The Militant's **Mailing Rights** Are Revoked!

Two simultaneous developments on the front of struggle to preserve a free labor press took place this week:

1. The Postmaster General in Washington issued a decree revoking the second-class mailing privileges of The Militant.

2. LABOR ACTION, after having been subjected to preliminary investigation each week of each issue as it came out, and delay in the dispatch of the issue to its subscribers, has been notified that for the time being this procedure will not be followed by the Post Office.

The Postmaster General's decision on The Militant came after months of arbitrary harrassing and persecution of that paper because of its critical position on the war and the conduct of the war by the administration, and because of its outspoken defense of labors rights and interests. Issue after issue was held up before being allowed to go through the regular second-class mails, and some issues were even destroyed completely by decision of the postal authorities.

Upon the investigation of the Department of Justice, headed by the so-called liberal, Attorney General Biddle, proceedings were started to deprive this newspaper of the second-class mailing privileges it has enjoyed since its inception. In a statement made following the revocation order, Biddle declared:

"The lines in this publication (that is, The Militant) also include derision of democracy and the 'Four Freedoms' as hypocritical shams, anti-British attacks, charges of fascist collaboration by the United tates, stimulation of race issues, and other material deemed visionally in character and appearing to be calculated to engender opposition to the war effort as well as to interfere with the morale of the armed forces."

As is evident, the crime of The Militant is the crime of HOLDING OPINIONS which Biddle and his associates do not like! The question of the truth or falsity of these opinions obviously does not interest Biddle. It is probably more accurate to say that what does interest Biddle is that these opinions are generally based upon the truth.

At the same time, LABOR ACTION was finally informed by New York Postmaster Albert Goldman that the previous procedure is to be altered. In a letter to the publishers, Goldman writes:

"Please be informed that the March 1, 1943, issue of your publication has been dispatched to destinations in regular course.

"You are also informed that for the present, future issues will likewise be dispatched when presented for mailing if so prepared and mailed as to be in conformity with the Postal Laws and Regulations in all respects.

"However, even though the issues will be dispatched under the conditions mentioned above, nevertheless you should continue to see that four copies of each issue are promptly sent to this office as soon as published, until further notice...."

The at least temporary suspension of the persecutory procedure followed against LABOR ACTION in the past months might be considered a decisive victory for the protest made against the anti-democratic activities of the Post Office were it not for the simultaneous decision made against The Militant.

The plan of the reactionaries in the Administration in Washington, and the reactionaries outside of Washington who are exerting the necessary pressure, is not difficult to surmise.

ANTI-LABOR GANG BEHIND SCARE ON "ABSENTEEISM"

LABOR ACTION

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

'Equality of Sacrifice''

MARCH 15, 1943

THE WAR EFF AMERICAN LABOR

Cook Up Scare to Put Over 'Work or Fight' Bill and **Other Anti-Labor Measures**

By SUSAN GREEN

On Socialists

He Murdered

seeped through on the Ehrlich-Alter

case in the last few days has com-

pletely shattered any doubt that any-

one might have had in the absurdity

of the charges against the two murdered leaders of the Jewish Workers

Union (Bund) of Poland. Stalin's

attempt to justify the murder of the

two socialists collapsed like a house

of cards, under the weight of the

We started by saying that the

information has seeped through.

for there was a deliberate attempt

on the part of the State Depart-

ment to kill the news of the mur

der, or at least to soft-pedal it. As we now know, the news of the

facts as revealed by the press.

Under Secretary of War Patterson declared before the House committee considering the Johnson "work or fight" bill that the absenteeism at one of the aviation plants was sufficient to build ninety-seven bombers last year.

Admiral Land, chairman of the Maritime Commission-that labor-hating gentleman who would be willing to see every labor leader hung at sunrise—is sure that absenteeism in the shipyards was enough to build one hundred cargo vessels last year.

Where do these soft-handed gentlemen get their figures? Perhaps No. 1 enemy of labor, Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, is their authority, But never mind that. <u>LABOR ACTION</u> TABCH 15,1943 Facts Crush Suppose these swivel-chair toil-ers-with-their-tongues are right that so-and-so many planes and ships could have been built. The question still remains: WHY question still remains: WHY DO WORKERS TAKE TIME **Stalin's Lies** OFF?

Secretary of Labor Perkins answers this question on which everything depends. Her answer leave no doubt on the subject. This is her department -she knows. Further information that has

ONE CENT

SECRETARY PERKINS STATES THAT 80 TO 90 PER CENT OF THE ABSENTEEISM TODAY IS DUE TO INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AND TO ILLNESS, HURT WORKERS AND SICK WORKERS CANNOT BUILD PLANES AND SHIPS. THAT IS FINAL AND CONCLUSIVE.

Enlarging on this subject, Secontary Perkins said further that improved working conditions could reduce industrial accidents by 90 to 95 per cent. Also many minor illnesses be prevented by improved ditions in plants and at shipyards.

The Militant has announced, as everybody expected under the circumstances, that the Post Office action is to be challenged immediately in the courts. If there has been a let-up on LABOR ACTION for the time being, it is, so far as san be seen, only because the Administration forces want to await the outcome of a court decision on the appeal of The Militant against the Postmaster General's revocation act.

If the Postmaster General is reversed by the court, it will be a victory not only for The Militant, but for the whole labor movement and specifically for the whole labor and liberal press, which the reactionaries hope to intimidate into a state of complete docility by the action against the more radical labor papers.

If, however, the revocation is upheld by the court, there can be little doubt that the reactionaries will be encouraged to take bolder and more sweeping steps against the labor press, and against LABOR ACTION first of all.

A year and a half ago, Biddle declared: "Insofar as I can, by the use of the authority and influence of my office, I intend to see that civil liberties in this country are protected; that we do not again fall into the disgraceful hysteria of witchhunts, strike-breaking and minority persecutions which were such a dark chapter in our record of the last World War."

The action against The Militant, presaging similar action against any and all critical or radical labor publications, gives the flat lie to the Biddle pledge of September 21, 1941.

In simple self-protection, every labor and liberal organization and publication in the country must express itself in unmistakable language against the autocratic and reactionary decision of the Post Office against The Militant, and give unstinting support in the fight of The Militant to reverse the Postmaster General and regain its second-class mailing privileges.

(Continued on page 3) **Only Workers' Control Can End Chaos in Rationing and Price Fixing**

By GERTRUDE SHAW

Officials of OPA, discussing price control at a recent convention of some wholesalers' association, stated that "THE PLAN OF SELF-EN-FORCEMENT WILL BE GIVEN A CHANCE IN THE COMING MONTHS.' This and other straws show the'

way the wind is blowing. The in-

According to government sources quoted in the press this week, fully 17 per cent of all meat sold to consumers in this country is black market meat!

adequacy of the OPA-for long apparent to the housewife-is now becoming clear to the OPA itself. It is passing the buck-to the public. Long ago LABOR ACTION predicted that no bunch of boss politicians. could separate . profits

from food-so that the latter can be supplied to the masses.

But the "public"-into whose lap the OPA tosses the thorny food problem-is too all-inclusive. It takes in those very elements to whom the crisis in food is a welcome opportunity for profiteering, such as the "legitimate" big-farm bloc and the illegitimate black market manipulators. The "public" includes bankers and brokers, bosses and business men, large chain stores and wholesalers-that fraternity united by the profit-motive, to whom high prices mean more profits.

How Stop Chaos?

The interest of the masses in getting food at available prices can be carried out only by committees of their own - namely, committees of trade unionists, working farmers and working class housewives. This is the part of the "public" upon whom depend the control of prices and rationing, and the freeing-from the grip of private profit-of food for mass consumption.

The anarchy and chaos reigning on the food front make absolutely imperative the immediate organization and functioning of such working class committees. "Anarchy and chaos" are exactly the right words, the proof of which is far more plentiful than many foods. Canned and dried foods, for instance, have been rationed at such high point values that many are almost prohibitive. Comes along the American Institute of Food Distribu-

tion, a top-notch research organization, with the statements that "the government's 40 per cent purchase of the 1942 canning pack is open to question" and that "the reserve stockpiles seem to be excessive." IN FACT. THE INSTITUTE INDI-CATES THAT ONLY 15 PER CENT **OR PERHAPS 12 PER CENT EVEN** OF THE 1942 CANNING PACK WOULD HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT FOR THE ARMED FORCES. (Continued on page 2)

But do Secretary of Navy Knox Under Secretary of War Patterson, Admiral Land, Representatives John son and Vinson and other "servants of the people" cry out for better conditions? Not on your life.

They are all for the Johnson "work or fight" bill. They want every worker absent "without prior authorization" to be reported to his draft board-as that bill would require. To allow the worker the right to decide whether he is able to go to work or not is allowing him too much freedom, according to the "guardians of democracy" in Washington. The worker must be intimidated into going to work-sick or sound, hurt or hale-with the threat of induction into the Army. He must not be a free agent.

Secretary Knox is also eager to reach out and use compulsion on workers over draft age. He favors fines and wage penalties. "The place

'(Continued on page 4)

Are you one of the many LABOR ACTION readers

who depend on distributors for your copy? If you are, this message is addressed to 1 1 8 you.

be a LABOR ACTION subscriber, thus being assured of a copy every week.

Our volunteer distributors are doing everything possible to deliver your copy to you regularly. But wartime conditions impose extreme hardships on this method of distribution. For this reason, we are starting this subscription campaign to make every LABOR ACTION reader a subscriber at the special introductory rate of only 25 cents for a three months' subscription.

Here is your opportunity to show how much you value our paper, and the efforts we have made to bring it to you weekly by subscribing now.

We urge you to subscribe simultaneously to The New International, monthly socialist magazine: \$1.00 for six months; \$1.50 for a whole year. You can take advantage of the special combination offer: LABOR ACTION and The N.I. for six months-\$1.00; LABOR ACTION and The N.I. for a year-\$1.75. Use this convenient form and mail your

sub today, ONLY 25 CENTS FOR SIX MONTHS (OR 50 CENTS FOR A FULL YEAR). (Coin, Money Order, Currency, Stamps)

LABOR ACTION 114 West 14th St., New York City Enclosed find \$_____ for which please enter my subscription to LABOR ACTION for _____ 1 yr. The New International for ___ 1 yr. 1 6 mos. LABOR ACTION and N.I. for 1 yr. 3 6 mos. Address.... City Comments.....

