Work for a Workers World: Join the Workers Party!

LABOR ACTION 98 A PAPER IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIALISM

MAY 10, 1948

Henry Wallace's RECORD On Labor and Jim Crow Much Unlike His Promises

By HAL DRAPER

Since he threw his hat into the presidential race, Wallace has been yelling loudly that he is a "friend of labor" and a "friend of the Negro people." Without any hope of being ABOUT SHARECROPPERS ... elected, of course, but aiming to snare as many protest votes as possible, Wallace (and his running mate Taylor) have gone all-out for labor and civil liberties. It makes for good talk and campaign publicityand a few votes.

Far be it from us to object to prolabor and anti-Jim-Crow talk even from the mouth of vote-seeking politicians. They may never do anything about it, but at least their duped supporters may get mad when they find out they've been taken for a ride.

We merely advise sincere supporters of Wallace to ask themselves a question. There is a story told about the 1944 Democratic convention



which illustrates the point, even if, it was probably made to order for

and for eight years as a member of the cabinet, Wallace was a power in the government administration. He wasn't prospecting for votes thenhe had the power to DO things. ABOUT LABOR AND JIM-CROW-ISM. FOR EXAMPLE. What did this guy DO?

As Secretary of Agriculture, Wallace's main dealings were with one union, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, now named the Farm Labor Union.

This union, the main one that Wallace had anything to do with, thinks as much of Wallace's pro-labor speeches now as it does of Taft's "appeal to labor" in the Ohio primaries. Its paper, the Farm Labor News, recently printed an article on what this guy DID.

In 1935 the Southern sharecroppers recalled a Roosevelt speech about the "forgotten man" and got the idea he meant them. Their union, raised funds from sharecroppers' nickels to send a delegation to Washington to ask the forgotten man's secretary of agriculture to enforce Section 7 of the AAA. This section said that landlords should keep the tenants on their land and allow them to use a portion of the government-rented acres for raising food for their families and live-

stock. "The union had evidence that the landlords did not intend to carry out that part of the government contract nor divide any share of the government subsidy payments," the Farm Labor News reports.

After some delay before they could see the great man, Henry-"embarrassed" as usual-saw the delegation and promised an investigation. IT WAS THIS WHICH LED TO THE WELL-KNOWN BLOWUP IN THE AGRICULTURE DEPART-MENT IN WHICH WALLACE FIRED JEROME FRANK, GARD-NER JACKSON, LEE PRESSMAN AND OTHERS WHO INSISTED ON SUPPORTING THE SHARECROP-PERS INSTEAD OF THE LAND-

LORDS. (The same Pressman, who then vowed to "get Wallace," recently resigned as CIO counsel in order to boost the Third Party candidate. Toeing the Kremlin line as usual.

UAWSets May 12 Date for Strike Against Chrysler By WALTER JASON

DETROIT, Mich., May 1 - Unless Chrysler corporation makes a satisfactory wage concession by May 12, the 75,000 workers employed in its. various plants will be called out, it was announced by the policy committee of the United Automobile Workers-CIO, headed by Emil Mazey, acting president of the union.

Setting of a strike date was in sharp contrast to the action of Philip Murray, CIO president, who capitulated to the steel corporations' refusal to give any wage concessions to the steel workers. It is a reflection of the difference between the UAW-CIO, a union with a militant, democratic tradition, in which the leadership is more responsive to the needs of the rank and file, and the bureaucratically dominated United Steel Workers of America.

As a preliminary to the strike announcement, the UAW-CIO published large advertisements in the Detroit newspapers showing that Chrysler could easily pay the union demands of 30 cents an hour, reduce the price of its cars \$145 a model, and still make between six to eight per cent profit on its investment.

These advertisements were clipped and use extensively in the shops, giving the rank and file a clearer idea of the issues involved in the wage demands. Also, some hard-hitting leaflets entitled, "The Six Cent Insult," were distributed. These exposed the corporation's wage policies, and quoted from the arrogant speeches of management during negotiations. They also showed that management had given itself extensive wage increases in 1947.

Although the announced lay-offs of Plymouth workers due ostensibly to

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

NEW WAGE DRIVE DEMANDS

A JOINT UNION STRATEGY!



Must Coordinate Effort to Beat **Boss's Offensive**

FIVE CENTS

With strike action planned by the auto workers union, threatened by the railroad unions, and contemplated by other, smaller unions, the labor movement faces the urgency of considering its position dispassionately and earnestly.

