting of the mission may help an immediate Friends will be held at Cafe auto settlement but it will en- Idrott Thursday, February 11th, (Continued on Page 2) open to the public.

recommended to the California

Court Referee Decides

Against Tom Mooney

SAN FRANCISCO. - California trial of 1917 a fair one. His

State Supreme Court that no writ agrees with the referee, as its

of habeas corpus be granted to previous attitude makes likely, the

Ignoring a mountain of proof of the U.S. Supreme Court. The

frame-up and perjury, accumulated | Supreme Court had required that

by Mooney's attorneys and wit- all possibilities of action in the

nesses in more than a year of in- state courts be exhausted before

quiry, Shaw declared the Mooney it would reconsider the case.

Court when Referee A. E. Shaw ney filed exceptions.

San Diego Unions Go On Strike

Negotiations

SAN DIEGO. - Five hundred San Diego County celery workers walked out of the fields and set up picket lines at 11:00 a.m. on the strike call issued by the three agricultural unions The strike was provoked by the employers who broke off negotiations. The unions' demands are union

The striking unions are the Union of Laborers and Field Workers of San Diego County the Agricultural Industrial Workers Union At Chicago of America, San Diego County, and Filipino Federated Workers Union of California, San Diego County. The unions voted unanimously to waiting only for the call from the joint strike committee.

The previous contract between the employers and the unions, the result of last year's militant celery strike, expired last August. Negotiations for another contract were ken off on December 19. The growworking under the direction of the parent organization in man contract which they proceeded New York City, Illinois So- to force upon every worker before ries.

cialists this week contended allowing him on the field. At the for honors in the competition same time, the Celery Growers' As-

crush International Fascism. tective Association, notorious The response in Chicago to the smashers of the agricultural unions. WAGES AND PROFITS

Last year's celery workers gave according to Syd Devin, secretary the growers a crop upon which they La acting under special authority from of the new chapter, was so im- took a net profit of \$900 per acre, President Roosevelt. General Mo- mediate that steps are being on an outlay of \$150-\$200 including all costs of production. For agricultural workers, employment is not steady. Much of the time workers are able to get only a few hours Socialists are enthusiastically Contrast this to the \$900 clear profit on each acre of celery these workers produce for a grower in a man Thomas February 9th at the four-month crop. Then you can Shotwell Hall in the heart of the have a brilliant refutation of any University district has been argument presented by the em-

> The growers were able to take this enormous profit by paying a basic wage of 25 cents per hour, and in order to maintain this the growers have organized under the 'Farmers Protective Association." as they did in Salinas. The employers have used the negotiations as a screen behind which to attack the unions and the wages of the workers. In an effort to forestall strike they promised a five-cent raise which was never paid. They have regimented the workers with little blue cards which they must carry, oinding them to the Farmers' Association as slaves.

TEAR UP BLUE CARDS

On the morning of January 27, he workers in all celery fields tore up these little blue cards and threw them on a pile of newly cut celery symbolizing the beginning of a deright to bargain collectively rather than individually for a better wage.

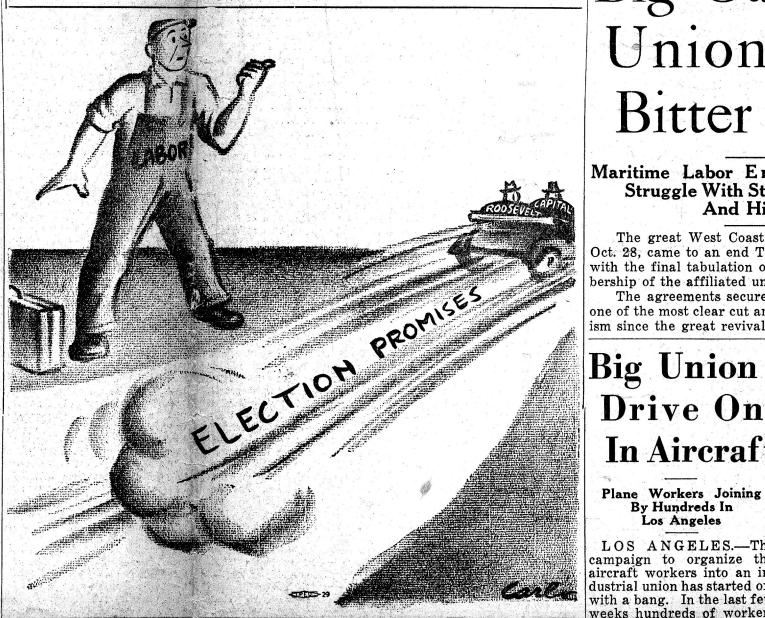
The Workers Alliance has called upon all workers to support this he didn't say it. strike with every means at their disposal. Members of the Workers hurt the man spied upon," he "justice" moved the Mooney case findings coincide with those of a step nearer the U. S. Supreme Assistant Attorney General Alliance are expected to show up said. "Of course, disclosures that on the picket lines and give the a man is a spy harms him so-Cleary's brief. Counsel for Mooagricultural unions all their sup-cially, makes him an outcast." If the State Supreme Court

Send Strike funds and food to of the "damnable business." Jose Castillo, Chairman of the Committee for Relief and Defense, 1709 National Ave., San Diego, Cali-

Ruling Favors Guild

men, both long-time employees of ing room, Burnside, who formerly In his letter of acceptance he nancial aid to Americans who wage increases, stricter seniority, men, both long-time employees of mg from, burnside Hearst, was an important factor was called Bronson. Burnside in an effort to eliminate Commonin the Newspaper Guild strike was put on the stand and prostead of debts so that I could have volunteered to serve with wealth College, labor school at pay allowances and special over- that kept the Post-Intelligencer tested his perfect friendship for contribute." closed down for 104 days.

Gone With The Wind! - -



To Publish Spy Lists Of Bosses

Follette Committee Forces Agencies To Give Names

WASHINGTON, D. C .- "When Oliver, South Bend, Ind. Another once you start this damnable will be held in Pittsburgh Feb. a week. The total annual income business of spying, you never can 20 and 21. for agricultural workers in this stop." It was Senator Elbert state averages \$360 per family. Thomas of Utah who made this cialists who are members of and remark at the hearing of the active in unions, affiliated and enthusiastic send off at a large an insignificant minority of the Civil Liberties Committee on labor espionage.

> It was generally a lively session that day. Senator La Follette was sick, Thomas was in charge, and the Corporations Auxiliary Co. bunch tried to get contrary. They had been told the

> "You can leave that question to the committee," replied Thomas. Buckley explained that to publish these names might hurt the spies.

RECORD CONTRADICT WITNESSES

"Why," said Senator Thomas, age, Mr. Ross and Mr. Smith, tell and recommendations will us that spying is a laudable occu- adopted. pation and that it doesn't hurt termined fight to the finish for the anybody. I'm sure you wouldn't like to contradict their authority on that subject."

Ross at first tried to say that

"I meant that spying didn't It was here that Thomas spoke

FORCED TO TELL NAMES union activities caused their dis- how Bartley Furey, a paid spy, charge from Hearst's Seattle came into the works as a longreinstated by the National Labor and almost wrecked the whole union movement. Rigby pointed Spanish revolution, entitled "No The discharging of these two out one of the spies in the hear Pasaran" (They Shall Not Pass). Column was organized to give fi-

Union Actives First Fifty wiit conjer Volunteers At South Bend

working in the mass production industries will be held this weekend. Feb. 6 and 7, at the Hotel

Participants will include Socials of the Workers' Alliance. labor committees and representatives from national headquarters. The conferences will be confined to party members.

The South Bend conference will day before to bring the names of be opened by Roy E. Burt, nasome of their labor spies to this tional executive secretary of the session, and had promised to do Socialist party, reporting on the it. Now, they tried to reneg. general perspectives of the party. Buckley, attorney for Dan. G. He will be followed by Frank N. Ross, general manager of the Trager, national labor and organ-CAC, said they did not think the ization secretary, who will speak names pertinent to the subject. on the official party position on labor problems.

The second session will be in the form of round table discussions on steel, auto, rubber and meat packing. Members of craft unions and delegates to central labor bodies will have their own round table. Discussion will take place on

"we have two experts in espion- the reports of these round tables

Vanguard Group of Debs Column

NEW YORK (FP).-Fifty men, first group of the 500 volunteers to be sent to Spain to join the International Brigade by the friends of the Debs Column, were given an unaffiliated with the C.I.O. offi- Hippodrome mass meeting by an workers that it would have been the, which heralded the new adofficials of the party, members of Hitler and so-called neutrality leg- company to grant a single de- movement in the face of an inislation.

Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, assailed the present neutrality mention was made of China, Jap- several street meetings at the maritime victory. an, Italy and Germany. Thomas Douglas and Northrup plants. A declared that no obstacles were paper for the aircraft workers paign in Ethiopia.

Louis Fischer, European correspondent, declared that a defeat of Franco might avert a world war in Europe. What he had seen in aircraft workers are being or to consolidate their ranks and Spain recently convinced him that the loyalists were never in a better trial Council of the United Auto- fidence. position than they are today.

Other speakers included, Roger N. Baldwin, Frank Crosswaith, be Brendon Sexton, Prof. Leroy Bow-

man and James Burnham. **Upton Sinclair Joins** the U.A.W. **Debs Column Friends**

NEW YORK.—Upton Sinclair, soring committee include: Jack in the last year, having close to noted novelist and liberal poli- Altman, Secretary - Treasurer; 7000 workers on its payroll totician, has joined the sponsoring committee of the Friends of the James Burnham, Roy Burt, V. F. Debs Column, Hal Siegel, execu- Calverton, Max Delson, Clifton The CAC bunch begged, pleaded, tive secretary of the organiza- Fadiman, Ben Fischer, Harold J. argued, consulted; but Senator tion, announced yesterday (Tues- Gibbons, Charles Yale Harrison, at San Diego and North Amer-Thomas continued to demand the day). Jack Conroy of Moberly, Sidney Hook, Dorothy Kenyon, ican at Inglewood. Orders totallnames, and he got them. Then Mo., author of "The Disinherited" Isodor Laderman, Alfred Baker ing tens of millions of dollars are Charles Rigby, grievance man of and Albert Sprague Coolidge, Lewis, William Ellery Leonard, on the books today with new orthe union at the Auto-Lite Co. in Harvard professor, have also Ludwig Lore, Charles Malamuth, ders coming in steadily in an Two editorial workers, whose Toledo, took the stand; and told joined the sponsoring committee. Amicus Most, A. Phillips Ran- ever increasing volume. Sinclair, who is a resident of dolph, Brendon Sexton, Lillian Pasadena, Calif., is now at work Symes, Norman Thomas, Frank

tional volunteer brigade of the ble, Girolamo Valenti. wrote: "I wish I had money in-

Other members of the spon- Spanish Loyalist forces.