Workers Party Conference Gets Behind "Labor Action" Sub Drive One hundred delegates and visitors to a con-BOR ACTION for a line on the solution of their

ference of Workers Party activists, held last week in a midwest city, enthusiastically got behind LA-BOR ACTION's drive for 1.000 new subscriptions in the next three months and The New International's drive for 50 subs.

The delegates, who came from coast to coast, described the hearty response of workers in their cities and shops to LABOR ACTION. Among the most active distributors of LABOR ACTION, the Workers Party delegates recited countless cases of how workers look forward to receiving LABOR ACTION each week, how copies of the paper are passed from hand to hand, how they are posted

daily problems.

One delegate from a particularly oppressed section of agricultural labor told the conference that it was not unusual for a worker to walk five or ten miles to get LABOR ACTION or to pass it. on, and that in his area LABOR ACTION is practically the only paper workers read.

These delegates knew what LABOR ACTION means. One after the other they affirmed that LABOR ACTION was an indispensable instrument in the struggle against boss oppression and for a better world. And each of them added his testimony of the growing response among thousands of workers to a paper that is guided in its work benches, and how workers look to LA- policy only by the interests of the working class.

During the discussion, delegates voiced their opinion as to what they would like to see in LA-BOR ACTION, and voted recommendations to the paper. Similarly with The New International. Above all, however, they voted to mobilize every member and friend of the Workers Party behind the subscription drive for the two periodicals: for LABOR ACTION, a weekly paper of working class and socialist agitation, and for The New International, a monthly magazine of socialist thought.

Next week we will publish a full report of the Activists Conference. But right now we ask our readers to follow the lead of the militants in the Workers Party, ubscribe to LABOR ACTION and The New International todayt

We want every LABOR ACTION reader to

LABOR ACTION

News From the Northwest

Europe in Revolt

News from the Socialist Camp

A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF "DEMOCRACY" IN NO. AFRICA

just reached this country from a politics ... Frenchman in North Africa. The contents speak for themselves. There is no need to add any comment on the character of the fascist regime set up there by U.S. imperialism.

Page 2

"As soon as the armistice was concluded between Admiral Darlan and General Eisenhower, order was restored. That is to say: all the Vichy officials, without exception, took back their former positions: almost all fascists who had been imprisoned during the night of the Allied landing by French de Gaullists were freed. The SOL, the Legion (Vichy military shock troops-E.), the collaborationists of yesterday keep their hands on the helm. The same orders are carried out. The same men remain in the censorship, radie, police departments, general administration, etc. The telephone exchange and vital Algerian posts remain in the hands of individuals selected and placed there by the German-Italian armistice commissions. The greater part of the Algerian confidants and advisers of Robert Murphy (representative of FDR-E.) are former partisans of the Axis. The High Commissariat of the Government General and the Prefecture can

TWO DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES

ter.

French and Spanish fascism have just arrived in this stronghold of democracy. Not as prisoners, but, on the contrary, as respected guests of the American government, in charge of highly important negotiations. One is Jacques Lemaigre - Dubreuil, among the chief advisers of General Giraud, and a special friend of Roosevelt's North African representative, Robert Murphy. Lemaigre-Dubreuil was not only a very well known collaborationist and one of the chief backers of Petain's "national revolution," but long before the war he

Two authentic representatives of was-as president of the "Taxpayers Association," a semi-fascist outfit, and as backer of the secret fascist organization, the Cagoulards (Hooded Ones)-one of the most active adversaries of labor unions and of democracy.

> The other is Colonel Juan Beigbeder, Franco's former Foreign Minis-The fascist colonel is undoubtedly here to further accelerate the shipment of oil and other raw materials which are flowing liberally from this country to Spain.

> > Europacus.

Chaos in Food - -

(Continued from page 1)

So-what are the working people to make of that? Is the government right or is the research organization right? Some really reliable research is definitely called for. Committees of organized workers, working farmers and housewives could supply it.

Again, on the one hand the Army buys up the entire crop of No. 1 Idaho potatoes. A couple of weeks later it cancels 50 per cent of the order. Why did it order twice as much to begin with? Where is the rhyme or reason?

The following is a letter which has without impunity continue Vichy's

"In Algiers, the press, which is still in the same hands, still admires what it has 'burned.' Only the PSF (de La Rocque's fascist organization) or Legion communiques are passed. Those groups (for example, de Gaullists-E.) which reassembled painfully and in secret, are pitilessly repressed. The trade unionists who are trying to reconstitute their unions are hunted down as in the 'good old days' and their leaders continue to rot in camps.... All political prisoners, French, native and foreign, are still at the Maison Carrée prison. No official-trainman, post office employee, teacher or member of the public services, etc .- has been reinstated to the post from which he was expelled because of his political or philosophical activity or because of his racial origin. No doctor, dentist, pharmaçist, lawyer, journalist, magistrate, etc., has been restored to the profession from which he was driven by racial decrees or secret societies. Jewish children continue to be driven out of the lay schools and young students no longer have access to the universities. The administrators chosen for service of economic Aryanization remain in their positions in order to manage Jewish property."

Dear Editor: The biggest laugh of the week was the tangle local "big shots" found themselves in after weeks of ballyhoo over the Northwest labor shortage in an effort to push over the labor freezing orders. Now that Washington has heard about the shortage they have put Seattle and vicinity in a labor shortage district. They are to receive no more government contracts while this condition exists. Seattle industrialists now

find the labor shortage a "grave mistake" on someone's part.

Seattle newspapers have campaigned for the establishment of. the forty-eight-hour week to "match the long hours of the men on the front." Now that it is here, none of the business men'seem to want it after all. Col. Walter, J. De Long (boss) of

Washington Selective Service jumped the gun on labor drafting in Washington with the bold statement: "I take men from their families and send them out to do battle. I certainly don't see why I shouldn't take them away from their families and send them to Bremerton (to work in the Navy Yard) to sleep in dormitories." Even the legality of the move doesn't hinder him.

Morse Against Pay Boost

The .public representative of the War Labor Board, Wayne L. Morse, came out flatly opposed to any pay increases, emphasizing that his stand was in accord with the national administration's policy. His arguments: 1. Wage increases lead to inflation and that would be the worst thing

for labor. 2. Labor has no right to expect pay increases during a war-even corresponding to increased living costs. 3. We can't win the war unless we sacrifice.

4. The argument of "Look at the profits employers are making" makes no impression on me." 5. Wage increases are against the

national administration's policy. 6. Other problems, such as housing,

schooling, transportation and working conditions, are more important than wage increases. 7. Only one exception exists. And

that is only if and when the cost of living reaches a point where labor cannot maintain a standard of living that will permit it to manufacture the maximum of goods needed to win the war.

Wages evidently are intended to reach a bare subsistence level, since no real effort is being made to curb the steady rise in prices. It has been variously estimated that the cost of living has gone up 20 to 40 per cent while wages in the shipyards have risen only eight per cent since January 1, 1941. Shipyard wages are on the average higher than those paid by other industries. On top of the increase in the cost of living is the 25 per cent income and victory tax as well as the bonds most workers are made to feel obligated to buy. The average mechanic receives \$60 a week. He will get at least a onethird cut due to the rising cost of

vorable. One thousand and thirtyseven men (or about 15 per cent) have left the logging industry for higher paying jobs in October, November, December. The logging industry, instead of raising the pay of its workers to keep them on the job, has been clamoring for lower wages for shipyard workers.

Operative Mechanics, Local 289, refused to work the sixth day at the Seattle Transit Co. without time and a half.

Win Forty-Hour Week

The school custodians of Seattle won a forty-hour week after the threat of a strike. Prize statements of the week: Board Member John Reid, as reported in the Post Intelligencer-"It is too bad that the principles of unionism had to be injected in the schools, but it's the way of things in our land."

The American Legion has offered to give MERIT AWARDS to workers who are not absent. The local stuffed shirts sat with local Legion officials to map a campaign against the workers. No absentees, no transfers to another job-no pay raises!

Harry Bridges closed his eyes to the fight to maintain the workers'

rights at home in his statement. February 10: "So that there can be no. mistake on how I feel about my case and the war-the winning of the war comes first."

The United Seamen's Service got too odoriferous for Harry Lundberg, who resigned from its directorate with the statement that it had become a charity outfit and ninety per cent of the income goes to salaries of officials. Seamen don't want "hotels"-"clubs" established in United States ports. They want enough money to pay their own way!

The California Chamber of Commerce wants a fifth freedom in the Atlantic Charter: "The freedom of enterprise."

The Washington State Legislature in this war-torn world spent nearly half a day discussing a vital question: the merits of huckleberries as a pie base. House Bill No. 78 would protect the huckleberries by restricting the cutting to legitimate dealers. Fifteen amendments were proposed and defeated.

China proclaims in red-the good B. D. (Seattle.) blood of workers and peasants-

A Few Facts About China's **Missimo and Generalissimo**

By JOHN BERNE

Madam Chiang Kai-shek is making the welkin ring over these fortyeight states with those very "catch phrases" which in her speech at the Madison Square Garden she mocked. "Justice, freedom and equality" punctuate all her paragraphs. "Never again must the dignity of man be outraged"-is, of course, a must. She is all for erecting "pillars of justice, cooperation, mutual respect" - and what have you.

Such verbal paraphernalia - with-

However, one bit of good advice

said. "Eternal" is a very long word,

but undoubtedly a few truths can

For instance, the past history of

Same Period Per Cent

Vear Before Increase

341.250

268.750

437.511

661.735

514,688

114,883

115.338

131,723

-487,613*

3,727,819

857.369

76.481 157.0

182.149 805.7

1.270.145 29.4

1.049.924 31.5

94.994 139.2

70,727 692.2

2,851,335 36.3

5.980 11500.4

58,073,579

8,888

\$1,154,759 54.4

130,321 208.9

23,442 1359.8

38.7

41.6

80.5

38.0

40.3

435.5

39.6

74.9

84.1

29.4

49.3

306.8

be learned from the past.