In our opinion this position dictates the necessity of coordinating union effort in a commonly planned and buttressed strategy if wage raises are to be won, and prices to be held in check.

Pretense will not help us. The facts are that the union movement is hard pressed in its wage drive. Unnecessarily, to be sure, for there is sufficient power in labor's ranks to rout the burgeoning boss offensive.

There have been disquieting signs. A communications workers' strike was virtually broken. The Wall Street strikers-a small action by a small union, but an action nevertheless and one, moreover, backed by the militancy of the AFL seamen-went back to work at terms originally offered by the Stock Exchange officials. True, the union claimed a victory to the extent that the Exchange did not break the union; but the strikers did not win their demands.

The packinghouse workers are reported ready to accept the meat packers' nine cent offer which is a substantial retreat from the union's solidly documented position for a 29 cent wage increase. The retreat is mitigated only slightly by the union's assertion that it will seek an agree-

This was the convention where the CIO, among others, was working up a sweat booming Wallace for the vice - presidential nomination. In the midst of the hurrying and scurrying (according to the tale), CIO President Phil Murray slowed down for a minute and a thought struck him for the first time. He turned to one of his aids and said:

"By the way, what did this guy do for us?" Well-what?

Maybe Murray never did ask this question. He would have had to slow down an awful lot to make the story credible

But we're asking it. And a nationfull of workers-listening to Wallace tell them that HE'S for what THEY'RE FOR, by Gideon-are asking it.

For four years as vice-president,

Pressman doesn't let Wallace's REC-ORD bother him as long as his SPEECHES are satisfactory to Russia's stooges here. If this be slander. let Pressman say a few well-chosen words about "what this guy DID" as Secretary of Agriculture-and why Pressman was fired!)

ABOUT LABOR . . .

But that was in 1935. A lot of words have flowed under the lip since then. What did Wallace think ought to be done about labor JUST BEFORE he started fishing for votes? In the December 30, 1946 issue of

the New Republic, Wallace wrote an article "Where We Stand on Labor." Keep the Taft-Hartley Law and the crackdown on the miners in mind while you read this:

"Because of the public temper, it (Continued on page 4)

steel shortages, the pressure of the cost of living, the poor financial state of most workers tended to give the workers a mood of uncertainty, it was noticeable that a tightening up of ranks, and the beginning of a strike sentiment was developing. The truth of the matter is that, although no one wants a strike, the refusal of Chrysler to grant an obviously indicated wage increase, is putting the workers into a fighting mood.

.The fact that more and more brief shutdowns are occurring in various shops reflects the growing tensions and restlessness of the autoworkers, squeezed between the inflationary cost of living, and the drive of management for more production, that is, the speed-up,

The first major strike should occur at Chrysler, unless the union's wage demands are settled satisfactorily.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Says Family Needs \$3,500 to Meet Costs

By SUSAN GREEN

Some time back a Congressional committee was curious to know how the other half lives or "what it costs a worker's family to live." The Bureau of Labor Statistics obliged and came up with "a necessary minimum" budget for a family of four. The prices used are as of June 1947. The CIO has brought the figures up to the higher prices of January 1948. Here is the result.

For a worker, his wife and two kids of eight and thirteen, it is necersary to have an income of about \$3,500 a year. If the worker and his wife are blessed with more children, each kid would require about fourteen percent more of that figure; meaning that a family of five needs

around \$3,900 annual / income; and and New Orleans, and \$1.09 and \$1.12

With a pencil and a pad one discovers that on the basis of a forty hour week, of fifty weeks a year (allowing a couple of weeks for one kind of "absenteeism" or another) or of 2,000 hours a year, the hourly rate of nav would have to be \$1.75 for the worker with his family of four to get that \$3,500 necessary minimum. If the worker has a family of five, his rate of pay would have to go to nearly \$2 an hour to total the \$3,900 required by the BLS.

GAP IS BIG

Let us see how the workers stand in relation to this level set by BLS. which we will show later is a miserably low level of existence. How many workers get an hourly rate of \$1.75, to say nothing of \$2? The majority of even highly skilled workers earn less than those rates, and the larger number of semi-skilled and unskilled laborers work on much lower scale. This statement can be backed up by instances from specific industries.