Roger Baldwin, Murray Baron, Leroy Bowman, Louis B. Boudin, the Lockheed factory has tripled Post-Intelligencer, were ordered shoreman seeking another job; writing a novel of the interna- Trager, Caro Tresca, Glen Trim-The Friends of the Debs

the International Brigade of the Once again, keep your eyes on

By Carlo Big Gains For Unions After Bitter Struggle

Maritime Labor Emerges From 99-Day Struggle With Strengthened Position And High Morale

The great West Coast Maritime strike, which began Oct. 28, came to an end Thursday, Feb. 4, 99 days later, with the final tabulation of the ballots cast by the mempership of the affiliated unions.

The agreements secured, by the settlement represent one of the most clear cut and sweeping victories for unionism since the great revival of the labor movement which began with the organization

Drive On

In Aircraft

Plane Workers Joining

By Hundreds In

Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES.—The

campaign to organize the

aircraft workers into an in-

with a bang. In the last few

LOCAL 188 LEADS DRIVE

mobile Workers. There will be

branches in each of the factories

INDUSTRY EXPANDING

ern California are expanding at

an unprecedented rate. The Doug-

lass plant has doubled in size

day. The number of workers in

Two new large companies have

Watch the aircraft workers

achieve industrial unionism in a

hurry. They may be young and

inexperienced (the average

worker being about 25) but they

learn their lessons fast. Let any

young worker buck rivets at

Douglas for six months and his

illusions will be smashed to bits.

aircraft, the boys mean business.

moved in, Consolidated Aircraft

since last June.

The aircraft factories of South-

mediate problems.

mand.

drives and strike waves in 1933. The major objectives of the shipowners — the elimination of union control of hiring and the consequent smashing of the unions-have been completely de

UNION DEMANDS ATTAINED The major demands of the unions-hiring hall, wage increases and strengthened recognition of the unions-have been attained. The longshoremen retain their hiring control and safeguarded

working conditions with wage in-The Cooks and Stewards, failing in their full objective of a universal 8-hour day in a spread dustrial union has started off of 12 hours, compromised on a 9-hour day on passenger vessels weeks hundreds of workers in a spread of 13, gaining the

have joined the union in 8-hour day on freighters—a vast spite of company intimida- improvement over the intolerable tion. the Douglas and Northrup in order. The Marine, Firemen, Oilers, plants, have been completely discredited in the eyes of all honest Watertenders and Wipers rejectworkers. With militant organized ed the off-shore agerement, ac-

labor on the offensive through- cording to reports at press time, out the country, gaining victories and will return to work pending on every front, the workers in the arbitration of the disputed issues. The Sailors' Union of the Pa-

aircraft plants are beginning to realize that industrial unionism is the only answer to their im- cific, which, together with the Cooks and Stewards and the Fire-In the past, attempts have been men, was the chief object of the made to organize several of the shipowners' attack, comes out of crafts in the industry but have the struggle with all its major defailed miserably. Even if these mands achieved - Union control crafts had been organized 100 of hiring, increased wages and per cent they represented such cash payment for overtime.

audience that booed Mussolini, impossible for them to force the vance of the American Labor tensified union-smashing campaign of the bosses, ends with Local 188 of the United Auto- the position and morale of the act as an aid to the Spanish rebels mobile Workers of America is workers strengthened all along and as a denial of a right to a leading the organization drive in the line. The embattled auto friendly government dealing with aircraft. A number of very suc- workers, now engaged in decisive armed rebellion that it has always cessful educational mass meet- combat with the auto barons, will granted to other states. Specific ings have been held along with take heart and hope from the

The labor movement in the West is immeasurably strengthput in the way of volunteers join- has been launched by the air- ened by the improved position of ing Mussolini's army in its cam- craft committee of Local 188, the its mainstay-the maritime unname of the paper being Plane ions. These unions themselves, emerging victorious from the sec-Because of the nature of all- ond test of strength with powermetal airplane construction the ful opponents, are in a position ganized into the Aircraft Indus- press forward with increased con-

> The victory is, first of all, a vindication of the STRIKE POLand shop committees formed of ICY advocated by the militant the workers from each of the wing of the unions as against all various departments. However, super-clever substitutes representall the aircraft workers in Los ed by proposals for delay, media-Angeles County will be organized tion, "waiting for Roosevelt," and into the one local, Local 188 of similar fantasies. The unions can gain what they are strong enough to take from the bosses in a test of strength-This is the outstanding lesson of the maritime strike. The waterfront unions owe their victory to the victory of the militant policy within their own

> > ranks. FIGHT THE FINK BOOK! The big cloud now on the horizon is the Copeland Fink Bookthe attempt, by government interference, to accomplish what the shipowners could not accom-

> > > (Continued on Page 2)

Cannon to Speak On Trade Unions

"Trade Unions and Political Parties" will be the subject of a lecture by James P. Cannon, editor of Labor Action, on Sunday evening, February 7, 1937, at 236 Van Ness Avenue.

The meeting will be under auspices of the Socialist Party of San Francisco.

R x-9898

ties Union and other liberal groups throughout the nation in defense of open hearing on the Horton Sedition Bill that is being pushed through the Arkansas legislature

Defend Commonwealth

NEW YORK .- The Civil Liber-

Gas Workers Win

case will once again go before

academic freedom, demanded an have just won a ten-day strike. A Relations Board. new one-year contract provides for

TO TDO.-Toledo gas workers

COLONEL WOOD ON MOSCOW TRIAL The Action Army

Noted Lawyer And Liberal Explains Why He Defends Trotsky's Right Of Asylum

Trotsky Answers Stalin's Indictment

Again Challenges Accusers To Face An Impartial International Commission

By LEON TROTSKY (These telegraphed statements appeared in the Manchester Guardian on January 25 and 26.)

It is alleged, for instances, that

in 1935 I wrote through Vladimir

tia in Washington) of whom I

necessary to restore the capitalist

But this is exactly what is now

being done by the new aristoc-

racy of which Stalin is the head.

Stalin is therefore merely trying

to attribute to me through the

person of Radek the very policy

which I publicly accuse him of

For a fuller statement of this

see my last book, "The Revolu-

tion Betrayed," already published

in France, and which will soon

Then it is also alleged that I

insisted in secret letters which

cannot be seen, that German and

Japanese capital should be ad-

mitted to Russia, In actual fact,

I urged in the press at the very

moment when Hitler was stretch-

ing out his hands to seize power,

that the Red Army should be mo-

bilized on the western frontiers

stration in order to support and

encourage the German proletariat.

In the international press I de-

who comes only after Stalin him-

my expulsion from the country.

Only in the totalitarian state

of Stalin, where the Soviets, the

workers' organizations, the press

and the Bolshevik Party are all

stifled, only in that state where

the bureaucracy alone can speak

-a privilege that has been estab-

lished as a monopoly of false-

hood-only there could a trial so

Nonsense

obviously staged as this one take

What could I hope to gain from

an alliance with the Mikado and

Hitler? .Power? To what end?

olution have abandoned the idea

As a result of the defeat of the

proletariat throughout the world,

sissinating the Soviet bureaucracy

In attributing such aims to me

Stalin wishes, among other

I reject all the statements con

appear in English.

system in the Soviet Union.

The Guilty

Party

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 25.—It is | MEXICO CITY, Jan. 26.—The unnecessary to state that since charges in the present Moscow 1928 I have had no relations trial are framed with one object whatever with Radek and Piata- -that of exploiting international kov, who have periodically in- relations in order to suppress insulted me in the official press. ternal enemies. Stalin has in-Platakov never visited me in vented nothing new. He is merely Oslo and I have never been in repeating several previous cases Oslo except in company with the in an exaggerated form. Knudsen family and my own secretaries. I have never known Vladimir Romm, who is alleged Romm (ex-correspondent of Izvesto have played the part of intermediary between myself and Ra- have never heard, to Radek, with dek. I have abundant documen- whom I have had no relations tary evidence to prove the im- since 1928, telling him it was possibility of any meeting or personal relations between myself and the men who are now accused in Moscow.

PREPAIRING BOOK

First, how can one accept the fact that all the men who carried through the revolution, with one exception, Stalin, have become terrorists, enemies of socialism. agents of the Gestapo, ready to dismember the U.S.S.R.?

Second, how is that these putting into practice. "criminals," who for nearly to years have been committing terrible crimes can suddenly repent and after having demanded death for others, suddenly demand it for themselves?

Third, how is one to explain that Zinoviev, Kameney, and other leaders of this alleged 'Trotskyist' group, knew nothing about this grotesque plan to dismember the U.S.S.R. for the benefit of Hitler and the Mikado, while Radek, whom none of us ever took seriously, suddenly reveals himself at the head of a world conspiracy?

Real Conspiracy

If there is any conspiracy, it is nounced Stalin, who began to the conspiracy of the G.P.U. If seek Hitler's favor immediately Stalin. Stalin's totalitarian dic which i wrote on the Red Army tatorship has come into ever in 1934 and which are published more serious conflict with the in several papers, I prophesied economic and cultural develop that Japan would come to grief ment of the country. He is the in the plains of Eastern Siberia. embodiment of the bureaucracy. The spirit of daring which he learned in the school of the revo- Nazis? lution is now applied only to For the last several years, sec maintain his own omnipotence ond place in the list of all these and his own privileges by meth- international associates who rail ods that are fantastic in criminal against me belonged to Goebels,

This last trial shows that a self. In 1934 bills denouncing terrible political crisis is ap- Trotsky and all Trotskyists covproaching in Russia.

ered the boardings in Berlin. I am ready to denounce Stalin Those workers in Germany who before any impartial and authori- thought as I do are now serving tative international commission. I terms of hard labor in concenmake this appeal to all men of tration camps. The Nazis in Norgood will and to all that section way, who are closely connected of the press which is honest and to the German Nazis, broke into independent and I know full well the house where I was domiciled that the Manchester Guardian on Aug. 6 last year and like the will be one of the first to serve Stalinists themselves, demanded the truth and humanity.

Marine Strike Ends in Great Union Victory

(Continued from Page 1) plish in open struggle-the strangulation of the unions.

But the same militant policy which carried the unions to victory in the strike is the prescription for victory in the fight Why even the most stubborn against the fink book-direct and White Russians exiled by the revunyielding struggle.

The same treacherous and fatal of intervention. policy which was advocated to stall off and avoid the strike is again being offered now. "Don't refuse the fink book; accept it, my views are represented only and protest afterward,"-this is the suicide formula now proposed try. These circumstances cannot in some quarters.