"Earnings" for

\$1.738.898

402,577

342.191

473.162

380.396

789.666

913,185

722,079

47,598

160,352

469.177

242.451

2,176,035

4.824.602

1.280.198

196.585

1.649.768

1.643.451

1.380.481

227.227

560.285

693,703

3,894,027

101,468,793

Recent

Period

out which no imperialist war can be

shek and his wife do not represent the people of China-not the workers, peasants and soldiers who are the vast majority of the 450,000,000. They are of the class of Chinese bankers and business men and they cement the relationship between these Chinese elements and the business men of the United Nations-more especially of the United States.

B

the truth that Generalissimo Kai-

Here is the case against the Chiangs.

In 1926-27 a vast mass movement for liberation swept over China. Millions of workers and peasants were in action to oust not only the foreign capitalists, but their own tyrannical landlords, bosses and mercenary generals.

By virtue of the false policy of Stalin in relation to this great Chinese revolutionary movement, the Communist Party of China had given up independent action and subjected itself to the Kuomintang Party-of which Chiang was head. Instead of relying upon the strength of the masses, the Communist Party followed Chiang-who had no intention of permitting the success of the mass movement.

By a coup-d'etat he first took Canton and made himself political and military leader of the nationalist movement. His campaign against the workers and peasants started immediately. He began by making strikes illegal in Canton. Then he suppressed trade unions and peasant leagues in Kiangsi Province.

As Chiang's armies approached Shanghai, a revolutionary center, in February, 1927, the workers-expecting his support because of the false policy of the Stalinists-staged their insurrectionary general strike to take over the city and rule themselves. Instead of hastening his troops to the aid of the revolutionary people of Shanghai, Chiang ordered his troops to halt and allowed the military governor of Shanghai to suppress the uprising.

However, on March 21 the Shanghai workers once more arose and this time were successful in taking over the city. In the meantime Chiang showed his hand openly. As he procoeded through the provinces, he let loose black terror against the revolting masses, piling up their corpses in his wake.

The victorious Shanghai workers, still misled by the Communist Party and confused as to what to exnect from Chiang, were not prepared for the ferocious attack he ordered against them. Workers were slaughtered in the streets of) Shanghai, the revolution was drowned in blood spilled at the order of Chiang Kai-shek.

The background of Chiang's gory counter - revolutionary march was a neat little deal between the foreign and Chinese bankers of Shanghai for he annihilation of the workers' peasants' movement by this very Chiang ai-shek. By the way, the military governor of Shanghai, Li Pao-chang, who was responsible for the first blood-letting there, was afterwards rewarded by Chiang with a command in his army.

James Talcott, Inc. Virginia Iron, Coal & Coke Co... Woods Manufacturing Co. ____ Pennsylvania Railroad Co. American Central Mfg. Corp. ___ Athey Truss Wheel Co. ____ Transcontinental & Western Air, Inc...... Crane Co. DiGiorgio Fruit Corp. Eureka Pipe Line Co. St. Louis Public Service Co. Lima Locomotive Works, Inc.

Look down the list. There are big companies and small companies. There are tool companies and food companies. There are all kinds of things, but they have one thing in common: they made enough more in 1942 than in 1941 to make 15 per cent look sick. And remember, 15 per cent is the HIGH-EST increase that ANY worker has been able to get, and most of them

actually they are not high enough to represent the true state of affairs. For they are all based on the reported figures of the various companies, and therefore ignore all the many accounting devices for calling profit something else. For example, the Pennsylvania Railroad Co .- the largest company in this particular listshows an increase in its already fat profit of 74.9 per cent. But the company also reduced its bonded debt by just under a quarter of a million dollars. Bonds are not current debts, but sometimes are as old as the road itself. If a private individual earned enough in a certain year to pay off a debt he had owed for ten years, he would certainly include that amount in his "net profit" for the year. It belongs there, logically. And if we include it in this particular case, the increase of Pennsylvania's profits amounts to 117.5 per cent.

why these tremendous increases? To make cars to government spe-Roosevelt, unlike Browder, talks cification, a certain amount of conabout "equality of sacrifice." Did version of machinery was necessary. the War Labor Board ever ask the This was all paid for before profit workers whether their wages in was figured. New machines, 16,374 1941 were inadequate? In many of them, were paid for by the govcases, among the workers, they ernment. And in this one year alone were. But, adequate, inadequate, a reserve; of \$10,000,000 has been set aside for the post-war conversion or piddling-no matter what the wages were in 1941-the highest increase allowed in 1942 was 15 per

*The second figure represents a net loss, so that the rate cannot be

(what, we cannot say from the fig-

back to civilian production. In other words, they are producing without risk, and to a considerable extent on government investment. But the classic theory of capitalism-the stuff they teach you in high school economics courses-is that the entrepreneur is entitled to his profit because of his investment and because of his risk. The risk in war contracts is negligible. And the investment is sometimes practically nothing. where the government furnishes the machinery and lends money without interest to install it in a factory. That was not the case here, but a portion of the capital

the rich farm corporations-hankering after even greater profits. If the working people are to eat any meat at all, they will have to do something about it-outside the realm of profits and politics.

The above enumeration by no means exhausts the instances of the pandemonium on the food front.

It Is-And It Isn't

To go on, then. Meat not being available, the housewife is big-heartedly urged to buy chickens-though she is not told where to get the money to pay the fancy prices. But

In his most recent, insult to his readers' intelligence and entiments. "Victory and After." Earl Browder. Communist Party Fuehrer, says that the sacrifices in this war cannot be equal. This is a people's war, he says, from which the workers will benefit most. And therefore, he says, the workers should pay more than the capitalists. On that point, Browder certainly must find this a satisfactory country

By EVERETT WESTON

-almost as good as Russia itself. Every week somewhere in the columns of LABOR ACTION you will find the details of yet another attack on the living standards of the workers. And every week, in this corner, is a list of how the bosses are doing. The figures are from recent issues of the New York Times, and profits shown are after all taxes, regular and so-called excess-profit.

kinds of companies, making all haven't been able to get that much.

These percentages look high, but let's look a little further ..

fought-is one of the few commodities of which there is no shortage, which will not be rationed, and which, furthermore, is very low in price. Madam Chiang did hand out: "Learn eternal truths from the past." she

The Meat Cutters Union is clamoring for action against the Black Market. The OPA has promised!

Risks Are Small - Profits High

Briggs & Stratton Corp. ...

Consolidated Biscuit Co.

Eastern Rolling Mill Co.

Pacific Western Oil Corp.

Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal Co.

General Crude Oil Co.

National Candy Co. _

John R. Thompson Co. _

Western Air Lines, Inc.

Wisconsin Electric Power Co. .

Robert Reis & Co.

cent-FOR WORKERS.

computed.

Commercial Shearing & Stamping Co.

Company

Ceilings—and Meat

Beginning April 1 meat, and cheese as a meat substitute, will together be rationed at four ounces per person per day-a ridiculously small ration if you consider what is left of four ounces of meat after it is cooked. How do the workers know that such deprivation is indeed necessary? Certainly the 'official handling of the food situation to date does not inspire confidence.

Ceilings are being put on meats to become effective with April 1 rationing. Most of the ceilings are an outrage-bacon, for example, being about 58 per cent above 1939 prices. But even such high ceilings are meaningless because the powerful farm bloc does not allow ceilings to be placed on cattles and hogs-from which, as everyone knows, meat comes.

Thus the OPA, which set ceilings on meat, taking profits well into consideration, is still at loggerheads with the Department of Agrichture and Congress, which are pretty much under the thumb of

-presto, a poultry shortage also develops. Why? Poultry dealers-with an eye peeled for the most profitable pastures-send their supplies to the markets where the ceiling prices on poultry are higher or where there are no ceilings at all. What kind of ceiling system is this anyway?

To cap the climax, Mayor La Guardia makes an eleventh-hour revelation that there isn't so much poultry on hand after all-there actually being in storage now only 55 per cent of the amount of a year ago.

In a recent issue of the New York Times, John D. Morris writes an article under the head: "Policing Food Front Up to Housewife in the End." It is unusual for a writer in the boss press to be so blunt, but Mr. Morris hits pretty near the mark. However, the "housewife" is as helpless as an

unorganized individual as a worker is as an unorganized individual. WITH ORGANIZATION THERE IS STRENGTH. WITH ORGANIZA-TION THERE CAN BE WELL-PLANNED ACTION.

living. He will have to pay 20 per cent or \$12 income and victory tax, which reduces his weekly income to \$28. On top of this come deductions for war chest, Red Cross, Navy relief, Chinese relief, relief bundles for Britain and Russia, etc., etc. In other words, the worker's income is tending toward depression wages.

Rules on Absenteeism

The campaign against absenteeism here finally found its logical conclusion when rules for absenteeism were established by Colonel De Long. 1. If an absentee is of draft age he

will be inducted. 2. If he is not of draft age, after the second offense he or she will not in all likelihood be approved for an-

other job. The AFL woodworkers offered to police their own members in regard to absenteeism but the operators have refused the offer. Logging operators have in many instances refused to work more than forty-eight hours a week, even though working conditions be fa-

But, it can be said, the 1941 profits may have been inadequate, and the companies are entitled to an increase of say, 11,500.4 per cent, as was the case with Western Air Lines, Inc. In the first place, 1941 profits were, on the whole, NOT inadequate-far from it, even from the most conservative capitalist's point of view. But more important, even if they were inadequate,

But, just for the fun of it, let's look at a company that's not doing so well, Chrysler Corporation, for example. "Increased taxes," the Times says, "the change-over to war production and reserves established to cover the change-back, cut the net profit of the Chrysler Corporation in 1942 to \$15,529,013 from \$40,114,420 in 1941. Quite a drop, you will say. But

"The last civilian automobile," the report says, "was produced on January 1, 1942." Eleven months out of the twelve they were producing for the government and 88 per cent of the year's sales were to the government. Sales to the government involve virtually no risk. You get an order, with all specifications set, make the cars, and collect the money. No fear of style changes. No loss through obsolescence or cut-throat competition. Whatever is made has first been ordered, and will be paid for.

left over in their substantial "kitties"

needed \$10,000,000,000 above current

taxation, it would impose a corre-

sponding percentage levy on all ac-

cumulated wealth above a certain

figure-let us say, \$10,000. That way

ler. And, on this basis, what did they make? A mere 151/2 million. They were doing business, the report says, at the rate of a billion a year, which means that the rate of NET profit was 151/2 per cent. No risks. Part of your capital fur-

ures given) was also given Chrys-

nished you. Net profit: 151/2 per cent. Not bad, you might think. But no; this was, you remember, an example of a company that was not doing at all well!