In steel where jobs are divided into thirty categories with the lowest rate 941/2 cents an hour, in some plants at least one third of the workers are receiving \$1.13 and \$1.21 hourly pay-a far cry from the \$1.75 or \$2 required by the BLS budget. A very few in the top layers earn around \$2 an hour, rollers being listed at \$2.13. Even such skilled men as hearth pourers and speed regulators in rolling mills have rates of only \$1.61. In some cases regular wages are supplemented by a production bonus, entailing of course more intense labor.

In the auto industry average low paid workers, such as stock chasers, in Detroit receive \$1.25 an hour and in Cleveland \$1.10, leaving a gap of 50 cents and 65 cents between what they get and what the BLS says they should get. The tool and die makers in the industry, the top classifications, receive in Detroit \$1.87 and in Cleveland only \$1.70; the former falling far short of the BLS level for a family of five and the latter for a family of four.

In shipbuilding, carpenters, electricians, boilermakers, that is, skilled men, rate a mere \$1.50 on the east coast. The top crafts, namely, loftsmen and patternmakers, reach \$1.65 and \$1.75. However, heavy manual

in Baltimore and northern vards. So we could go on from industry

to industry in this parade of shamefully inadequate wage scales. In textile, clothing, rubber, the picture is the same. What else can be expected since the overall average wage in all manufacturing is \$1.18 an hour, 57 cents less than the BLS minimum for a family of four and 82 cents less than the minimum for a family of five!

One must also take into account that even today, when the capitalist system boasts of full employment. workers are laid off for one, two and even three months a year for one reason or another, be it because of material shortages, seasonal factors or something else. Five weeks without work means a corresponding ten percent cut in the annual income. Unemployment benefits today by no means make up this loss. The utmost

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ent to lower prices.

The steel workers' union leadership, confronted, with the industry's blunt refusal to so much as consider a wage increase, denounced the industry, exploded the hypocrisy of the industry's price "reduction" (Murray proved it did not even cancel the price hike imposed some months ago!) . . . and did nothing!

The steel industrialists are arrogant. Similarly, the electrical industry bosses, the auto bosses, etc. With the Taft-Hartley law to work for them, and with the union leaderships unwilling, by and large, to undertake a militant counter-offensive, industry big-wigs are boldly dismissing wage demands with a wave of the hand.

If they havn't actually sat down in a room to map THEIR anti-labor strategy (and it is altogether likely that some of them, at least, did so get together), their coordinated operation amounts to the same thing. It can only be answered by an equal demonstration of unity from and by

(Continued on page 2)

Detroit Police Avoid Real Leads In Investigating Reuther Shooting

By LEE ROBERTS

DETROIT-The attempts of the Detroit police department to find the would-be killer of Walter P. Reuther reveal thus far a pattern of deliberate intimidation and humiliation of union members connected in any way with the Stalinist bloc in the UAW. Although Reuther himself stated that the attack could have been made by management, the Stalinists, the fascists, or just a screwball, the police department, headed by red-baiting Commissioner Harry S.

Communists."

Toy, has ignored all possibilities other than the Communist Party. After two weeks of investigation, during which not a single gangster or fascist element has been questioned, the chief of Detroit detectives is quoted as saying, "I am more convinced than ever that it must be the

In answer to protests against the methods of the police received from various local unions, Toy replied: We don't interfere in union affairs; and we don't want the unions telling us how to run our department. This is the same "public servant" who labor rates only 93 cents in Mobile not so long ago, in a radio broadcast,

stated that anyone engaged in "un-American" activities should be shot, jailed, or deported.

Such a statement constitutes a call to violence, an incitement to lawlessness, of precisely those reactionary elements who, as well as the CP, could well be responsible for the attack on Reuther. A member of the Klan or some other anti-Negro outfit considers "un-American" anyone who fights for Negro rights. Walter Reuther, in their eyes, is "un-American" because of his fight against discrimination in bowling. It is not impossible that Toy's invitation to commit assassination was taken seriously by such people.

Although the Stalinists are fully capable of a crime like the shooting of Reuther and may be the perpetrators of it, there are other elements in America who are also capable of such a crime and who may be the perpetrators of it. It is difficult to see what the Stalinists have to gain at this moment by assassination; in fact, they have much to lose. Toy, however, excludes everyone but the CP, and his investigation becomes (Continued on page 2)

Big Business Makes Sound Investment in Stassen_ Fact and Fancy in the Stassen Myth loans from 8 per cent to 36 per cent;

By JACK RANGER

Several months ago, I ended an article in LABOR ACTION on Harold Stassen by mentioning that, although James Farley had failed to mention Stassen among the top Republican contenders for the GOP nomination, Stassen just couldn't be counted out.