What is a proposal for the unions of the unlicensed personnel or forming an alliance with Japan to surrender all the gains of their bitter struggle-nothing more. UNIONS CAN WIN

Will the Roosevelt administra- things, to compromise me before tion, which made such pretensions public opinion in democratic of friendship for labor, dare to countries, and in this way detry to fasten the Copeland dog prive me of finding asylum any collar around the necks of the where. seamen? Will they dare to aim such a direct blow against the cerning me made by the defend-

give up without a struggle! to put all their power behind such cause it is devoted to mankind a policy. of the future.

famous liberal lawyer and poet, letter, Colonel Wood released it for general publication.—Ed.) Daily Worker,

(Charles Erskine Scott Wood,

New York City. I have just returned from a

where I do not live. I presume the Worker, full

Revolutionists, was sent to me because my name appears on the Trotsky Defense Committee. I greatly respect Earl Browder, and felt like congratulating him on his reception at Terre Haute, by Force, Terror-

ments in that Constitution of which we talk so much and which we observe so little. At the outset, therefore, I wish to answer for myself a question by Mr. Browder which I observe on the front page of the Worker: "Do you defend

answer very emphatically -No. And neither does anyone else informed in International Law and the civilizing and civilized doctrine of Political

Political Asylum implies that the crime must be politicalrevolt against tyranny-against oppression and injustice by Government-or something like that. It may be revolution and may involve assassination as a terrorist protest; but the crime

The country affording asylum has no opinion-either approval or disapproval-but simply under the modern code of humanity offers refuge to one in danger because of his political acCommunists Should

dition of Asylum that the refugee shall not abuse the protection afforded him and from this revolutionary activities and country that has sheltered him. or question he does this then at the option of and in the dis-Asylum a partisan-but he may be driven out into the world. I presume Mr. Browder assumes that the confessions in open court of fifteen conspirators, inhead of a conspiracy to assassinate Stalin, is sufficient evicourse to convict him of having forfeited any right to asylum.

I do not agree with this. To be absolutely honest with Mr. Browder and the Worker, forty years practice of the law. in which I was much engaged in trying to secure justice and free speech for the I.W.W.'s, Socialists (the "Communists" of that period) and such like political outcasts and "enemies of society," has given me so much of experience in confessions by men afterward proved innocent, which confessions were secured by the Third Degree or by promises of immunity, and I know so much of the 'doping" of vietims about to be led to the chair or the gallows, that the unanimous confession

The reporter for the New York Times who was at the trial and whose statement is in the Worker, says this unanimous accusation against Trotsky, unanimous confession of guilt, refusal of counsel, unanimous pleading to be shot, leaves him "baffled." The Worker, of course, gives statements by other observers, who though astonished saw no unfairness,

nothing "staged." But in spite of me, certain puzzles arise in my mind. I do not seek themthey come of themselves: Why the official announcement to the people in the government's official organ that the conspirators had been shot "in spite of their pleas for mercy?"—Why

pleas for mercy? They had refused mercy.-Was facing death at last too much for them, these old soldiers of the revolution? - Or were they perhaps promised immunity? I must think, too, that it was a mistake in governmental policy to have such speedy shooting-to let silence come with no possibility of future disclosures. And I think it was a mistake in policy not to hold out a few of these conspirators as witnesses against Trotsky, who could appear against him, be cross-examined by him, or who could at least tear to pieces whatever defense he may make.

The only one who did not confess and beg for death is the Informer-the only one saved is the Informer-and he the least valuable of all witnesses. Informers are always discredit-

Disturbing

Thoughts Then I cannot get rid of the disturbing thought - Trotsky: One of the great revolutionists. turned assassin. What little I do know of him is that he and Lenin united in a sound practical opposition against terrorism, As I remember it, they intellectually discarded terrorism and agreed that it was a useless revolutionary weapon-worse than useless-a knife which always turned against the one who used it. Trotsky a terrorist and trying to play the part from exile:-Impossible to do effectively as it seems to me and as it has proved-risking as he well knew forfeiture of his honor and his refuge in asylum.-And above all, Trotsky in league with German Nazis-the arch enemies of all he had given his life tothe very opposite of Russian Communism. Trotsky to stage a reign of Terrorism-and for what? To be the puppet and slave of Hitler and the German me-And yet the human mind is a strange kaleidoscope-Miracles do happen.

If I were being examined under oath for a place on the jury to try Trotsky and was asked-Have you any preconceived opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the accused? I would promptly answer-No. Not an opinion. But certain ideas come to my mind unsolicited, which seem inconsistent with his guilt.—And if the judge should go further and ask-Is this doubt or opinion so fixed in your mind that you could not discard it before competent evidence and under instructions from the court?-I would answer-No. It is not a fixed opinion. Nothing so clear as that; nothing I could not disregard before the weight of evidence and the instruction of the court. -And if the attorney for the prosecution said-You are not friendly to Russia and the Stalin government, are you?-I would answer-You are very much mistaken; I hailed the Russian revolution and the Russian idea of economic equality as the Light of the World-and I still think so.

Until these recent confessions and executions I was a partisan for the Stalin government. It has done much for the Russian people and to advance the Russian idea. I was very favorable to it-but now I am disturbed. I do not regard the Stalin government RUSSIA, nor as the sole repository of the Russian idea. The Russian idea will live long after Stalin and Trotsky are gone. I do not regard the Russian government as infallible and not to be questioned any more than I regard the Roosevelt Administration, from which I have great hope, as infallible and not to be question-

The Meat of the Matter

Having made full confession to the Daily Worker, Mr. Browder and the world, with much expense of space and ink, let us now turn to the meat of the matter: Has Trotsky been tried and found guilty by any competent tribunal of any country of the civilized world?

(Continued Next Week)

erate mis-statements imitating those of C. W. Sanders, supervising officer of the navigation bureau. "These books are the outgrowth of such disasters as the Morro Castle and Mohawk, where inexperienced employees were to blame for the great loss of life," Sanders was quoted in the papers. "Use of these books will eliminate the chiselers who have even robbed lifetime seamen of

The other stooges, the Stalinites, are more subtly

On the waterfront the Stalinites worked to divert the militancy of the workers into a blind alley where they would be forced to accept the fink books. Of course the Stalinites don't dare tell the seamen that the book is not a bad one, they merely say: "It isn't as bad as we thought it was." They also explain that "an amendment will eliminate the bad features." And now, finally, they are telling maritime workers that they must accept the book-"under protest." In other words: accept the fink

Little does the government care whether the seamen "protest" as long as they take the book. The government would be glad enough to get the book over at all -which it didn't think could be done in face of the united opposition of all Pacific Coast seamen. But the Stalinites joined this united opposition only for the pur-

They rationalize their present capitulatory position by saying "to resist the fink book will wreck the union." But they also avoid explaining how disastrous to militant unionism acceptance of this book will be. Solidarity of all maritime workers in refusing the book can effectively defeat it. The Stalinites are doing all they can to weaken

That puts the issue squarely to the maritime workers. If they want to defeat the fink book they have to expose and defeat the treacherous fink book policy of the Communist Party.

By FRANK STERN

The first two weeks of the drive for a thousand new subscribers for Labor Action have come and gone, but we are still far from our goal. Though in many places the cooperation was splendid and though many individual comrades are doing excellent work, the drive hasn't really gone over yet.

Auto Strikers Hold Fort In Flint Plants

(Continued from Page 1) langer the steel drive and weaken

WHY NOT? After all if Governor Murphy is willing to use the National Guard save money and let the strikers do

it? They've done very well for over a month. Actually that is what both Murphy and General find that Chester Johnson of Motors are worried about. Mur. Minneapolis sends in his second phy, at least, is willing to concede good deal, PROVIDED THERE cards. That makes 80 for the ARE NO MORE SIT-DOWNS. Some indication of the reliabil- Army. ity of the National Guardsmen as

union defenders was given in the first days of military occupation. Associated Press, not noted for R. Marie Hansen, who sends in wire, "This afternoon Michigan Action Army members. Guardsmen, at bayonet point pushed a small group of pickets away from Chevrolet's motor assembly Ben Sands comes to the fore with department, Plant 4-seized a un- three yearly subs and a plea for ion sound truck because its opera- 25c sub cards by return mail. tors were doing too much talk Welcome to the Action Army, ing,' demolished a picket shanty, and detained sixx men." These Guardsmen, who also shut off the food supply to sit-down strikers for 12 hours until public pressure forced a reversal, are to guarantee the plants against scabs! SHERIFF AWED

Efforts of GM officials to oust the strikers through a vicious injunction failed when the local

sheriff was overawed by popular sympathy with the strikers and by the difficulty of moving men who sang "we shall not be moved" and meant it. He announced that General Motors would have to get another court order for eviction before he would act.

Final important news of the week was the attempt of Secretary of Labor Perkins to gain subpoena power for herself so that she could month trial subscription drive is ants in industrial disputes.

itself would give the government ers. semi-fascist powers over labor unions.

proposed by Calvin Coolidge and They are 25c each, or four for a was too reactionary for even his dollar. You in turn sell these Republican Congress. That Madame | cards to contacts and friends for Perkins, undoubtedly with presi- 25c each. The postage for the sub dential consent, uses the auto is paid here in the office. All that strike as the pretext for seeking is necessary is that the subscribarbitrary government powers of in- er fill in his name and address terference in labor affairs is one and drop it in the mail box. more indication of the totalitarian ambitions of the Administration.

al met a cold reception in both la- ing contacts and registered Sobor and congressional circles. The cialists, or by making a direct legislation is apparently shelved appeal to workers and tradefor the moment, but the next la- unionists. bor show-down will see a stronger Administration effort to push it

only autos but the entire CIO cam- trial sub is inviting. All that is paign in the mass production in- needed is an army of determined dustries depends upon the valiant Labor Action builders to go out garrison who "hold the fort" in and do the work. Comrades send

A CO-OPERATIVE **GROCERY STORE**

Readers of Labor Action should be interested to know that a Cooperative Grocery Store, based upon the principle of the Rochdale Stores in Great Britain, is now in operation in San Francisco. Active Socialists and trade unionists are among its members.

enterprise is 678 Haight Street. The store is run by volunteer help-members who work for a living at other jobs during the and 5.

Local Stockton's Action Army brigade has made a start this week with 20 cards and a promise of a repeater.

The newly reorganized Fresno local of the party opened this week with 24 two-bit trial subs. These comrades really intend doing things.

Marjorie Kerrigan of San Diego spent a day visiting contacts in order to see how successful she could be. Result-8 visited, 8 subs sold. Comrade Kerrigan took 50 to keep GM plants closed, why not more cards, and by now she's really going to town.

> With this morning's mail in we \$10.00 bill for an order of 40 Minneapolis section of the Action

From Billings, Montana, comes a new recruit to the Action Army over-stating violations of labor's five dollars for 20 new sub cards, rights, states in a February 2nd and adds a list of prospective

> And in Glendale, California, Comrade Sands. We need more like you.

Ernest Peri, our plugging Action Armyite in Los Angeles, has disposed of a lot of cards too date, but we haven't as yet reached a total. We suspect it's in the vicinity of 50. However, the rest of the Action Armyites in L. A. seem to be sound asleep. And that goes double for San Francisco. Wake up, comrades!

Though those listed here look like a shining array, they stand almost alone in the ranks of Labor Action builders. Unless every comrade comes through with similar work Labor Action is in grave danger.

The plan for the 25c three compel the appearance and testi- a simple one. It provides finanmony under oath of all particip- cial support and builds circulation for Labor Action. We need Avhila the immediate excuse for at least 180 Action Army this request was the refusal or bers who will dispose of 8 two-bit subs weekly. This will cover bit subs weekly. meet with the Labor Secretary the cost of publication and build and union officers, the legislation an ever increasing circle of read-

All you have to do is send in Exactly the same legislation was you think you can dispose of. the money for as many cards

Comrade Kerrigan in San Diego Despite hasty endorsement by has proven that it is possible to John L. Lewis, the Perkins propos- sell these cards simply by visit-

The workers are ready for our message. The field for circulation In the meantime the fate of not is unlimited. The price of the in your orders for trial sub cards NOW. Don't delay. Labor Action must go on and must be built.