Generalissimo Chiang has unclean hands-they drip with the blood of Chinese workers and peasants. The fact that the criminal political mistakes of the Stalinists played into his hands, does not absolve him from the well earned title, "butcher of the Chinese revolution."

Buy LA in Detroit at: Newsstand near Family Theater, Cadillac Square.

Buy NI in Detroit at:

Carl's Book Store, Clairmount and Woodward.

Book Store, Baltimore and Cass.



Against "Duration **Union Contract"**

Dear Editor:

Many trade unions covering war industries whose contracts are beginning to expire are being urged to accept longer term contracts in the future. A serious threat to the workers' standard of living is the "duration" contract, designed to freeze labor-management' relations for as long as the war continues.

Union bureaucrats, as usual, may be expected to sell out on this question, since rank and file unionists are seldom primarily concerned with length of contracts.

Reaching even beyond the notoribus Little Steel formula, this reactionary move would freeze not only wages but working conditions. It is even more dangerous because, while labor's stuffed shirts register occasional verbal protest against the Little Steel system, they approve the duration contract because it frees them from the annual or biennial campaigns for militant action which, as every bureaucrat knows, sweeps the rank and file prior to contract signing time.

I believe LABOR ACTION should

urge its readers to start talking sta: "Kill Germans!" down the "duration" contract in their unions, on the floor of union meetings and in the plant among the workers. Even if your contract signing time is some way off, now is the time to sound the alarm.

Make "No duration contract" a slogan in every war plant in the country.

Albert Kane (Phila.)

A Note on Russian War Propaganda

Dear Editor:

The February 28 column of Drew Pearson adds emphasis to what LA-BOR ACTION has been saying about the reactionary Russian bureaucracy. LABOR ACTION has printed the program that the Lenin - Trotsky government followed concerning the fraternization of the Russian soldiers with the Germans, and has showed how this policy was responsible, along with other propaganda from the workers' state, for the ending of World War I. LABOR ACTION has also printed excerpts from Red Star and other Stalinist publications which give the present line of Rus-

Pearson's column tells of several interesting things reported by for-

mer Secretary of War Patrick J. Hurley, upon his return from Russia. "Except for the officers," writes Pearson, "only about one in ten of the Nazi soldiers in Russia are real Germans, Hurley reported. The 'German' army is made up of Poles, Rumanians, Czechs, Hungarians, chiefly the latter. Starved and battered, these troops are low in morale. Only the fear of being shot by the German officers keeps them going."

The bureaucracy knows that it lies in its propaganda about the war. If the Stalinists were actual revolutionaries, if they were international socialists, they would make every attempt to turn the imperialist war into a class war: they would not advance such slogans as "Kill Germans," even if it were an actual German army drawn up against them instead of this miserable army of German-conquered slaves who are driven out to kill and be killed. How powerful class propaganda might be against such an army, if it were wielded by an actual workers' state!

W. K. (Buffalo.)

Wants Explanation Of "Capital Levy" Dear Editor:

During a recent discussion on the "Soak the Rich" section of your program, different ideas were expressed as to just what some parts meant. Will you please explain what is meant by a "levy on capital"? Exactly what does it include? Jim Brady (Phila.)

(Under the present tax system, an individual is taxed only on what he earned in any given year. Take any of the "Sixty Families"-the handful of parasites who own and control the lion's share of American wealth. Suppose in one year du Pont (of the "Sixty Families" du Ponts) has a net income of a million dollars. He is now taxed only on that million dollars. But, through decades of exploiting workers, the du Ponts actually own many hundred times that amount in wealth. That accumulated fortune is now tax exempt, and it keeps right on accumulating. The same for the Fords, Rockefellers, Mellons, Morgans, Lehmans, etc.

Their accumulated fortunes are repnot a cent would have to come out resented by various investments of the workers' pockets! -Ed.) (bonds, stocks, etc.), by the owner-

ship of factories, houses and real es-This Man Is tate, and by whatever other means the rich accumulate their wealth. **Absolutely Right** Now we propose that the govern-Dear Editor: ment tax some of this accumulated

and tax-free wealth. So that: if a Out here in Los Angeles the Ex-Mellon or a Rockefeller is worth a aminer (Hearst) is making a great billion dollars, the government fuss about some aircraft worker who would take whatever part of that it stuck his neck out and called Rickneeds by a capital levy. Suppose Rooenbacker "a rat." Then I read in tosevelt wants to raise \$16,000,000,000 in day's paper (not the Examiner) that taxes this year. So much would be Rickenbacker appeared before the raised by taxing heavily all incomes New York Legislature and called for over \$5,000. The rest could be raised the abolition of the forty-hour week from the accumulated capital of the -and what's more, for the abolition rich without seriously endangering of all union dues, etc. Now you can their standard of living. And what see why anti-labor Hearst tries to is more, they would still have enough crucify any worker who indignantly calls its anti-labor hero Rickenbackto put up the dough next year and er a "rat." The game is pretty clear. the year after too. The government Personally, I have always advised would decide the size of the levy on and will continue to advise every this accumulated wealth by computindividual I know never to contribing what it needs after taxing, more ute a cent to a Hearst paper in any severely than it has wanted to, the shape or form. But I realize the rest current incomes of the rich. If it

of the capitalist press is little better. What we need is a daily paper like LABOR ACTION, which gives us the facts and is not filled with propaganda against the working stiff. B.R.

The drive for 1.000 new subscrip tions for LABOR ACTION got under way this week. Thirty subs came in reply to the first announcement of the drive. That's a startbut to make our quota of 1,000 new subs in three months all friends and agents of LABOR ACTION will have to get down to some serious work. There are 1,000 workers who are not now subscribers to LABOR ACTION who want to get LABOR ACTION regularly at their homes each week.

Get their subscriptions. And if you haven't sent in your own sub-do so immediately. There is every sign that the record

of the first week (thirty new subs, including one combination subscription), will be more than tripled each week as the drive gets up steam ...

This is the record for last week. Where is California? Where is Chicago?

Buffalo	
Akron	
Brooklyn	-
Detroit	1
Bronx	3973
Long Island City	
New York State	

LABOR ACTION

What Is the Trotskyist Position on Stalinism?----The Victories of the "Red" Army and the Struggle for Socialism

There seems to be no end to the nonsense, and the downright fraud, that is written about Russia and her army in the war. When these scribblings appear in the capitalist or the "liberal" press, it is not very surprising. The writers and editors are either sublimely ignorant of what Russia really is and really is doing and aiming to do, or else they do know but will not say, because to tell the truth about Russia would help dispel some of the myths they have so carefully created about the war in general and the so-called United Nations in particular.

What is not so easy to understand is nonsense - complete and very dangerous nonsense - about Russia when it is written in a paper that calls itself Trotskyist. For Trotskyism-that is, the consistent program of revolutionary, socialist internationalism, to which we firmly adhere-is the irreconcilable enemy of Stalinism, simply because working-class socialism is utterly incompatible with totalitarian tyranny.

In the report of a speech made in New York on "The Class Meaning of the Soviet Victories" by Felix Morrow, the February 27 issue of The Militant says:

"The stranglehold of the Stalin bureaucracy, Morrow stated, has progressively weakened with every new Red Army victory and its consequent rise of morale among the Soviet masses. The Red Army is fighting for the socialist Europe as well as a socialist Russia, he declared, and they will never submit to any underhanded deal to preserve capitalism in Europe for the benefit of the very same imperialist powers that attempted to overthrow the October, 1917, Revolution."

We regret that lack of space makes it impossible for us to comment in this issue on the growing tension over imperialist spoils between Stalin and other members of the United Nations: Wallace's speech, Ambassador Standley's statement on aid to Russia, the boundary quarrel between Poland and Russia, and the censorship imposed in London on stories relating to the latter, etc. In a coming issue of LABOR ACTION, Max Shachtman, national secretary of the Workers Party, will discuss this highly important question.

It would, we suppose, be possible to compress into a few lines even more errors than are contained in the seventy words of the above quotation. But that would require a supreme effort, exerted by the organized collaboration or more than one person. To point out the errors, however, requires very little effort.

"The stranglehold of the Stalin bureaucracy has progressively weakened with every Red Army victory.", Where, when, how? We are careful WILL such things, especially the last-named, take place? Whoever understands the real situation in Russia is certain that they WILL. But AS YET, there is no sign, no evidence, for Morrow's assertion.

What is more important is the radically wrong linking of the weakening of the bureaucracy with the victories of the army. In general, a totalitarian regime is weakened in wartime when it suffers military setbacks. For example, there IS objective evidence that such was the case in Russia in the period when the army was standing still or losing ground in the first war with Finland (John Scott's book on Russia makes interesting reading in this regard). To speak now, especially now, of a weakening of the bureaucracy's stranglehold on the country and its people is, at the very best, wishful thinking. More simply, Morrow is talking up a spout.

This applies essentially to his words about the "consequent rise of morale among the Soviet masses." What, pray, is the evidence for this statement? If by "morale" Morrow is referring in general to the readiness of the masses to fight, to make sacrifices, then there is at least some evidence to warrant making the statement. But substantially the same thing could be said about the "morale" of the Germans and the Japanese, for instance. Didn't their morale hold up, and rise, with the big victories of their armies? And isn't it still pretty high, according to most reports? What does this fact, by itself, prove about Russia that it does not prove about Germany or Japan?

Class Morale

to a spout.

But Morrow spoke on "The CLASS Meaning of the Soviet Victories." If so, he should have dealt with the CLASS MORALE of the Russian workers. If that is what he had in mind, his second statement falls into the same category as the first: nonsense. There is no evidence-again we emphasize, AS YET-of any rise in the CLASS MORALE of the Russian workers.