"Throughout his career he has established the record of always making a much better race than advance notices indicated," I wrote. "He has a faculty of tapping those hidden points of support among Big Business circles which carry a candidate to the top."

I believe that the Stassen showing in the Wisconsin and Nebraska primaries bears this out. His total vote soared beyond the expected Stassen support. His Republican opponents charged that heavy money poured into those states turned the tide for Stassen.

There is not the shadow of a doubt but that a very large number of wealthy business men are | making substantial contributions to Stassen's campaign, because they firmly believe that he-more than any other Presidential candidate - can best serve their class and personal interests.

Writing in the April 22 Chicago Journal of Commerce, Holmes Alex- Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing

ander said he had had "a quick peek at the list of his (Stassen's) financial backers. Some of the names are secret and some are not. Suffice it to say that there are Vanderbilts, Whitneys, Cookes, steel men, automotive men, flour millers and heavy industrial equippers on the list.

"People with vast, wealth and booming business," wrote Alexander, "do not put their money on 'soak the rich' and 'share the wealth' politicians. They are even chary about putting their money on progressives -as the word is understood these days. Stassen has convinced these men-plus thousands of small businessmen-that his economic theories

are sound." The Chicago Tribune, supporting Taft for the Republican nomination, has exposed the fact that a committee of nine of the biggest businessmen in Minnesota is sending letters throughout the business and political community of the nation, soliciting camaign funds up to \$1,000 for Stassen. Among the nine are the chairmen of the boards of General Mills and Pillsbury Mills; the presidents of the Minnesota Valley Canning Co., the Minnesota & Ontario Paper Co.;

Co., and the chairman of the board of Geo. A. Hormel & Co. This group of industrialists has raised more than \$250,000 of the more

than \$700,000 spent thus far by Stassen on his pre-convention campaigns, according to the Tribune. A number of Minneapolis businessmen are touring the country, asking other businessmen to kick in to the Stassen fund. Unquestionably, the

ex-Minnesota governor has made commitments to big business which satisfy them. But should such commitments satisfy those who are not millionaire bankers and industrialists?

THE STASSEN MYTH

The myth that Stassen is a "liberal" continues on, despite all evidence to the contrary. It is carefully nurtured by the press monopoly-by the Luce, Cowles and Knight papers and others The record shows that he accepted support of the Silver Shirts in his Minnesota campaigns for governor. The record shows that his accomplishments in office were of an unmitigated reactionary nature: That he shoveled money to U.S. Steel by cutting the state tax on iron ore the Josten Manufacturing Co., the mined from the Mesabi Range; that he raised the legal interest on small

that he put through a vicious oldage pension plan that forced old people accepting relief to turn over all real property, including homesteads, to the state; that he put through the Stassen Slave Labor Law, forerunner of the Taft-Hartley law; that he broke up the liberal state department of education by forcing the resignation of John Rockwell; that he resisted all appeals for public housing, etc. Currently, 'Stassen has come out

with an outrageous piece of fakery. Speaking recently in Toledo, where he is challenging Taft for some of Ohio's votes, he told a Lions Club luncheon that "secret ballots for union men voting to strike, accept a contract, or name officers would be the best method of ending arbitrary control by some labor leaders."

SOME STASSEN FAKERY

Anyone might believe from this that Stassen thinks democracy is a good thing for the union movement. But when he was governor of Minnesota, he didn't think so. In the fight between the Minneapolis General Drivers Union Local 544 and Dan Tobin, international president of the Teamsters Union, back in 1941, Local

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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

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Wage Drive Demands Joint Strategy —

Continued from page 1)

the unions. When U. S. Steel announced its price "reduction" fakery, other steel companies and monopolist outfits outside of steel, like Westinghouse, quickly hailed the stand, and announced their solidarity with it. Simple intelligence and self-pres-

ervation dictate an equal response by labor in its OWN behalf.