'HOWARD STREET'

Through an error in the print shop the name of the author of "Howard Street" in last issue was omitted. The sketch was written by Paul Kolinski.

day-and is open to the public Monday and Tuesday evenings, after 8 p. m. Saturday afternoons, between 2

CHICAGO MEETING!! Let the Truth Be Known!

THE MOSCOW TRIALS AND TROTSKY

Speakers: FRANK W. McCULLOCH, NORMAN THOMAS ALBERT GOLDMAN Chairman

At the Capitol Bldg., 159 N. State St., Drill Hall FEBRUARY 14th—3:00 P. M.

Auspices: Socialist Party of Cook County

Admission 25 Cents

unions after they have defeated ants. Not a single word is true the bosses in a 99-day strike? I consider that my political task Only if the unions bow their neck is, before everything else, to deto the yoke! Only if the unions stroy the control which The Sovlisten to treacherous advice to let bureaucracy now has over an important section of the A firm and united stand of the working class of the world. This rank and file of maritime labor political and theoretical work, can relegate the fink book to the which is not secret and which discard. Now is the time for the anyone may inspect and criticize militant elements in the unions gives me every satisfaction be-

and Germany.

widely known as the author of "Heavenly Discourse" and other satirical poetical works, became a member of "The American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky." In reply to criticisms of this action he sent the following letter to the Daily Worker. Upon the refusal of the Daily Worker to print his

holiday-season absence from my home at Los Gatos, and find among accumulated newspaper mail the Daily Worker, of Dec. 17, forwarded from Carmel,

of Trotsky and the recent executions of fifteen former active

ism, Bigotry and Intolerance, all so foreign to the pronounce-

the right to use Asylum-(political)—to plot and execute assassination?"

Asylum.

must be political.

of the Soviet Union as a demon-

Favor Asylum

Communists should be the last to deny or lessen this doctrine. What would have become of Lenin if Switzerland or England had surrendered him to But also it is a settled con-

harbor of safety continue his make revolutionary soil of the If to a certainty beyond doubt cretion of the protecting country he may be-not surrendered, for that would make the volving Trotsky as directing dence to "convict" Trotsky of the facts stated, and so of

of the fifteen is to me not con-

Maritime Labor And

The Government

4. The Fight Against the Copeland Fink

Book at an Acute Stage

at destroying the maritime unions, is only the forerunner

of a carefully planned drive on the part of big industry

and the government, to throttle all militant labor or-

ganizations in this country. Positive proof of this fact,

long well-known to alert workers was given this week in

Secretary of Labor Perkin's proposal to Congress for the

creation of a permanent labor board with authority to

"Copeland fink book" will be suggested for all workers

first, then other transportation workers, then others in

order. Every worker in whatever trade, must realize

that the present seaman's struggle against the Copeland

bill is HIS struggle, and that if the seaman loses, he

acute stage on the waterfront because the government

has brazenly injected the fink books and "certificates

of efficiency" into the midst of strike negotiations de-

liberately to throw confusion into union ranks. Relying

on the waterfront workers' natural eagerness to end the

strike as soon as satisfactory agreements are reached.

the government has hoped to slip through a dastardly

piece of legislation which it couldn't have put over at

any other time against the united opposition of all mari-

the face of militant unionism to force blacklisting books

and certificates upon their employees. Consequently they

are using the government to accomplish the same pur-

pose. These documents (the fink discharge book and the

even more vicious "efficiency" certificate) will be public

property and all the information on them will be avail-

able at all times to the shipowners, who will know only

too well how to use this information however innocent

it may appear on the book. Moreover, there is no way,

outside of total abolition, in which the book and cer-

tificate can be kept from being used and for blacklisting

purposes. This was even admitted the other day in an

editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle where it was

stated that it would not be difficult for shipowners to

get around any "anti-blacklisting amendment" which

the anti-labor drive of the shipowners, and to fight for

the very life of the unions. Because of the inspiring

unity among seafaring workers against the fink books,

the refusal to take the books can and must be successful.

In other words, to refuse to take the book is to resist

The government is the obedient stooge of the ship-

Copeland might get passed by Congress.

Since 1934 the shipowners have been powerless in

At the present moment this struggle has reached an

will have an even more difficult fight in his turn.

gradually, one industry at a time—the longshoremen

This is only the beginning. It won't be long before a

intervene in all industrial disputes.

time unionists.

The vicious legislation, present and proposed, aimed

state-This seems incredible to

owners, hiding behind the cloak of "neutral authority" and prestige. And, in turn, the government has its own stooges-two kinds of them: the undisguised reactionaries and the Stalinites. The first are those who go about spreading delib-

their livelihood."

The Morro Castle and Mohawk were manned by non-union crews, presumably "company men" whom the government agencies certified for service at sea. Existing laws already prescribe experienced crews, and both shipowners and government officials break these laws! Far from eliminating "inexperienced employees" the Copeland books will make possible an extension of this collusion between officials and owners even in ports where unionism, which alone is able to maintain real seamanship and safety-at-sea, has finally succeeded in establishing such standards.

treacherous. They began by taking (outwardly) a militant position against the fink book. But the high Stalinite officials had already worked out a long-range plan to help the Roosevelt administration to "put over" the fink books, and to support his re-election in return for prospective diplomatic concessions to the Soviet Union. The foreign policy of Stalin everywhere in the world, in Spain, in France—has sacrificed the workers to these diplomatic considerations

book! This is the net result of their maneuvers.

pose of diverting it and strangling it in the end.

this solidarity.

The address of this cooperative during the following hours:

They Are Organizing A Pogrom Against The Revolutionary Forces In Spain!

Stalinist Traitors Set Stage to Turn Machine Guns on P.O.U.M. and C.N.T.

By ALFREDO ROJAS

Eyes on Spain! And the most important factor to be The other elements in the new (the POUM) no quarter." watched there, even more important than the military cabinet, however, insisted on struggle because its outcome will eventually also deter- clearing their skirts of any re- ing machine guns on the POUM, Food to the Ministry of Public the rest of Spain receives. The mine the outcome of the military struggle, is the lynch sponsibility and therefore public order to prevent the socialist spirit being developed by the Stalinists against the POUM and the CNT.

Thirty-Six Hours

Written In the Cab of a 21-Ton Truck,

Going Up a Long Hill

By CRARY TRIMBLE

him and his friend. Almost his of dirt, age, and oil, the piercing

that the working-class had to and the undying atmosphere that stick together and help each other clings to work clothes worn in

He was a young, friendly per- an odor which I shall remember son. He had hope and ambition with more pleasure than a whiff to live a full, honest life. In of some rare perfume. It sym-

stead, he was eking out an ex- bolized the warm friendliness of

istence by working on a farm one worker with a job for his tractor-night shift-for 30 cents fellow-worker on the road. Soli-

first words after we got in were sting of a rancid

an hour. On that he tried to darity again!

Both the POUM and the CNTx have taken the position that the of Stalinism. The cynical bureaubetween socialism and fascism. determined to crush them, by force if necessary.

The revolutionary development of the Spanish proletariat is the most For, if the Spanish workers go for"democratic countries" by guarantempt at its physical crushing, ward to seize all power, the new teeing them against revolution. epoch of wars and revolutionsalready foreshadowed by the Ethiorslaught, to a direct struggle for out of the government.

stranded. It's the worker with a&

full, but he stopped for us, even

because no one else would.

live, help his family, and keep

cheerful. He knew what the score

He staked us to coffee to warm

us up before we went on, and we

ful. His eyes shone as he read

seemed to get on this trip.

present struggle is a definite one crats in the Kremlin have lost all faith in the strength of the inter-For this "crime," the Stalinists are national working class. They put their faith, instead, in their diplomatic alliance with the French imperialists, which they hope also to extend to the British imperialists. embarrassing single obstacle to the And they want to prove their loyinternational strategy of Stalinism. alty to the capitalist rulers of the

opian war, the French general against the Spanish workers' or the first two steps. The latest strikes, and the Spanish civil war ganizations which call for the revo- papers arriving from Catalonia -will mature rapidly. The inspi- lution. Hence the plot, in combil give us some details of the third ration of the Spanish workers will nation with the Catalonian bour step. fire the French masses to renewed geoisie, which drove the POUM Campaign of

power. Europe will burn with the At first the Stalinists pretended fires of proletarian revolution. that the expulsion of the POUM

was one solely between the Stainists and the POUM. Since then, By CNT the Stalinist leader in Catalonia, Comorera, has bluntly stated that 'We provoked the governmental crisis with full consciousness of our responsibility.' The first step against the POUM was the campaign of infamy. The second was its expulsion from the government. The third step, now unfolding, is nothing more or less than an at-

Incitement

"Mundo Obrero," chief Stalinist organ of Spain, in an editorial of And this is counter to the plans from the Generalidad was in ac- December 25th calls the POUM tions of the FAI—the Anarchist sassins of Kirov, the agents in To Los Angeles cist press," and calls them "devoted servants of Fascism,"

annihilation. We have already re-

Finally, "Mundo Obrero"-not discussion and covering this up attempts to work in harmony to answer one word of their insuppression of the POUM: "We The solidarity of the working-class is one of the most heartening experiences a hitch-hiker meets on the road. in the service of Fascism, be not When it's cold and dark, when you need a ride most, the permitted to continue their vile armed in some places. In others, USSR. We have never attacked movement will inevitably be on chances are that the smooth, fast cars (with a single driv- campaign, which is acclaimed by er and completely empty car) will sail by and leave you the Fascist camp."

The line laid down by "Mundo little old rattly Ford roadster who its battery of gear shifts) stops. stops for you because "he knows A fresh, sweet hed in the best what it is to be stuck on the hotel never looked so good as that warm, dry cab. And vibrating through the cab (like steam one who picked us up in Gon- sun) a rich, raw smell of work. zales. He had a passenger al- One of those combinations of ready, and his rumble seat was many smells that lose their own them as the general staff of the in Madrid several weeks ago. identity and take on a new sub- Fifth Column (of France). And Only a few days after the new lution in Spain. though it meant crowding for stance of their own a mixture since we must annihilate the Catalan cabinet was organized on the Aragon front no arms revolution.

Thus the stage is set for turn-

lished a declaration that the issue revolution.

Plot Denounced

The CNT was tricked into agreeing to the exclusion of the POUM from the Catalan government, under the formula that no proletarian political parties would participate in the cabinet. Thus, ostensibly, only the trade union federations would be represented. Thus, the old anarchist prejudice against political parties was manipulated.