Such a rise would show itself in the development of a class understanding of (and therefore opposition to) the Kremlin's alliance with imperialism; in the development of organized opposition, however primitive, to the counter-revolutionary regime; in the development of an independent class movement, of a socialist consciousness, of internationalist spirit. That will come, we are utterly convinced. But where is there a single sign of it now? We, and others, would be obliged for a little information on this score. Until we get it, we must continue to say that Morrow's lips are still glued

"The Red Army is fighting for a socialist Europe as well as a socialist Russia." What a gift he has for breath-taking, sweeping phrases! Not only is the "Red" Army fighting for a socialist Russia (which does not exist except in the lying propaganda of the Kremlin) but also (you really must believe this, for Morrow says so himself) for a socialist Europe. With all deference to the delicate eardrums of our readers, we say again: Nonsense! But this time, especially dangerous nonsense.

the people, of the socialist revolution. That is the spirit in which it was trained: that is the spirit that was drilled into every member of it, from commandant to raw rookie. That is the spirit in which it won its really great victories against the domestic and international counter - revolution. But Stalinism destroyed that army! Hasn't Morrow heard? If he hasn't "read it in the papers" in the last dozen years, he can find the whole story told and analyzed in Trotsky's writings.

What is "Red" (that is, socialist, internationalist, democratic) in the Russian army today? It would be interesting to know the answer. We disagreed with Trotsky on the question of the "defense of the Soviet Union" and on whether Russia today is a workers' state. But one thing we learned from him and we haven't unlearned it, namely: the Stalinist army is the army of the Bonapartist counter-revolution. Does Morrow get this?-the army of Bonapartist coun-

ter-revolution, not the army of socialism! It is CONTROLLED by the Bonapartist counter-revolution which is in power in the country; it is DI-**RECTED** by it: it has been imbued with the poison of Stalinist chauvinism and Great-Russian nationalism;

its program is the program of the counter - revolutionary bureaucracy; its Praetorian "colonels" and "generals" and "marshals" (and its "orders of St. George") differ in no important respect from their opposite numbers in the armies of capitalism: its discipline differs from that of a regular imperialist army like one. egg from another. These are the truths that Trotsky taught. What Morrow says is, at the best, apologetics for Stalinism.

IF it is "fighting for a socialist Europe as well as a socialist Russia." that is welcome news. But that would be a little more than just welcome news, it would be a miracleand we don't believe in miracles. What IS undoubtedly true is that there are many WORKERS in the ranks of the Russian army who want socialism as much as they do not want Stalinism, who are revolted by the rule, the leadership, the aims of Stalinism because they are socialist internationalists, who hate capitalism, chauvinism and slavery of all kinds and who want freedom not only for the Russian masses, but also for all the people of Europe and the rest of the world. But how in the name of all that makes sense does this make the Stalinist army a Red

There are hundreds and thousands of workers in the British army who hate fascism, who hate imperialism and imperialist oppression, who want an end of their own ruling class and of capitalism, who want a socialist society for themselves and their brothers throughout the world. Does this indubitable fact make the British army an army of democracy? Does this indubitable fact make it possible to say that the British army "is fighting for a democratic (or socialist) Europe as well as a democratic (or socialist) Britain"?

The British masses will really be fighting for a democratic and even socialist Britain and Europe when they have first broken the control and fetters of imperialism in their own country, and established their control over the country, over the state, the government and the army. The Russian masses will really be fighting for a socialist Russia and Europe when they have first destroyed the rule of bureaucratic totalitarianism, rid themselves of the poison of Stalinist chauvinism, and taken control of the country, of the state, the government and the army. Not before!

rope as well as a socialist Russia"? Stalinist army is fighting for a "socialist Europe as well as a socialist Russia" is to disseminate the most vicious pro-Stalinist propaganda, and thereby help destroy the prospects of a truly socialist Russia and Europe.

Rule of Slavery

Morrow evidently does not know that the rule of Stalinism is the rule of slavery. Morrow evidently does not read The Militant, which so rightly said not long ago that Russia is a prison to which the workers are condemned for life. Morrow evidently does not read Trotsky, who wrote that the victory of the "Red" Army in Poland (which it divided with the Hitlerite pirates in 1939) meant the subjugation of the "liberated" masses to Stalinist slavery. Or

if he did read it, it meant as little to him as the brash phrases he flings about with such abandon. A person who writes about Russia like Morrow deserves any name you want-apologist for the expansion of Stalinist slavery, for example-but

not the name of revolutionary socialist. Precisely because of the dangerous illusions created among some

workers here and in Europe by the "victories of the Red Army." the revolutionary socialist should and

By Max Shachtman-

will emphasize: The extension of Stalinist rule means the extension of a new slavery. Call it bureaucratic collectivism, as we do, or "degenerated, counter - revolutionary workers' state," as Trotsky did, it is nevertheless a totalitarian slavery that Stalinist rule represents, a slavemaster oppression which crushes everything that is noble, progressive, democratic, socialist and internationalist in the working class that comes under its heel.

Paga B

The revolutionary socialist will emphasize: Socialism is the only hope of the world, and of the workers in particular. Be irreconcilable toward imperialism, be it in the form of fascism or "democracy." But be no less irreconcilable to Stalinism. Its maintenance or extension means a terrible setback to the inevitable socialist revolution, and not an aid to it. Neither the Stalinist bureaucracy nor its army will bring you socialism, or promote it by so much as a hair's breadth. The emancipation of the working class is the task of the working class itself, and there is not and cannot be a substitute for it. Whoever teaches differently is either an outright enemy of socialism, or a well-meaning obstacle in its path.

LABOR ACTION MARCH 15, 1943 More on Stalin Murder of Ehrlich and Alter--And How He Did a Favor for Fascist Goering

(Continued from page 1) Ehrlich-Alter execution was first revealed in a letter sent by Amassador Litvinov to Wm. Green. Under the pressure of the State Department (Bloody Joe is an ally) Green refused to publish the letter verbatim. Until this very day the exact text of the letter has not been published anywhere.

The public indignation aroused among trade union and other circles has, however, forced the issue out in the open. It took a few days for the metropolitan dailies to catch up with the story. And what a gory spectacle has been revealed!

Radsiwill Released

We can trace the whole story with much greater accuracy now. As we mentioned in the last issue, Ehrlich and Alter were arrested by the GPU right after the Nazi troops conquered Poland. At about the same time, the Russians also arrested other leaders of Polish public life, among them the arch-reactionary, Count Jamusz Radsiwill.

The Count, one of the largest landowners in the country, a real representative of Polish feudalism at its worst, was a pillar of the Pilsudski military dictatorship in Poland. He. however, had influential friends.

Russian Communist Party to the Nazi Party in Germany?) and, presto, Radsiwill was released and brought back to German-occupied Poland, again free to lord it over his peasants and arrange hunting parties.

We print this story in detail because nothing reveals better the outright reactionary nature of the Stalin regime than a comparison between the treatment accorded the two opposite poles of Polish society. Radsiwill-freed immediately. Ehrlich and Alter kept in prison and finally shot. Can anyone find a trace of the once glorious workers' state in this episode?

But let us get back to the Ehrlich-Alter case. At the time of Radsiwill's release, Ehrlich and Alter were accused of serving the Polish secret police. Their real crime, however, was their fiery denunciation of the Stalin-Hitler pact as a betrayal of the cause of the working class and socialism. For two years they were kept under lock and key. In June, 1941, Hitler attacked Russia. Only three months afterward, in September, 1941, were the two released-and that after considerable prodding. And now the sensation:

According to Stalin, it was after

Russian government formally apolo- hotel, the telephone rang and Alter gized to them and explained that was asked to come with Ehrlich for their imprisonment was all a mistake. Better forget about it-the two were told. Not only that-they were put in swanky hotels, given a complete set of clothes and put under medical care.

Now, why should "Hitler agents" be given all these high honors! The answer is simple. Stalin wanted to bribe the two and utilize them for the purposes of furthering his own Russian nationalist. bureaucratic policies. This is nothing new in the technique of Stalinist rule. Execution is only one side of Stalin's coin. Bribery is the second. For, right after all the high honors had been duly performed, a high official of the Commissariat for the Interior (read OGPU)-a certain Colonel Wolkowsky-visited Ehrlich and Alter and proposed that the two organize a Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee to fight Hitlerism. This committee (now stationed at Kuibyshey) was to have branches in all countries. Ehrlich and Alter agreed. Ehrlich was supposed to be chairman, Alter secretary, and a Stalinist actor, Michoels, vice-chairman.

In the meantime the two were, together with the diplomat evactuated to Kuibyshev. There the negotiations with high GPU officials continued. Finally they held conferences with Interior Commissar (read: head of GPU) Beria himself. He, being only a flunkey in the service of his master, told the two to send their program to Stalin for approval and decision. And now comes the finale. For after the program had been sent to Stalin the following took place:

a "short visit" on the Commissariat of the Interior. They left, assuring their friends that they would be back soon. But they never came back!

The news of Ehrlich's-Alter's rearrest immediately aroused the widest concern. Not only were there interventions on the part of trade union leaders like William Green and Philip Murray, but public figures outside organized labor took up their case. Mrs. Roosevelt and Wendell Willkie were reported to have intervened. But all to no avail. The two were executed.

Some might ask: why? We do not know the exact scenes that led to their execution. The answer to this, as to many other aspects of the Moscow Trials. must await the day when the victorious European workers' revolution will open the archives of bloody Marshal Joseph Stalin.

But we can imagine pretty accurately under the circumstances. Ehrlich and Alter were left wing Social-Democrats. They supported the war, but in their own independent way. They still adhered to Marxist beliefs, to the traditions of a living mass socialist move-

roes.

To this we might add Stalin's ambitions to occupy Poland and install there the same totalitarian regime as he has established in Russia. He tried to bribe Ehrlich and Alter. They were too honest to be bought. So he shot them.

There is an important lesson to be learned from this. The future of the resurrected working class of Europe depends on whether it will master this lesson: namely, that Stalinism has nothing whatsoever in common with the socialist movement, that represents a reactionary counter-revolutionary drive.

New Deaths Reported

Before closing we might add that Jewish public opinion has been shocked anew by other news of deaths in Stalin's concentration camps (Hitler is not the only one to possess them). They have not been reported in the English press as yea One of them is the old scholar, Dr. Israel Tzinberg. At the time of his arrest he was working on the final volumes of a nine-volume history Yiddish literature. He never mixed in politics, and until this very day no charges of any kind have been levelled against him. According to rumors, someone in his family was

Why the Executions?

readers of The Militant, and we look through more than one other paper Nowhere, thus far, not even in the pages of The Militant, have we read of a single important (or for that matter, unimportant) FACT to support this absurd contention. A WEAKENING of the stranglehold of the bureaucracy would manifest itself in any number of concrete ways: sharp divisions in the upper circles. concessions of one kind or another to the masses, a moderation of the terror regime, increased independent class activity of the workers, etc.