But under the formula that they represented the "petty-bourgeois elements in industry," the Counter-Attack chief capitalist party, Catalan Es- Of POUM querra, also joined in the cabientered the government as the formal representatives of the trade union federation, UGT.

realize its mistake. The radio sta-"provocateurs," and Iberian Federation-and the Barworthy companions of the as-celona organization of the CNT -broadcast speeches denouncing Spain of the agents of Hitler's the plot against the POUM. Mean-It says their press re- while, steps were taken by the ports "coincide entirely with hat reformists against the CNT in is everyday released by the Fas- Madrid, where it is far weaker than in Catalonia.

festo, dated from Madrid, Decemdaring to face the POUM in open ber 22, pointing out its various masses. by saying, "It is not necessary with the UGT, but that "systematically there is denied to our famous literature"-calls for the comrades representation in di- Nin, said: recting bodies where we are a demand that these provocateurs, minority. Without cause or stated motive our comrades are disthey are denied the right to organize into the CNT."

Thus the "Red Flag," Alicante not to be cut to pieces by such One must consider the elements the CNT is the forced suspension

cordance with the "popular will." Fifth Column, we must give them with a re-shuffling of cabinet are being sent because of our posts which sent Domenech, the presence there. Catalonia does CNT leader, from the Ministry of Services, the Stalinist leader Comorera attacked Domenech's previous conduct of the Food Min- wants to be absolutely certain to istry. In a conference with the press, Domenech was able to and the course of our revolution. show that difficulties in procuring wheat were mainly due to receives an insignificant amount the non-cooperation of the con- of aid; and for this reason 30,000 trol government, and Comorera boys are sent from Valencia to had to retreat somewhat. But Barcelona during the Caildren's this incident reveals the kind of Festival instead of 30,000 rifles. campaign which the Stalinists are The elimination of the POUM planning against the CNT; os- from the government of the Gentensibly on non-political grounds eralidad has a profound signithey will seek to drive the CNT ficance. out of the government as they

Since its expulsion from the by good will between two Marx- Bakersfield, Fresno, Stockton and net. And the Stalinist leaders regovernment, the POUM has ist organizations. It is not a Sacramento. It is scheduled for clearly realized the terrible im- matter of small differences. . . . Fresno and vicinity Friday and plications of the Stalinist cam- It is not a question of simple Saturday, Feb. 5th and 6th; Stockpaign, and is daily driving the phrases. It is a matter of diftion and vinicity, Monday and Minneapolis But soon the CNT began to political meaning home to the ferent conceptions. Thus Mundo Tuesday, Feb. 8th and 9th; Sac- Note masses through the six or more Obrero' states that we are not ramento Wednesday and Thursdailies which the POUM now going through the proletarian day, the 10th and 11th; and will publishes. Its chief organ, "La revolution, but the democratic then move into the Bay Area for Batalla," now begins to look revolution. That is not Marxism at least a week. (These dates daily more like an agitational or- and has nothing in common with are tentative, Crary Trimble on gan, above all emphasizing every us. day the need for workers committees, democratically elected, in in our revolution there are irredates. every factory, field and militia ducible differences. We are

the Spanish socialist revolution

not receive the same aid that point is that the counter-revolutionary bureaucracy or Moscow control the policy of our country For this reason the Aragon front

Reformists Versus Revolutionists

"It is not, as some will say,

column - namely, the Soviets, firmly convinced and absolutely way looked over the sound truck The CNT published a mani- which "La Batalla" declares, can certain that the worker com- and then said, "Gosh, this is sure alone direct the destinies of the rades of the PSUC (Catalan Stal- some different from the old Deb's In a speech to twelve thousand SP, cannot share the position equipment may be new, but the workers in Barcelona on Decem- followed by those who lead these modern edition has the same her 27, the POUM leader, Andres organizations. In the hour of the spirit which built Socialism in decisive struggle for the socialist "One of the pretexts on which revolution, these comrades will was based the maneuver against be with us, and the false leaders us was that we attacked the and the bureaucrats of the labor the USSR. When we fight for the other side of the barricades." Such terms represent a sharp The manifesto ends with an we comport ourselves as the best turn from those used by the Obrero" is stated even more appeal for cooperation, but makes friends of the USSR. If in Spain POUM while they were in the grossly by its local satellites. clear the determination of the CNT the workingclass does not seize Catalan Peoples Front Governpower, a step back will be taken, ment. One can only hope that organ of the Stalinists, declares: methods. The latest move against thanks to which the international the POUM will be led firmly bourgeoisie will be in a position along this line of revolutionary Oxnard Asks For We will always remember the off a wet pavement drying in the of the POUM as much or more of its Madrid daily, "CNT," with to attack the USSR. The friends class struggle. The frequent gydangerous than those which are no reasons given exactly as the of the Russian Revolution are rations of the POUM during the besieging Madrid. We consider "POUM," a daily, was suspended those who are fighting for the last year have only served to triumph of the proletarian revo- weaken it and the prospects for successful consummation of the

The Party At Work

Picket Duty for Red Truck

Truck Number One is in Califor-

work by the Joint Council of San agricultural work. union organizer climbed aboard and the truck headed for the State Office. celery fields. Beside each field where workers were still picking, Convention Ballots the truck drew up and records of Mexican and Spanish songs went Sent to Locals out over the powerful amplifiers. Curiosity emptied the fields and

truck is due for big things in California!

Tour Schedule For State

came on to Los Angeles and surrounding towns, and then prosomething which can be resolved ceeded up the valley visiting the Red Special will write di- 183, is no longer a member of "Between us and the reformists rectly to each local giving exact the Party. His actions during the

One old timer down San Diego inists), the CP of Spain and the Red Special of 1912. The sound the west twenty-four years ago."

Los Angeles Local Changes Address Los Angeles comrades have a

new office in Room 419, Grosse Bldg., 124 W. 6th St. The Modern Book Shop has also moved to this new address.

Agricultural Organizer

Comrades in Oxnard, down Ventura Way, have offered to supply

with agricultural workers here. Prospects for union work are so bright that they make this ur-The big red Socialist Sound gent appeal for help.

Paula Aragon, state YPSL ornia! Its introduction to the gol- ganizer who was active in Los den state was the strike of celery | Angeles field strike area, will field workers in the San Diego stop over in Oxnard after visiting Valley locals. Paula speaks The truck was promptly put to Spanish and knows the ropes of

> Other comrades interested should get in touch with the

Ballots for the election of delegates to the national convention the Spanish-speaking union or are in the hands of local secreganizer had an audience ready to taries. Members at large will relisten to his talk and sign up for ceived ballots within the week. All votes mailed to the State With that christening, the red Office on or before March 5th will be counted.

Nominees are Millie Goldberg, P. Maniscalco, E. D. Patterson, Joseph Plecarpo, Ward Rodgers, Clarence Rust, Crary Trimble, Glen Trimble and Gardner Wells. From San Diego, the Red Truck Five are to be elected as dele-

> Note: Locals should notify the state office at once of their delegates to the state convention, February 20-22.

Local Minneapolis of the So-

cialist Party announces that Rubin Latz, business agent of the Laundry Workers' Union, local recent elections in his union, in which he acted in a thiroughly un-Socialist, even anti-Socialist manner, has made it necessary for him to sever his connections with the Socialist movement.

Local Minneapolis of the So cialist Party is deeply concerned for the welfare of the labor and Socialist movement, and has always instructed its members in workers' organizations to act in the best interests of the workers movements. We cite the recent growth of the local labor movement for proof, for in many cases one will find Socialists in lead. ing roles among the progressive labor forces of this city.

Therefore, when in rare instances it is found that a Socialist is acting against the best interests of the labor movement the Socialist Party takes the steps necessary to discontinue and to abolish such practices. The Party's disassociation from Rubin

'keep" for an organizer to work Latz is such a step.

THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN FRANCE Socialist Convention

2. The Metal Workers' Strike And The Peoples' Front

Three months ago, the truck- because an influential militant was, and with a little more con- drivers who stopped were half- Emile Meyer, a coppersmith was tact with union principles and dead from sleep. They ran a fired. The movement immediately ment generally is now in the hands tactics would be a leader in his 14-hour schedule, had to help unload, grab what sleep they could district with its 12,500 metal workgave him some copies of Labor over the same 14-hour run. And been doing nothing to combat the launched by the bosses? They did Action—the issue with the story now, most of the drivers are wide flagrant violations by the bosses of their best to prevent the strike about the registration of agriculawake, full of pep, and with an the agreements signed after the from spreading. tural workers. He said he would air of proud independence that June strikes, and that had continugive some copies to his friends, is heartening in comparison to ally restrained the workers from and we gave him a three-month the beaten, tired, hang-dog look taking any action themselves, now sub for which he was very grate- of the unorganized truck-drivers. became very active indeed.

the all-night eat joints. That is

Trucks aren't allowed to come about other workers and their into San Francisco with non-union struggles and he was glad to get drivers, and the same will soon duction of the 40-hour week, and a paper that was written for the be true in Los Angeles. The ad- a 15 per cent wage increase to meet working-class. Talking to him vance in organization among the the rising cost of living. It must gave us courage to "take" the drivers who work in and out of be remembered that the collective long, cold waits and slow travel- Los Angeles is something to cele- agreements and the laws called for ing because of the bad breaks we brate. The tide is turning now, and it sure is good to hear a And any tourist who makes sleep when he gets in after a run devaluation of the franc. Moreover, nasty remarks in my presence with a heavy load. He doesn't to present minimum demands at about these big old trucks that touch the load after he drives it the very outset is to place the clutter up the highway will have into the terminal. He has time workers at a disadvantage both in to do battle with me-personally. to rest, see his family or friends, When you're stuck on a desolate and see something besides trucks and in mobilizing support for the road at the edge of a town which before he takes another load out. One line has a completely isn't even a dot on the map, and wondering if the one "eat" stand closed shop. They run the San will stay open long enough for Francisco-Los Angeles trek in you to go in and warm up along three shifts, get paid good wages, about the fifth hour of the ten and have time off between, with settled almost immediately, but the before dawn it's the truck-driver a full Sunday to themselves.

who will help you out. Hunched up with the cold and humbled by Time was when I rode with the elements, you wave a shiver- truck drivers who actually looked ing thumb at the fast touring scared when I talked about union cars. Often as not the driver will organization. They'd heard about shy away as he tears by-as if somebody getting fired for being you had pointed a gun at him, in the union. and the air fairly burns with his | One fellow who picked us up

comments about the "bums" by seemed so wide awake and rested the wayside at night. But a that I was surprised—it was so truck-driver, with his schedule to unlike the old experience of havmake and a heavy load to stop \mid ing to keep the driver awake soand start, will throw on his fifty- he wouldn't run off the road. I seven varieties of brakes and asked him what hours he ran. take you on. He, too, knows When he told me about "shifts" what it's like to be stuck in a and "7-hour runs" and good even more violently against any in- utilizing their most effective strike convened in Paris. place like that. That's solidarity! wages, and time off, I knew the boys must have been busy organ-Or later, after an hour and a izing. I said, "You boys must

half of waiting in the rain— have a union to get hours like in the face of such an alignment, Semat could not deny was being to our wishes, we do not receive a working class struggles they have only other speeches will be ack- Capitol Building, 159 North State shoulders wet, water trickling off that." matted hair and running coldly | His quick comeback was, "You down behind your ears into your bet your sweet life we have a in reserve the threat of a general maneuver, attack and sabotage ernment which need only utilize the among the families of the strikers which will include music and a tion of political asylum for Leon neck, a damp chill seeping into union!" And from what he and counter-offensive on the part of the these laws" (L'Humanite, Nov. 21). agreements acceptable to us to ap- was so intense that the Stalinists dramatic program by the Chicago Trotsky. The speakers are Noryour bones, and every muscle others told us, it won't be long 600,000 organized metal workers in Semat's recourse is to plead with ply the necessary legal steps." On even mobilized a prelate of the YPSL Dramatic Group, which man Thomas and Albert Goldman twisted from fighting the shivers before the trucking in California the country. -a big 21-ton trailer-truck (slow will be 100 per cent union. More and cramped for space because of power to them!

metal workers struck at Fives-Lille piecemeal.

immediately limited to the introadjustment of salaries to meet the

Concerted Drive **Against Workers**

The small shops, 23 in number, large plants, Five-Lilles, Peugeot, Alsthom etc., who had precipitated the struggle, were organized into a syndicate the members of which were bound not to deal individually with the unions. These industrialists, closely linked with the Fascists and with Comite des Forges (the Frenci Steel Trust), had mobilized for the struggle, and had prepared months in advance to crush the workers.