In the first place, there is no such thing today as a Red Army. It once existed. It was organized by Trotsky and the Bolsheviks. It was the army of the workers, of

"Comrade" Goering remembers with gratitude the wonderful hunting parties Count Radsiwill used to arrange in Poland's forests. You know -foxes, bears, etc. Hunting is an old tradition with the Radsiwills. In 1905 they used to entertain the Czar and in 1936-39 they entertained Goering and his Nazl friends. These parties paid dividends. For upon hearing of the arrest of Radsiwill, Goering and Hitler personally in-

tervened with "Comrade" Stalin (remember those happy days when Molotov brought the greetings of the passed by the Soviet censorship, the

their release that they started agitating for immediate peace with Hitler. But the representative of the Bund in London present documents which prove that just the opposite is true. That not only were they not agitating for Hitler, but that Stalin himself was negotiating with them for the formation of a Jewish antifascist committee.

Honored-Then Executed

According to those documents, among them letters from Ehrlich

One midnight in December, when the two sat with friends (what happened to THEM?) in a Kuibyshev

their program for the formation of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee they must have called for a working class committee, operating on the basis of socialist traditions with some sort of a revolutionary socialist perspective as a result of the victory over fascism. However, the days when Stalinism utilized Marxist slogans are gone. Today any reference to Marxist-socialist terminology is dangerous for the further existence

of the Stalinist totalitarian regime. Today Suverov and Kutuzov (reactionaries of the past) are the hesuspected of some kind of deviation The second was the ex-editor of Kovno Jewish daily arrested when Lithuania was "liberated" by Stalin. The third is a known Stalinist Jewish poet, Moishe Kulbak, who was reported to have gone crazy by the treatment received in Stalin's internment camp.

These new deaths demand an answer. It is the duty of the working class and all genuine liberals to raise the cry and keep it up constantly "We demand the immediate release of all anti-fascist prisoners in Stalinist Russial"

Third in a Series of Articles: "WHAT IS A WORKERS GOVERNMENT?" Out of the Pages of History - an Example of a Workers Government

By SUSAN GREEN

This month marks the seventy-second anniversary of the Paris Commune of 1871. What was the Commune that it is such an important landmark for the working class of the world?

It was the first attempt-in all history-of working people themselves to form a government EX-CLUDING the landlords, capitalist bosses, bankers, politicians and miscellaneous hangers - on - and AGAINST these exploiters.

A short account of the events leading up to its establishment will give a fuller picture of the Commune itself.

SET UP FIRST WORKERS GOVERNMENT IN HISTORY

During the Franco-Prussian war in 1871 the Paris population capable of bearings arms had been armed and enlisted in the National Guard, which thus consisted mostly of armed workers. The French government, under Thiers, was more afraid of the workers in arms than of the Prussian army. Thiers felt that as long as the Parisian workers had arms and artillery, the rule of the propertied classes was not too safe.

Thiers had bravely run out of Paris at the approach of the Prusslan troops, setting up his government in Versailles and leaving the Parisian people to fend for themselves. The workers had to have their arms because - with the government in Versailles - they alone. were keeping the Prussian troopswhich had occupied the forts and

lines of fortification - from invading cre let loose by Thiers against the all Paris. However, on March 18, vanquished workers is something 1871, Thiers sent troops to Paristhat only ruling classes frenzied by not against the Prussian invadersfear for their stolen wealth are cabut with orders to steal the artillery pable of. actually belonging to the people of Yet this first workers' govern-Paris, having been manufactured and paid for by them.

that the French ruling class re-

garded French workers as more

dangerous to their interests than

the Prussian Junkers. The Pari-

sian workers broke with their

treacherous government.

-against overwhelming odds.

IN HISTORY.

ment, which died almost at its inception, taught the workers of the This was the last straw. Throughworld two invaluable lessons: (1) out this period in French history-What a workers' government looks marked by wars for territory and like-what form it can take; and by political machinations of the (2) What workers can do for themruling classes-the working people selves when they are in control of were, as always, the victims, sufa government which excludes their fered greatly and were in revoluexploiters. tionary ferment as a result. Thiers' The Council of the Commune conplan to disarm them made it clear

sisted of working men or bona fide representatives of the working class. The people of Paris formed themselves into districts and by universal suffrage elected fellow workers to represent them on the Council of the

Commune-a brand new governmen-ON MARCH 26 THE PARIS COMtal structure. MUNE WAS ELECTED AND ON How were these representatives MARCH 28 IT WAS PROCLAIMED

controlled by the workers? How did AS THE GOVERNMENT - THE the workers make sure that their FIRST WORKERS' GOVERNMENT representatives would represent them? Very simply. All representa-Isolated by the siege of Paris from tives were subject to recall at any the working people of the rest of time. Yes, at any time, the people France and without the workers of of a given district-without fuss or other countries taking similar revopolitical fanfare-could call a meetlutionary action to support the Paris ing to replace a representative who workers, the Commune could stand was not up to crack with them. In its ground for only about two months the second place, every single person serving in the Commune-from With the bravery that only men the members of the Council itself and women defending their own can down to the humblest worker-was show, the Communards fought both paid wages at the same rates as oragainst the beseiging Prussian troops dinary workers in the factories. All and the onslaught of Thiers' forces. special privileges and favors for of-They lost, and the merciless massaficials were ended.

Careerists could find no fruitful ful orchard in the Commune. This limitation of pay insured that the Commune would be in the hands of the sincerest workers, close to. their class and willing to advance only as fast as the wages and wellbeing of the workers as a whole advanced.

The Commune, of course, abolished The armed force of the Commune was the armed people, organized in the National Guard. The police that had served the master class to suppress every spontaneous act of the workers of Paris, was disbanded. Simple police functions necessary to the community were undertaken by the Commune itself.

THUS THE GOVERNMENT OF OPPRESSION WAS REPLACED BY A TRUE WORKERS' DEMOCRACY.

This workers' government was no talk shop for parliamentarians and cheap politicians. It was a working organization-and its work was to run the community in the interest of its people.

UNDERTOOK SOLUTION **OF PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS**

In spite of the colossal military task of fighting its two-headed enemy, the French rulers and the Prussian Junkers, the Council of the Commune proceeded in its civilian tasks of alleviating the misery of the people impoverished by years of exploitation and war. For instance, rents for dwellings from October. 1870, to April, 1871, were cancelled to help the poor; rents already paid were deductible from future payselling the tools and other things pledged by the poor workers for the little money they had been obliged to borrow to live on. Later, pawnshops were entirely abolished as being incompatible with the right of workmen to their tools and TO CREDIT as workmen. Abusive night work was ended. Employment offices that had been flesh-pots for political scoundrels were closed.

The Commune furthermore undertook the real solution of the unem-For the purpose of running the factories the workers were to be orployment problem. On April 16 it

ments. Pawnshops were stopped from issued an order for a statistical record of all factories and workshops which had been closed by the bosses and proceeded with plans for reopening the fatcories under the management of the workers who had previously been working in them. ganized into cooperative societies.

In all this it is apparent that the Commune undertook the solution of the living problems of living people-without regard to capitalist property rights and without regard to private profit. This the Commune could do because it was a workers' government. Short-lived as it was, it flashed upon the screen

of history a brilliant example of what workers - freed from their exploiters-can do for themselves.

The very interesting and inspiring workers' government under Lenin and Trotsky-the oviets of 1917-will be discussed next week, after which the lessons of these two workers' governments of the past will be tled up with the problems of this year 1943. A later article will contrast the Stalinist government of today with a workers' government.



EDITORIAL PAGE

LABOR ACTION

ful capitalist interests, organized

around the National Association of

Manufacturers, who are behind

Rickenbacker. They see a golden

opportunity to exploit Rickenback-

er's military reputation in the anti-

Perhaps they even think of him

as a possible presidential candidate.

True, he denies such ambitions: but

Yes, reaction thinks that it has

perhaps finally found its popular

leader, its Knight on the White

Horse. Do his speeches constantly

repeat exploded lies? Is his logic

false? Are his facts ... not facts?

Does he appeal to every prejudice,

does he malign the American work-

ing people? Little matter! Remem-

ber what Hitler said about repeat-

ing a lie often enough, making the

lie more fantastic each time, and

some people are going to believe it.

labor cause.

tions.

Who Is This Man Rickenbacker and What Does He Stand For?

By PHILIP WARNER

(Continued from last issue) And let us now take up Rickenbacker's idea that labor should give up extra pay for overtime. What does this mean except another cut in our standard of living? But, says Rickenbacker, we must all sacrifice. Very well. In that case, pray tell, why does Rickenbacker so violently oppose the \$25,000 a year salary limit? If the American workers must sacrifice-they who average less than \$2,000 a yearthen why shouldn't the bosses "sacrifice" to the extent of limiting their salaries (and that doesn't include profits!) to \$25,000? If it destroys the iniative of the bosses to make only \$25,000 a year, then why doesn't it destroy the initiative of the workers? Or don't the workers need initiative? Here is the showdown on all this talk about "sac-

rifice." Rickenbacker wants the

Now you can understand why he always attacks the workers who are making the terribly extravagant rate of eighty-five cents an hour in the war plants, while he has nothing to say about the profits of the corporations. And you can see why he says nothing about those corporations which engaged in cartel agreements with Nazi firms. And you can see why he says nothing about those corporations which impeded war production by refusing to convert to war production because they made more money in civilian goods production.

For, once you strip off the glamor. what is there left to Eddie Rickenbacker, except the old, hackneyed anti-labor venom of the psychopathic Westbrook Pegler?

workers back home take wage cuts.

He doesn't make clear how it will

help the soldiers if a larger pro-

portion of the cost of an airplane

goes as profit to the capitalist and

a smaller portion as wages to the

worker. And for the simple reason

that it doesn't help the soldiers

Rickenbacker describes the horrors

of warfare which our soldiers suffer

as evidence of the correctness of his

anti-labor point of view. But where's

the connection? If anything, it

proves that those soldiers who do

return to civilian life will want to

get back to a decent life, will want

III. DOES HE SPEAK FOR THE SOLDIERS?

any!

The most ominous aspect of Rickenbacker's campaign, however, is his claim to speak for the fighting men, as against civilian labor. Rickenbacker is here using the most dangerous of all the weapons in reaction's arsenal: the attempt to stir up hatred toward labor on the part of the soldiers. Look what the soldiers are suffering, he says. Compare their tribulations with the life of the war workers. Then you'll see, he says, why the workers should cut their wages, so that the boys at the front will be better off.

Rickenbacker doesn't make clear how it will help the soldiers if the

workers to sacrifice, but the bosses can go right ahead rolling in their profits.

to be able to make a decent living. And how can they be assured of this unless the workers back home uphold union standards, unless the workers back home keep strong the organizations which will be fighting for the economic protection of the

> soldier returned to the workbench. Rickenbacker says that returning soldiers shouldn't be made to join unions in order to get jobs. This is putting the problem on its head. There are hundreds of thousands of unionists in the armed forces, many of them who have suffered and are suffering just as much as Rickenbacker did-though without as much publicity. These unionists look upon their union books in exactly the same way as they look upon an insurance policy, except that a policy provides for them after death, while the union book provides for them while living.

It's not a question of "making" the soldiers join unions after the war. Why, any union worth its salt is going to welcome with open arms the boys coming back from the front and will try its damnedest to get him a job, even though a depression may then be breaking out!

And what about that other pet scheme of Rickenbacker, that if the soldiers were transferred back to the factories they'd increase production way up? This is, we think, more demagogy. When a man is at the front he can't help himself when it comes to working or living or fighting conditions. Suppose he gets back to the factory. Then he sees that the bosses of his factory are

impossible for him to meet the rising cost of living with his stationary wages, that production is impeded because of the inefficient planning of the employers, that he-as a working man-is being attacked on every side. Do you think he'll keep quiet and take it? We think he won't. We think he'll say: "I'm not going to cut my wages so my boss gets more profits; that's not part of the 'war for democracy' as far as I'm concerned. That's not going to help my buddies at the front in any way." -

Rickenbacker is using the meanest, foulest of all anti-labor devices. He is trying to exploit the anti-union sentiments which have been instilled among some soldiers as a wedge to destroy the union standard of living. But remember this: when the worker in the shop fights today for a decent living standard, he is also fighting for a decent living standard for the soldier who'll return to his bench tomorrow.

And, finally, what are Rickenbacker's credentials? By what right does he deign to speak in the name of the American soldiers? Does he speak for the hundreds of thousands of unionists in the Army? And how do we know he represents the boys of Guadalcanal? Ira Wolfert, a New York Times correspondent, who spent the autumn and winter in Guadalcanal (while Rickenbacker was there for only forty hours) testifies that Rickenhacker's conclusions are "wrong and grotesquely misrepresent the men.'

No one has chosen Rickenbacker

coining tremendous profits, that it is as representative of the soldiers-ex- rified-and that's putting it mildlycept himself. And we'll bet that to hear that Rickenbacker is "speakthere's many a soldier who'd be hor- ing for him.'

IV. AND WHO IS CAPTAIN RICKENBACKER?

Once you examine Rickenbacker's record a little bit, you can understand why he goes around making these speeches.

Rickenbacker, before the war, was an automobile industrialist, and then in the employ of other automobile industrialists. He has one of the worst labor records in the country. His firm, Rickenbacker Motors, was one of the most viciously anti-union. Even the conservative Life magazine reported in its July 10, 1939, issue that he was "feared by his employees." You can readily understand why.

His Indianapolis Motor Speedway has been on the unfair list of the AFL Central Labor Union for many years. Says Frank X. Martel, president of the Wayne County AFL, who had personal dealings with Rickenbacker:

"Captain Rickenbacker seems to have escaped the Japs only to be captured, or rather recaptured, by the NAM. No other member of his mission has used his accidental prominence to capitalize in an unworthy drive on labor. Ricken-

V. THE FORCES BEHIND THE CAPTAIN

One need merely read his speeches justice. Obviously, his speeches are to realize that there is more here smooth, slick and bear the earmarks than meets the superficial eye, that of experienced publicists. we are up against something more. than a selfless hero crusading for

not yet known-we'd bet a nickel that Henry Ford can be found somewhere in the background-we are certain that there are power-

backer as an auto manufacturer was just as anti-union as the rest, as bad as General Motors and Chalmers. He blacklisted, men who dared join a union. He employed labor' spies. And now he is blasting labor in the interests of the NAM."

was there ever a candidate who did Well said! Rickenbacker is not not? And his crack against the some impartial and noble representa-"fourth term" and his constant reftive of the fighting men; he is an erences to that new catch-all bogeyold hand at the anti-labor game, he man of reaction, the evil "bureauis a capitalist or capitalist stooge of crats" in Washington, indicate that old standing. he may well have political ambi-

Why, then, this sudden boom of publicity, this sudden splurge of the newspapers which quote every word he says?

We think the reason is of utmost importance to the workers of this country. Rickenbacker is being built up as a possible leader of reaction, and perhaps even of a semifascist or fascist movement. Rickenbacker may take the place for which the shy and inarticulate Lindbergh was found not quite sufficient. For Rickenbacker is tough, he has a mouthpiece-and what's more, he's a hero.

In this case, if labor gets down to business, launches a point-by-point refutation of Rickenbacker's slanders, it will be able to show him up for the political menace he is. Rickenbacker and the forces behind him represent a danger to labor's future. written by a skilled hand; they are Nip his lies in the bud now, and he'll be nothing but another would . be Fuehrer without any customers for his quack medicines.

Though the specific names are

"Absentee" Secretary of War Patterson last on such a job? Representatives Rees of Kansas and Bry-Scare - -

(Continued from page 1)

to hit them is in the pocketbook. If you dock their wages, you are hitting them where it hurts." Such are the noble sentiments of the Secretary of the Navy in this "arsenal of democracy."

The hullabaloo about absenteeism is false. It is raised to fool the public. What the political stooges of the bosses want is a noose around labor's neck. They think the hullabaloo about absenteeism will give them the chance to slip it on.

Representative Curtis of Nebraska has introduced a bill which goes the whole hog in this respect. His bill would abolish the forty-hour week-and abrogate all union contracts for less than a forty-eight-hour week-and brand a worker putting in less than forty-eight hours a week an absentee-and cancel the draft deferment of a worker getting overtime pay under forty-eight hours of work. Mr. Curtis' bill reflects the most ardent hopes of the most reactionary elements of the ruling 'class - AND HE INTRODUCED IT

Representatives Rees of Kansas and Bryson of South Carolina introduced bills to curtail the sale of liquor around plants and shipyards-of course, as a cure for absenteeism in spite of the fact that drunkenness is one of its very minor causes. Naturally, the hard-talking admirals, cabinet members and congressmen need something to pep them up-but airplane makers and shipbuilders working under conditions bad enough to take their heats out, need no pepping up!

None of the propaganda artists-from Rickenbacker up and down the line-bother to inform the public that while absenteeism now is about 7.5 per cent, during World War I it was 16 per cent-Secretary Perkins' figures. As stated above, the hullabaloo is false.

LABOR HAS TO FIGHT BACK

Workers stay out of work because they are hurt or sick-or don't get the time to do what every normal human being has to do. Workers must have the improvements Secretary Perkins enumerated, namely, good canteens, better sanitation, rest periods, welfare service (especially for women, workers)-all these on the job. Besides, workers must have decent housing, sufficient doctors and nurses assigned to war industry centers -and adequate food, clothing and recreation. for press. which they must get pay commensurate with the cost of living. Our thanks also go to our friends of the



To every comrade, worker and friend who rallied so swiftly and generously to our aid the moment we announced the first attack upon our rights by the Post Office from subsided. On the contrary, if authorities.

We have won a victory in the Post Office decision to let each issue of the paper go through the mails without the delays it previously imposed upon us and our readers. But it is only a temporary victory, as can be seen by reading between the lines of the letter sent the publishers by New York Postmaster, Albert Goldman. And it is a doubtful victory, in view of the reactionary blow just dealt our fellow labor paper, The Militant. If the revocation of its secondclass mailing privileges is allowed to stand, it means more blows to the rest of the labor

American Civil Liberties Union and the

Workers Defense League, who gave us solid

aid and friendship in their intervention

with the Washington authorities, as well as

in their influential public declarations and

Postscripts to Casablanca

Including an Item on How French Bankers Turned a Neat Profit

By V. SEGUNDO

Even now, several weeks after its conclusion, the smell that the Casablanca conference raised has far you sniff about through the newspapers, you can find riper tidbits.

Peyrouton's Qualifications

1. Marcel Peyrouton, Governor General of Algeria under American protection, was a member of the Radical Socialist Party. (This was "radical" in name only.) In 1934 there was a move to expel him, and he was saved only by the influence of Malvy, his powerful father-in-law. trade union movement of Tu-The nisia had appealed to the International Labor Office in Geneva against Peyrouton's imprisonment of Tunisian labor leaders and Arab nationalists in concentration camps. A Tunisian socialist paper had brought

for the invasion. He picked General talks about American domination of Giraud, arranged to get him to Africa in disguise.

and Treasury Departments agreed to keep the exchange at 75 francs to the dollar. The French bankers launched a campaign to peg the franc at 50 to the dollar. And they got support from Murphy....

"The Treasury governs our financial policy. But Murphy went to bat for his French friends, got to President Roosevelt in Casablanca. The White House issued an order fixing the rate at 50 francs.

"Overnight, the French banking clique made \$175,000,000!"

Invitation to Fascists

4. Here is a sample of what the bourgeois press prints about what is happening. But their explanation of hy it is happening is strange. ther these acts are errors, it is said, or they are the result of the unfortunate ideology of certain INDIVID-UALS, such as Murphy or the State Department men. But any explanation based on the acts of individuals overlooks the fact that the American policy in North Africa has been all of a piece, that the underlings who were supposed to be hoodwinking Roosevelt all moved in the same di-

the post-war world, and he is begin-"After we landed, the State, War

ning in North Africa to show Britain who is boss, Giraud is his man. Onethird of the estimated Algerian budget of \$300,000,000 is expected to be paid by America, via lend-lease. Giraud has put in a bid for the "speedy re-equipment of the French army with American arms and matériel." If Pevrouton is still an anti-Semite, who cares? In important matters, he can be trusted. This is the American Century, and an opportunist never deserts a strong master.