The C. G. P. F. (the General Fed-Obviously, the success of the strike, offensive of the bosses which even other things he said: "If contrary the first time in the history of ern Tenant Farmers Union. The will be a mass meeting in the depended on its extension through-

On November 18, 1936, 2,500 strikers, and to defeat the workers accept the laws of 'social progress' ship at the Congress, and, of

The actual control of a large part of the French trade union movespread throughout the entire Lille of the Communist Party, whose

The demands of the strikers were the prefect of the police in the Nord district to "neutralize" the factories, i. e., to get the workers out of the factories. But the strike could not be easily isolated.

There were immediate repercussions in nearby Valenciennes with both the 40 hour week, and for the its 25,000 metal workers. On Saturday, November 20, the assembled basin where there are 15,000 workdriver talk about home for a good rise in prices that would follow the delegates of the Valenciennes factories voted to join their Lille com- workers in the Sambre basin as rades-but they did not strike. They were restrained by Mus- and Anzin had been negotiating meaux, the Stalinist Deputy from the negotiations with the bosses the Nord district and by Semat, one since the June strikes. In Novemof the Stalinist secretaries of the

Role of the Stalinists

On Nov. 21 Semat wrote in l'Humanite to explain that the metal workers were absolutely opposed to resorting to stay-in strikes, because "they did not wish to split the People's Front." It must be understood that the Minister of War Daladier, speaking for the Radical Socialist Party, had flatly informed his colleagues in the People's Front that the Radicals would not toleendangered the cause of national

creases in wages. Here then was weapon. But the workers had and the beginning of a concerted drive. have no other recourse against the C.G.T., spoke there, and among conducted.

which are still inadequate . . ." The bosses, however, are "hon-

ering, attack and sabotage." They voted for an immediate strike. The items on the agenda. feel that they must smash the next morning the factories were workers' movement before it gets occupied in Maubege, Sous-le-Bois, called while the new load was packed in the truck, and then head back trade union bureaucracy that had in the truck, and then head back in the truck in lieve the status quo can be main-In the Lille district itself, the velopment. Needless to say, they Maubeuge struck, Valenciennes had Among the subjects being dissecretaries of the union, Manguine are not to be dissuaded by pleas. to follow, as per agreement—BUT cussed by Socialists throughout and Gauthier, hewing to the Stal- Neither can the workers in all the leaders of the Valenciennes the country are work with other inist line, immediately applied to cases. As we know, the Lille work- trade unions-with Musmeaux once organizations, the activities of ers struck. And we also know what again at the head-were more suc- the Socialist party with respect course the Stalinists pursued in Lille and in Valenciennes.

Repercussions in Sambre Basin

But the Lille strike had repercussions likewise in the Sambre ers and 2,000 technicians. The well as in Valenciennes, Denain with the bosses for months-ever ber they were still without a collective agreement.

The demands of the 40-hour week, and the 15 per cent increase could not but appeal to them. Moreover, the unions in Mauheuge, the largest center in the Sambre basin, were bound with the unions in Valenciennes by a pact ratified by their factory delegates that they would act in solidarity against the bosses.

On November 26, the French industrialists were so well satisfied the workers gave a good accountwith the progress of their offensive rate stay-in strikes-because they in the key metal industry that the C.G.P.F. (the General Federation of the French Industrialists) broke On this issue the Radicals threat. off all negotiations with the repre- manded immediate action on the ary 10th. Norman Thomas will ganized in Chicago and will aceration of French Industrialists) ened to split. Therefore the Stalin- sentatives of the French trade part of the Government. Whose be on the program as speaker, tively take up the work for the had already come out against the ists were equally adamant in get. unions (the C.G.T.). On the same application of the 40 hour week and ting the workers to refrain from day the Metal Workers Congress

equally obvious: to isolate the if the bourgeoisie would honestly ances before the national leader-

course, came away empty handed.

tained indefinitely, and they are haste to Maubauge but was unable ing conditions that will confront on the agenda which will adein mortal fear of revolutionary de to sway the workers there. If the party in the coming years."

thus broke the solidarity pact. Isolating the

Strikers attempts to isolate and to break anti-fascist position more effecthe ranks of the strikers by split- tive. ting off the technicians. The Lille technicians remained staunchly with the workers. But the Stalinists were far more successful. Their policies isolated the 30,000 strikers in Maubeuge and Lille from their fellow workers in the Nord basin, and from the 600,000 workers na-

tionally. These isolated workers were now left to face the full fury of the bosses' offensive. Armed fascist gangs went into action. Vallant Couturier writing in l'Humanite was compelled to admit that there was being formed and utilized on a national scale "an organization of strikebreakers very similar to the Black Hundreds in old Russia." But ing of themselves.

The entire capitalist press was of course mobilized against the strik- of the Socialist Party, scheduled A local Committee of the Friends ers. The reactionary Senate degovernment was it anyway? And outlining the work and perspec- midwest. in addition the bosses resorted to a tive of the Socialist Movement, neat little trick—they withheld the with particular attention to work Jouhaux, the secretary of the wages due to the strikers.

definite word (from the C.G.P.F.), refused to pay the back wages to nowledgments from Roy Burt and Street, Drill Hall, on the present out the entire Nord district, holding Said Semat, "The bosses resist, we will give the floor to the Gov- 16,000 workers." The suffering Frank Trager, plus a program Russian trials and on the questhe bosses: "the occupation of fac- that self-same day, the delegates of Church to appeal (in vain) to the won acclaim at the Lenin-Lieb- and Frank McCulloch will act as

(Continued Next Issue)

Discussion Opened CHICAGO.-Looking forward to | chairman, Hy Fish, secretary, the important, special national Arthur G. McDowell, and Albert

convention in Chicago starting Goldman. March 26, Socialist party branches That very evening the Sambre and locals have set aside special method, a discussion technique estly" bent on "resistance, maneuv. delegates met and unanimously meetings to discuss the important

The special convention was out of hand. Contrary to the Feignies, Requinies, Hautmont, Aulapplication of Socialist principles the party. These reporters will and program to the present time Secretary Borne rushed post and to formulate plans for meet resolutions on the various items

cessful. They instantly concluded to labor unions, cooperatives and every week starting Feb. 13. The an agreement with the bosses, and other economic organizations, the relationship of the Socialist will devote its next two issues party to labor parties, reorganization of party machinery, party columns of Labor Action are now press, finances, and machinery open for discussion articles by The Lille bosses failed in their for making the Socialist anti-war, party members.

> tailed plans to provide for a housing for the delegates. maximum of discussion time at sub-committee are Roy E. Burt, card.

Modelled after the European new to American Socialist conventions will be used. Reporters will be chosen in advance to rep-"in order to consider the resent the various viewpoints in be responsible for presenting quotely represent all those mem-

a particular viewpoint. To insure a full and free discussion, there will be a special pre-convention discussion supplement in the "Socialist Call" "American Socialist Monthly" to convention discussion. The

Local Cook County, the host to the convention, has appointed an A sub-committee of the national arrangements committee to seaction committee has made de- cure a proper hall and arrange

The sessions of the convention the convention after which the will be closed to the press and 150 delegates will, by majority the public but will be open to vote, decide the future course of any Socialist party member on the party. The members of the presentation of his membership

CHICAGO SOCIALIST NOTES

Burt-Trager Reception Plans are now complete accord-

mittee for the banquet and re- for Spain will be held in Chicago ception to Roy Burt and Frank Tuesday, February 9th, at Shot-Trager, new national secretaries well Hall, 55th and Blackstone. for Wednesday evening, Febru- of the Debs Column is being orthat Socialist have accomplished Said l'Humanite (Dec. 12), "for in the organization of the South-

DEBS COLUMN RALLY

The first public meeting on being to the Arrangements Com- half of the Eugene Debs Column

> THOMAS TO SPEAK ON RUSSIAN TRIALS

The strategy of the bosses was tories would never again take place the Sambre basin laid their griev- bosses to at least pay the wages. necht-Luxemburg Memorial Meet- Chairman. The meeting will be

LABOR ACTION

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SATURDAY, FEB. 6, 1937

The Issue

Every capitalist daily in the country is worried about the auto workers sit-down strike. All statements from General Motors officials concentrate on the "unlawful" sit-down. The courts are pouring out injunctions against it. Michigan's Governor Murphy, Secretary of Labor Perkins and, finally, President Roosevelt himself have offered "peace" proposals as a basis for negotiation between General Motors and the United Auto Workers. Point one of EVERY proposal is "the union shall evacuate the plants."

The issue has taken front pages from the greatest flood in the history of the United States. Why? Because the sit-down has proved itself powerful enough in a single city to bring a multi-million dollar corporation to its knees. What this tactic has done in Flint for autos, it can do in Pittsburgh for steel.

The issue is squarely one of property "rights" against human rights. Property power is the whole foundation of capitalist exploitation. The constitution was written, ninety per cent of all congressional law has been passed to protect property in the plant and tools which gives a handful of Americans the "inalienable right" to exploit the rest by an elaborate system of wage slavery.

No wonder the entire capitalist class is panicky - No wonder that just three months after Roosevelt's election as "labor's friend" he is bending every effort toward forcing or wheedling labor into a surrender of its new-found weapon.

The issue is not one of legality or "right." It is an issue of class power. The sit-down is a direct attack on the foundations of capitalism. Roosevelt defends his own.

The Real Aims of the Trotsky-Baiters

The mass murders in the Soviet Union are intended above all as a bloody demonstration by the counter-revolutionary Stalin bureaucracy of solidarity with the capitalist world against the remnants of the Russian Revolution. The pogrom campaign against the "Trotskyites" throughout the world in association with the ghastly Moscow trials is an extension of this solidarity to the struggle against revolutionary

movements in every country. In Spain today the authors of the Moscow frame-ups are directing a conspiracy against the fighters for socialism in Spain with one murderous objective — their bloody suppression in the name of democratic capitalism in Spain.