A fourth and final reason is the most important of all. The real danger in the post-war world to American domination (granted an Anglo-American victory) will not be from Britain. It will be from the specter that is raising its head in many places already, that has done more than raise its head in

UNDER COVER OF THE HULLABALOO ABOUT ABSENTEEISM.

THE CAUSES OF ABSENTEEISM

It is as clear as crystal that admirals, cabinet members and congressmen are not interested in absenteeism in itself. They are using it as a springboard to jump on labor.

Secretary Perkins suggested that good canteens in plants and at shipyards, better sanitation, rest neriods and welfare service would go far to eliminate industrial accidents and prevent minor illnesses-both of which, as stated above, cause 80 to 90 per cent of the absenteeism. But not a peep about this from any of the aforementioned worthies. If they are so concerned about more planes and ships that might have been built, why don't they tackle the CAUSES of absenteeism?

Other causes not mentioned by Secretary Perkins are: living long distances from the job: lack of decent housing: lack of sufficient doctors and hospitals for medical care-and lack of food that workers are used to, especially meat.

How would Admiral Land, for instance, fare in a "foxhole" in the bowels of a battleship in construction, cramped and overheated and breathing sickening fumes-and on top of that travel four to six hours to and from work every day-and on top of that get "home" to some primitive shack or sub-standard flat without even a bathtub to get cleaned up in-and on top of that have to eat an unsatisfying meal? How long would be last on the job under such-or any-conditions?

SOME WORKERS TRAVEL SIXTY MILES

And would Under Secretary of War Patterson perhaps like a job at Ford's Willow Run plant producing planes he talks so much about? There at least half of the workers travel sixty miles to and from work every day. There thousands live in shacks, basements, condemned houses, tents, trailers. These people are packed like sardines into these unhealthy surroundings. There the same beds are used over and over by different shifts of workers. There sanitation is not only primitive but there aren't enough facilities to accommodate everyone. How long would Under

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Re-entered as second-dass matter May 24, 1940. at the Post Office at New York; N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

FOR these thigs organized labor must fightas well as AGAINST the Johnson "work or fight" bill, the Knox idea to penalize workers above draft age, the Curtis bill to abolish the forty-hour week.

LABOR HAS TO FIGHT-or that noose will be slipped around its neck!

Have You Read 'India in Revolt'?

If you haven't read Henry Judd's magnificent pamphlet, published by the Workers Party, lose no time in getting your copy. With India in the news daily, no worker should be without detailed knowledge of the situation in that country: the centuries of oppression under British rule, the aims

and desires of the nationalist movement, the role of Gandhi, the facts on Moslem-Hindu "enmity," the program of the Bolshevik Leninists of India, and much more. Order "India in Revolt" from the Workers Party, 114 West 14th Street, New York, N. Y. 25 cents per copy; 20 cents in bundles of five or more.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

old enough to vote!

SMASH JIM CROW!

criminal offense!

BE PREPARED!

equality for Negroes!

12. The right of free speech, free press and

13. The right of soldiers to vote in all

14. The right of all youth, male or female,

15. For adequate dependency allowances

16. Down with Jim Crow and anti-Semi-

17. For full political, social and economic

18. For Workers' Defense Guards, trained

19. For an Independent Labor Party and

20. For Peace Through Socialism! For the

21. For a World Socialist Federation! Only

imperialism and fascist barbarism!

vigilante and fascist attacks!

independence of all colonies!

and controlled by the unions, against

a Workers' Government! No political

support to the Roosevelt government!

a socialist world will destroy capitalist

ductions from the soldier's pay.

to vote at the age of eighteen. Old

enough to fight; old enough to work;

paid by the government with NO de-

tism! All discrimination against Ne-

groes in the Army and Navy or by em-

ployers in industry must be made a

free assembly for the men in the armed

TO THE DRAFTEES!

forces.

elections.

WORKERS PARTY PLATFORM

protests.

Against Both Imperialist War Camps! For the Victory of World Labor and the Colonial Peoples! For the Victory of the Third Camp of Socialism!

LABOR MUST DEFEND ITSELF!

- 1. Hands off the right to strike! For the defense of civil rights and all workers' rights! Against any wartime dictatorship measures!
- 2. \$1.00-an-hour minimum pay! Time and a half for overtime; double time for Sunday and holiday work.
- 3. Wage increases to meet rising costs. No wage or job freezing! Equal pay for equal work!
- 4. For a greater share of the increasing national income. For a higher standard of living!
- 5. No sales tax on consumer goods! No tax on wages! Against forced savings!
- 6. For control of price fixing and rationing by committees of working class organizations, housewives and farmers' organizations. Freeze rents and consumer goods prices at the 1940 level to stop the rise in the cost of living.
- 7. No government contract without a union contract! The closed shop in all war industries!
- 8. Maintain and increase all government social services!
- SOAK THE RICH-LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!
- 9. A government levy on capital to cover the cost of the imperialist war. Confiscate all war profits!
- 10. Conscript all war industries under workers' control.
- 11. Expropriate the "Sixty Families"-the three percent of the people who own 96 per cent of the national wealth!

charges of corruption against him.

The excuse given for bringing ing Peyrouton half way across the world to become Governor General was that he had had experience as an administrator in North Africa. His knowledge of how to run concentration camps was apparently considered especially valuable.

While French Ambassador in Buenos Aires, Peyrouton was the focus, rection. of Nazi activity in Argentina. According to an FBI report to the State Department made last July, Peyrouton reorganized the French secret police there and placed them under the jurisdiction of the German Embassy. Captain Dietrich Niebuhr, Nazi agent, made good use of the facilities placed at his disposal in espionage work. Recently he was expelled from Argentina.

2. According to a United Press dispatch from London dated February 25, Giraud had released 1,300 political prisoners up to that time. Earlier dispatches had given 5,500 as the total number of prisoners.

A Tidy Profit.

3. This item is too good to condense. We quote it, from the Washington Merry-Go-Round of February 26.

"Since the fall of France, Germany has been taking over French property from Jews, labor unions and refugees who had fled. Preparing for a long-term throttle-hold on France. they worked carefully, sought to avoid litigation in French courts after the war. They arranged details through certain French banks. Tewish, union and refugee property was ordered taken and given to the banks. Germans bought the property from the banks, paying in francs. "But the francs were taken out of the 'Occupation Francs' which the Bank of France paid to Germany

every day, for cost of occupation; so actually the deals cost the Nazis nothing. "The French banks, permitted to

keep the purchase price, amassed huge profits, which were transferred to North Africa before our landing.

"The charming Murphy had a friend, Jacques Lemaigre-Dubreuil. head of the French Association of Taxpayers, a big business lobby, financed by many of the bankers. He worked with the Comité des Forges, or Steel Trust, which had property in Austria and Axis countries in Paris in 1934, shared the political philosophy of the German-collaborating bankers.

"And Lemaigre-Dubreuil was the one Murphy chose to handle contacts

And the policy is maintained, in spite of whatever opposition. Lowered morale at home and abroad is combatted as well as can be with half-truths and equivocations, but not with a change in the situation by an iota. There must be important reasons for maintaining, in the face of increasing opposition, this policy. There are!

One, actually the least important, is the reason given by official apologists. It has been easy and "expedient" to collaborate with the French fascists the Americans found on the scene when they came. North African officialdom, in the words of the New York Times, is "ninety per cent Vichy and 10 per cent de Gaullist and almost 100 per cent opportunist." These men had already changed sides once, and it was cheap to buy them back.

But more important than this was the clear invitation to fascist Europe. An administration interested in wiping out fascism could make no deals with fascists. But a country interested, in breaking the threat of an expanding Germany finds it very "expedient" to offer terms to fascist underlings, to sell out to a new master. This offer was made in specific terms by the American Ambassador to to Spain, as already reported in LABOR ACTION. It may well be that the trip of Archbishop Spellman to the Papal Court concerns a similar deal in Italy. At the Vatican Spellman will meet Ciano, recently in disgrace in fascist circles and exactly the type about whom a Peyrouton government would be built. If the military situation improves sufficiently, a similar offer will be made to German fascist underlings. But meanwhile North Africa stands as a

large signpost: "Collaboration this

way. Fair treatment promised to

all repenters. We pay highest

A third reason was that the French

democrats, sorry lot that they were,

were already bought and paid for.

General de Gaulle is hardly more

India. It will be from world revolution,

In the New York Times last week, Anne O'Hare McCormick writes about the post-war world. "Nobody believes," she says, "that the World War will end everywhere at once or that it will be quickly followed by a definitive peace ... This time we start from the premise that the end of the fighting does not mean 'going home.'... It is doubtful, however, if Americans who are resigned to global guard duty and long-term rationing really understand the conditions the coming armistice will have to deal with How long, for instance, will it take to restore peace in a Europe which will contain hundreds of gutted cities, which will contain millions of human wrecks. respectable people reduced to beggary, orderly people turned into outlaws?"

How long, in other words, will it take to put down by military force the revolutions that post-war misery and starvation will provoke? Miss McCormick quotes with approval from a nameless European correspondent an estimate of twenty-five years. After the war is over-and for America it has just begun-a war by another name will continue for twenty-five years.

Whether twenty-five years would also be the guess of the leaders of the American Century would be hard to say. But it is certain that they are well aware of the problem of postwar revolution. They prepare for the problem well in advance. Peyrouton and Nogues and Giraud and the others have had many changes in their political careers. They are all plainly opportunists. But in one thing they have been constant. They can be depended on to put down the working class with vigor and severity, without sentimental qualms.

Candy Bars

"Federal Judge Merrill E. Otis ruled that slight reductions in the weight of candy bars did not constitute a violation of OPA regulations. The government had contended that the company had reduced the weight of its candy bars 11 per cent ... after a ceiling price had been set."-AP dispatch from Kansas City.

. Price ceilings are not kept anyway. But if they were, they would still be a joke, for no limitation has been set on reduction in quality. The original plan for grade labeling was discarded. And now size, as well as quality, can be reduced.

than an errand boy for Churchill. Roosevelt is not kidding when he

prices."