In the United States the lackeys of the Stalin murder-machine, thrown into panic by the revolutionary advancement of the Socialist Party, are attempting to organize a patriotic lynching movement against it. "Trotskyism" has become for these traitors the sign and symbol of every idea and every action inspired by concepts of the class struggle. They assume that there are patriots remaining in the Socialist Party and they appeal to them to throw out the "Trotskyites," i.e., the revolutionary socialists, the militant activists in the party ranks, the carriers of the idea of resistance to American Imperialism in the coming war.

In the Daily Worker of Jan. 30, Browder gives away the whole game. Browder wants to line up the radical workers to support the U. S. Government in the war. | tionary Socialist Party is being born!

Here are his words:

"... the 'dogmatic' insistence of the Trotskyites here of the necessity of preparing to defeat the United States in the expected war with Japan, was a 'theoretical' smoke-screen for the exceedingly practical preparation of helping the Japanese military government in perfecting its plans to attack the Soviet Union.'

That is, in plainer English: "If you are against the United States Government in the war with Japan, you are a 'Trotskyite' and an enemy of the Soviet Union.'

Browder calls on "progressives and lovers of peace and freedom" to join in "isolating and driving out this fascist virus from the labor movement and beyond the pole of everything decent.'

Who is Browder really talking about? He is talking about all the opponents of war in the Socialist Party!

They are the "Trotskyites" against whom Browder calls for a patriotic mob. The revolutionary socialist opponents of war understand that all too well. They understand that real opposition to the U.S. Government in the coming war means to face the patriotic mob. And they are beginning, in ever-increasing numbers, to realize that the Communist Party is already offering its services as the leader and organ- cialist work in the trade unions. izer of this mob.

Facing the Crisis

It has been many years since the Socialist Party has experienced the extent and variety of worthwhile activity that it is they cried, "to tell the unions what the Socialist group of men in a now engaged in.

In hundreds of key labor cities from Maine to California Socialists are at the forefront of the CIO campaign. In autos, cialists are not capable, or, at least, terests of the union itself. steel, textiles, oil and rubber, among farm should not, "tell the unions what Mistakes of tenants in the south, migratory laborers in to do." the west, maritime workers on every coast, Socialists are giving substantial aid to the building of the great industrial unions of the future.

The 1936 campaign established our party a Local Labor Committee whose to disciplined trade union work by as the only one which would not compro- duty it will be to co-ordinate the There is, first, the De Leonist mise on the issue of the day—Socialism or unions in order to carry out the policy, rejected by the Socialist Capitalism! The Debs Brigade has rallied policy of the party." As at Mil-Party of the United States thirtythousands to forthright aid for the great waukee and Detroit, the right ralesix years ago. The Socialist Labor cause of Socialist Internationalism. Yet at lied its greatest strength and Party which still maintains De this high point of party effectiveness, with brought all its big guns into play Leon's viewpoint, refused to soil unlimited opportunity for service to the After the smoke had cleared the any person or union not equally adworking class ahead, the party faces a na- left found itself defeated upon the vanced. Since the workers were tional financial crisis. All the essential basic proposition which would not ready to accept 100 per cent party organizations—the National Office, the Socialist Call, Socialist Appeal and Labor Action, many state and local headquarters and party workers-face the acute problem of insufficient funds to carry on.

This apparent contradiction between heights of activity and opportunity and depths of financial support has a definite this question, but for the entire waiting for 40 years. Their error this question, but for the entire waiting for 40 years. Their error The local trade unionist who cannot see beyond the walls of his FIGHTING PARTY. Many former liberal word is all the difference between workers can or wish to learn in own meeting hall helps neither his and legalistic supporters are alarmed; a Socialist Party concentrating its this kind of school. The education steadily they drift back into their arm-

At the same time the thousands of So- casual aside, dabble in such work "teacher" who is too pure to go nation against any worker for race, cialists and workers who want a class- on a local basis with, as often as with his fellow-workers has no stustruggle, fighting, militant party have not each other's activity by contradicteach. yet filled the breach left by the desertions tory programs. In the one word is Communist

We stand between the choice of the re- on every front of the class struggle The Communist Party's trade un- problems. formist or revolutionary road. Shall we and a "mass party" so broad as to ion record offers a complete course Workers' go forward or turn back? To go forward means that the entire responsibility for financial support must fall on the militant, Who Are left wing within the party. A revolution- | We? ary party depends for its organization and Let us return to a question which mental fault with CP policy. union rights and workers' rights men are afraid to open doors at its press on the sacrifice of its own mem-

There can be no choice except forward! Let every Socialist who wants a fighting, | uncompromising, truly Socialist Party take the responsibility of that choice. You are the only present and future support for the National Office and the Socialist Press.

Labor Action will be faced with the necessity of retrenchment until the rallying of the fighting Socialist forces in the west can be accomplished. Unless this necessary awakening is immediate we must resort to bi-monthly instead of weekly publication.

Whatever happens we pledge ourselves to carry on. We ask all real Socialist fighters to make the same pledge.

There is REAL HOPE ahead! A revolu-

Reactionary Trends In South America and navy are listed as "Reds," eager to establish a Soviet re-

FASCIST TRENDS IN SOUTH AMERICA

MONTEVIDO. (NNS) — Social nothing. currents in South America are not seething and frothing openly as in Europe or Asia, but there are significant movements under way, especially in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, the importance of which is obvious.

In Argentina, for instance, two vears ago a new law was passed authorizing the teaching of Christian morality in the public schools. Evangelical pastors as well as Catholic priests immediately took advantage of this law, but there were also some protests for fear that the law was just an opening wedge for Catholic dominance of public educa-

justified. In more than one of scare" is sweeping the country. labor unions in typical totalitar- "We want a Labor Party!" And the provinces, Catholic doctrine Hundreds of professors, writers, ian fashion.

February 2, 1937, is now being taught by Catholic to cruel deportations and a gen- Party did not actually exist in Evangelical protests have availed ures.

ALLY OF REACTION Fascism in Argentina looks to making headway. A raving fascist rale to do anything else. . . . " the Catholic Church as a polit- diplomat was received as Minisical ally and in the case of a ter from Italy and was given around in 1924, he would recogfascist revolt, it can certainly every facility for sowing the nize this last statement as a noncial support of the Church. Meanwhile political opponents are harassed by measure familiar to fascism: deportation, raids on private homes, confiscation of lit-

country has been under martial of an international organization These fears were only too well liberties. An enormous "Red also a proposal to establish state nism first sounded the tocsin cry; record.

are charged with being Communists. Large numbers of officers and enlisted men in the army

REACTION IN URUGUAY

local newspapers. off diplomatic relations with the nits Party, that vigorous, lusty, Soviets on a very slender and revolutionary organism to which erature, dismissal from teaching unproved pretext. In the Spanish the Socialist Party had lost "al- lutionists. positions and from government civil war, sympathies are openly most all of its militants," doing Comrade Trimble's analysis of with the Fascists and this is re-

professional men, and laborers

its very damndest to climb on the 1924 situation has little hislaw and there is no prospect of and permit the police to deport tron Saints still guided the Co. lessons. It is unfortunate that the restoration of constitutional any "undesirable alien." There is mintern) that American Commut more Socialists do not study the

Fraternally

Socialist Policy In The Trade Unions

Work Of Socialists Must Be Coordinated

By GLEN TRIMBLE Note: This is the fourth of a series of articles on issues confronting the March convention of the Socialist Party. They are intended as a basis for local and branch pre-convention discussion. We are sure that non-party readers will also find them interesting and educational. Labor Action will welcome articles submitted by party mem-

bers on all subjects to be consid-

ered at the Socialist National

Convention.-Editor. No question of Socialist policy more heat and less light in recent the capitalistic minded labor fak-Convention debate on this problem has been obscured by old-line tion in the unions. "Who are we," problems. The Socialist man, or the selfish interests of these lead-

"Shall" Or "May?"

union resolution was the sentence, political parties in the past in or-"Each local organization shall elect der to understand the objections amended to an innocous "may."

A World In a Word

of those for whom the fight was too heavy. the difference between a vanguard Playboys day life of the organized workers.

economics, every one of us trained, "leaders," they have always mainor in process of training, to apply tained the same basic trade union woolen bosses were featured damn about the issues or principles to today's problem the experience attitude. The unions were not re. throughout the nation on page one and understanding gleaned from all garded as real and serious weapons and the statements of the strikers of the San Francisco Chronicle, the yesterdays of labor's victories

We are Socialists, that is to say, we understand the Marxian funda- "innocent" congresses and make mentals—the workings of the class organization, the single real hope is "not to question why, his but smashed their cameras. in full economic and political pow- to do or"-be expelled. er for the workers of the world. and tactics has been subject to what to do? Ask rather, "How are

years than has the question of So-ers, the job-artists and the blind leaders of the blind to tell the workers what to do?" It is not only the right, it is the union job-holders who raised the duty of Socialists as active memghost of S.L.P. dual unionism as bers of the unions to share the

they should do?" Since 1932 the trade union who make no protest trade union problem has been de- against policy or tactics they know cided, in effect, by answering this to be mistaken are betraying both question with an admission that So- the Socialist Party and the best in-

This should be so obvious that t is necessary to examine the mis-The heart of the Cleveland trade taken policies of working class

on this conception of party work. its pure revolutionary hands with transform the party from a parlia- of its theories, it set up dual, "revomentary machine to a "party of intionary" unions which were comstruggle"—the essential "shall" was posed of its own few members, completely isolated from the struggles and real problems of the work-

In the change of a single word, They set up classrooms in back the rightest elements snatched vic- halls and waited for the workers tory from defeat, not only upon to come to them. They have been main energies upon the day to day of the working class is their every ist-militants must carry the fight struggles of the organized workers day experience; the job and the into a broader field. The unorganand a party which "may," as a union are their class rooms; the ized must be organized, discrimi-

have a hundred reasons and no in how to wreck unions and disreason for existence in the every-credit a working class party. Books could be written on this subject, which capitalist education ignores to cover and haste was a necesbut for the present article it is or distorts must be encouraged and sity. It isn't exactly a good idea sufficient to point out the funda- strengthened. In the political field to canvass after nine o'clock. Worequires answer, "Who are we to Whether the CP was building Rev- must be defended and extended by that hour and admit strangers. tell the trade unions what to do?" olutionary dual unions, playing at independent working class political We are Socialists, every one of us being the militant rank and file action. (The form of workers' po- tall young man opened the door. a member of the union of his trade, fighting any and all leaders or, as litical action will be considered in Blond, dressed in blue denim, he every one of us students of eco- at present, sacrificing every prin- a later article). The A. F. of L. would have fitted Hitler's denomic and labor history and labor ciple to kowtow to those same political slogan of "reward your scription of an Aryan.

Letter To The Editor

Takes Issue With Trimble

Editor, Labor Action:

tration which actually proves nothing. Speaking of the So- out loud. cialist Party in the 1920s, he

(presumably to the Communist the Party-L.S.) The remainder were Fascist countries of Europe leads war confidence. A National Follette campaign in 1924-they In Uruguay, too, fascism is had not the numbers nor the mo-

If Comrade Trimble had been

they kept it up for two years.

Los Gatos, Calif. They claimed a membership of more than 22,000 at the time, I should like to comment on a lacking neither the "numbers nor section of Glen Trimble's article morale to do anything else." They -Mass or Vanguard Party?-in would probably have made the the issue of January 23rd in La Follette bandwagon in 1924 if which the writer uses an illus they hadn't forgotten that you shouldn't do your "maneuvering"

"The campaign will enable us to enter the third party, to form "The Socialist Party lost almost a left wing within it and split it all of its militants in the split, away," wrote a Party strategist in "inner" Party Press. But this kind of "united front" fell gime. Close cooperation with the aging, discouraged, robbed of pre- on its face in 1924 because the victims of this strategy also knew how to read. It is not unpriests in the public schools and eral copying of oppressive meas- the 1920s. It was no wonder that likely that any such "strategical" the Socialists supported the La approach to the labor party issue will share the same fate in 1937 or 1940.

It is possible to argue, of course, that dishonorable intentions toward the virtue of a labor party are more "revolutioncount on the immediate and offi- seeds of fascism. In this he was sequitor. He would also have ary" than honorable ones, or that readily assisted by a number of seen, not only the Socialists the vices of Third Period Com-(aged and discouraged) support munism were virtues in the Secfrom the violence of the reaction-Uruguay has further broken ing La Follette-but the Cammu- ond. But Revolutionary Socialists will need to approach this prob-

BOSTON. - The merging of Brazil is another country rap- flected in the attitude of the the La Follette bandwagon and torical value since he fails to three shoe workers unions has idly going fascist. Since the frus- press. Recent laws make illegal giving up only when La Follette paint the whole picture. The his- resulted in the formation of an do we know these guys ain't trated revolution of last year, the any political group which is part himself kicked them in the face, tory of American Communism in industrial union capable of or fakes?" It was in 1922 (while the Pa the 1920s is also full of object ganizing the workers of the vast shoe-making industry. The new union, operating under the auspices of the C.I.O., is to be named the United Brotherhood of Shoe

LILLIAN SYMES.

SIDELINES

By JONATHAN DOE

strike in the woolen mills at Pasto say, the statements of the whom didn't give a continental for fighting the economic battles were to be found, if they appeared William Simms of the Scripps-Howof the workers, but as toys to be at all, somewhere at the bottom of and papers, and even the Hearst a column in the second section.

"used" for party ends-to swell pened. New York reporters and and "justice." window dressing for party publicstruggle, the capitalist state, the ity. Trade union policy is laid camera men went over to Passaic ncreasing difficulty of labor gains down by party officials thousands and the provincial police, mistak- their usual line of "reasoning," will in a declining capitalist order, the of miles from the actual problems, ing them for strikers or strike sym- probably draw from this the concluecessity of class rather than craft and the rank and file Communist pathizers, cracked their heads and sion that Radek and Romm, to AN EYEFULL

Equally dangerous is the attitude

ers required.

unionists will carry on.

The essential points of a mili-

ranks. We favor fighting, class

the economic scheme by ignoring,

unionism, united workers' power

own brothers or his class. Social-

opposed, agricultural and indus-

trial, employed and unemployed,

workers must be brought to a com-

mon understanding of their mutual

friends and defeat your enemies"

with the important question of

party relation to the CIO-AF of

Sharecroppers Meet

MUSKOGEE, Okla. - Represen-

tatives of over 30.000 white. Ne-

gro, Indian and Mexican share-

croppers and tenant farmers met

here at the convention of the

Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

provide land for the tenant farm-

ers, and to establish agencies to

defend members of the union

ary land-owners in the southern

Shoe Unions Merge

L controversy.-G. T.

is a friend to be trusted."

these ends.

Socialist

The next morning the nation was the actions of a handful of labor icans were discovered over night around to mentioning that. job-holders whose "Socialism" con- to be sinister aliens, German citisisted in holding red cards. Thirty- zens who lived in luxury abroad on Faux Pas

five or fifty cents a month dues profits sweated out of American inan "argument" against every ef- knowledge which gives real, not was a cheap price to pay for com- dustry and the American public. fort toward disciplined Socialist ac- phoney, answers to labor's own plete endorsement of any policy Their workers, who the day before had all been "alien agitators" were now revealed as upstanding Amer-ously. One just doesn't do that in ican citizens fighting for their our great American democracy. democratic rights and for a decent American standard of living, A correct Socialist policy must

The moral of this charming epi avoid all these, and many lesser sode was not lost upon employers. errors. Socialists must be active. The capitalist class may be stupid militant members of the unions of but there are limits to its stupidity. their trade, they must work and The gentlemen of the press have about "the Trotskyist leftists" in fight for a union program and un- moved about the fringes of our the Sailors' Union. That man Trotion tactics which will genuinely aid great industrial conflicts with con- sky has more irons in the fire than the interests of the workers, and siderable more freedom and con- anyone we ever heard of. One mothey must win general worker un- fidence ever since the battle of ment he is plotting with Hitler and derstanding and support for this Passaic. To be sure, an occasional the Japanese militarists to partiprogram so that, though individual cop goes berserk and fails to distion Soviet Russia. The next minleaders may grow weak-kneed or criminate between the heads of re- ute he is raising hell in France and turn sour, the organized militant porters and heads of "alien agita- Spain. And next, he bobs up right except in such benighted "hot to keep the seamen from saying tant trade union policy are clear spots" as Salinas and the Imperial "Thank you" for a nice little book to most of us and to thousands of Valley, and when it does, profuse with their pictures and finger, progressive workers outside party apologies quickly follow.

BUSTED CAMERAS

struggle tactics rather than the 'bargaining" of craft aristocrats introduction to what has happened bound to be a letter from him. who maintain their soft place in in relation to the latest Moscow trial. It is undoubtedly unfortunate or even by working against, the from the viewpoint of Stalin that interests of the workers as a class. what happened in Passaic in 1926 all his inside information on the The class struggle requires indushad not been brought forcibly to his waterfront from his friend and coltrial unionism as opposed to craft attention. When he included Karl league, Mr. George Wilson, whose Radek and Vladimir Romm, both "impartial" reporting of inner mariand militant action as against internationally known journalists, time controversies entitles him to 'deals" and maneuvers, democratic in his list of accused, he figura- a bonus from the Daily Worker.

tively smashed the cameras of

Throughout the world a press Back in 1926 there was a great which paid comparatively little attention to the trial and execution saic, New Jersey. For some days of such figures as Zinoviev and after the outbreak of that strike Kamenev was up in arms. Foreign the capitalist press maintained its correspondents, columnists, feature usual "impartial attitude." That is and editorial writers-many of

involved-saw red. Chester Rowell Then suddenly something hap den hot and bothered about "truth"

The American Stalinists, with gether with all who may protest against the Moscow frameups, are allies of Hearst and the capitalist Who are we to tell the workers frequently expressed, and more treated to an eyefull. The papers press. The same "logic," of course, often practiced, by old guard trade were full of horrendous accounts would lead them to the conclusion unionists, now largely cleared from of police brutality in Passaic. The that the Passaic strikers were Socialist ranks. Their policy was woolen bosses, who the day before allied with similar interests in one of unquestioning acceptance of had all been 100 per cent Amer- 1926, but they will scarcely get

John L. Lewis, according to the press, has made a great blunder. He intimated that he took the President's election promises seri-

Trotsky Covers the Waterfront

columnist is beginning to write tors," But it doesn't happen often, here in our Sailors' Union, trying prints on it. Wait a minute while we look under our bed. Trotsky All of which is in the way of an may not be there, but there is

This particular columnist, by the way, is a well-meaning chap who ought to know better than to get

want anv.

Seated

people would begin to pester us.

Wife glared as he gave us the

name and address. . . . It would

be well to follow them up. I can

smell a family tragedy in the

another home.

around a table in the kitchen

were several adults and children

eating supper. Again we went

into our discourse. Suddenly a

woman arose and interrupted us.

She looked like a Latin and had

a Spanish name although she de-

nied being Spanish. Her words

gushed forth, a veritible Niagara,

"Sure, sure we'll give, Come

around to this and this address

next Monday night and I'll have

a lot of stuff for you. In the

meantime I'll see all the ladies

plenty things." And she shut the

Boy, was that a surprise. True,

was only a promise—but cheer-

Then our last stop. J. knocked.

I began to explain our mission.

spoke simply, but he didn't seem

again, this time in Yiddish. I

at the yellow book in front of

He was praying. I had never

seen anything like it before as I

don't come from a religious house-

Finally the old man looked up.

"I've got nothing to give.

All my old clothes I send to Po-

land. Pogroms in Poland. Did

We nodded. He turned to his

That was that. Materially our

efforts had been almost entirely

prayer book. A courteous dis-

hold. I kept quiet.

you read about them?"

ng and welcome nonethêless.

"Come in."

the neighborhood and get

Husband finally spoke

'Sure, send me notices.'

Assignment For Spain

Canvas Unfolds a Panorama

don't

Several weeks ago Comrade J. and I went out canvassing for We want nothing to do with it." food, clothing and money to aid the loyalists in Spain. Leaflets had been distributed during the day warning the housewives of our impending visit that evening. Workers' education in the things | We had quite a number of homes

We knocked at a place and a

"Have you got a few moments

must be amended to read "only to spare?" your own class and your own party He nodded. We told him the reason for our coming. Through These are the essentials of So- the partially open door we caught cialist trade union policy. It should a glimpse of a baby seated in a be obvious that the pre-requisite carriage. Immediately, Comrade for making the party membership J. exclaimed, "That's a good looka driving force for these things is ing boy!" . . . He meant well. that the National, state and local I've got a suspicion J. thought organizations of the party SHALL the personal touch would be an have Labor Committees which in- asset. You know, tickle proud clude all trade union members and Poppa and perhaps some Spanwhich have the responsibility for ish worker would be the recipico-ordinating the action of Social- ent of a warm coat.

ists within the trade unions toward "Naw, that's a girl." We grinned sheepishly. The Note:-Next week's article will son was a daughter. "Well," blue denim continued, He was an elderly gentleman, deal with effective party machinery for trade union work and

'I can't give you anything be-seated at a table, wearing a hat cause I ain't got nothing for my- and gold rimmed spectacles. I self. I'm on W.P.A. "Are you a member of the to understand me. I started over Worker's Alliance?" I asked. "No. But I go to all their can speak the language well but meetings on X Street. They're this time the words came halt-

doing a lot of good work but I ingly. The old man kept staring don't belong. I ain't a member of no organization." Then, as if to apologize to us he said loudly, "But I'm a member of the National Guard!" We left, after promising to send

The convention demanded that him notices of lectures and meetthe government take steps to ings. Our emotions were a bit awry-a mixture of pity and soreness. The National Guard! Hell!

Another home. Ukranians. The wife did the talking in this family. "Yeah, we read all about Spain in the newspapers. We got nothin' to give."

Then husband muttered something about clothing. The missus immediately squelched him. "How

J. showed our credentials. She still refused to give. Husband

turned away abashed. I tried a new angle. "May we send you notices of our meet-

fruitless with the exception of making several new contacts and one promise of supplies. In some way the Spanish Civil War had become part of a huge panorama that included the National Guard, babies, wife trouble, neighbors and pogroms in Poland.

Well, that's how it goes.