Fundamentally, the labor movement is powerful enough to enforce any demands it chooses to make. It is powerful enough to block or invalidate anti-labor legislation. It is powerful enough to bring U.S. Steel

Continuing Discussion On Palestine Issue

Violence: Condition For Palestine Peace

Superficially the April 5 editorial in LABOR ACTION on Palestine seems to be an advance from its previous position. In reality the editors simply added some of their critics' viewpoints to their own old conceptions, with a result of simple ludicrousness. The source of the confusion lies in this sentence: "We recognize the right of the Jews to claim self-determination if they choose to follow that path, so long as they commit no violence against the rights of other people in so doing." This bold assertion establishes our position with the clarity that would have characterized a hypothetical American party in 1860 which fearlessly proclaimed its belief'in freedom for all slaves, so long as this did not constitute a violence against the rights of the slave-owners. There can be no movement of liberation, no matter what its character, without violence to the rights of other peoples. If the Jews win, the Arabs will be deprived of the right to dominate 1,006,000 square miles of territory; they will be able to dominate only 1,000,000 square miles. If the Arabs and British win, the Jews will be deprived of the right to live. It is our duty to decide which of these, for socialists, is the more important.

It is no accident that only the imperialists have adopted LA's central slogan of "Cease Fire" as their own. Being unconcerned with the fate of the Jews, they are able to insist on a policy of "Cease Fire" under any (that is, under Arab) conditions. The Arabs have laid down the following as their conditions for a truce: 1) disarming the Haganah; 2) halting of all Jewish immigration; 3) rejection of partition; 4) setting up of an independent Arab State in Palestine. Such conditions could only mean the reduction of the Jews to the same state of helplessness as that of the European Jews, and consequently their inevitable destruction.

exterminationist program; for their hatred and determination stemmed simply from the fact that Germany's vast military superiority made it unnecessary to consider any program

of compromise. Only if the Jews had used every ounce of violence they could muster, if the German army had been faced with a Warsaw Ghetto battle at every Jewish settlement. could they have been persuaded to become less "heroically" adamant.

LA contends that it is the Jewish Agency's insistence on partition that endangers the existence of the Jewish community, and in its April 19 editorial states that incidents such as occurred at Deir Yassin might be the cause of "covering Palestine with Oswiecims and Majdaneks." This implies that the extermination camps were set up as reprisals for atrocities committed by Jews, or as the result of their outrageous demands (analogous to the demand for partition) on Germany. But our editors will find no record of such provocations. Deir Yassin must be condemned, for we cannot tolerate the killing of civilians. But such incidents are not the cause of extermination; such a statement, with its indecent haste to pin the label "genocide" on a local retaliatory brutality by acknowledged extremists in the midst of a war, serves only the interests of the anti-Semites. and constitutes a back-handed justification for Germany's Majdaneks in the past, and of anticipated Palestine Majdaneks in the future. (The Lebanon spokesman in the UN, Karim Azment approves the practice of genocide as a national policy in some cases).

DEPENDS ON VIOLENCE

Attempts at genocide, whether through assimilation, expulsion or extermination, have little to do with the policies pursued by the minorities (or, for that matter, with their economic roles, as shown by the differences in economic structure among Jews, Gypsies, Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, etc.). They stem from the necessities of nationalist ideology and the fact that the dominant group has all the power, and the minority none. If the Haganah is smashed, there will be extermination camps in Palestine, no matter how exemplary the conduct of the Jews, or how modest their demands. If it retains even part of its power, there will be no "German" atrocities in Palestine. This is the essence of the situation: everything depends on the amount of violence that the Jews can bring to bear against the Arabs. Not even a truce is possible until the Arabs are convinced that to refuse to cease fire will be very costly to themselves. Even if imperialist troops are sent in, this will not change the situation basically; for the outcome of a trusteeship too will depend upon the effec-

and other big combines to their knees. How to do/so in the circumstances? By bringing their power into play! And how can that be done? By uniting in joint strategy the efforts of the various unions!

Specific demands and conditions vary from industry to industry. A common thread unites all the unions. and all the union demands on wages and prices. Hence, there is every

reason in the world to plan a joint union strategy. Concretely, representatives of the unions, including in their number delegates chosen by the rank and file, can meet to discuss their common needs, and map action to coordinate their demands and lend the weight of all the participating unions-on a national and local scale, CIO and AFL-in support of any union's action.

It has been noted that workers are hesitating to undertake severe and difficult strike action. This is no reflection on their militancy. They merely want a fighting chance to win. That is to say, they want demands that will mean a genuine victory over the wage cutting effects of spiralling prices; and they want the assurance they will not be left in the lurch, battling on their own against the odds of government and industry cooperation.

The auto workers, for example, are an exceptionally militant group of workers. No one can say they lack confidence in their abilities, or that they are afraid to tackle any of the giant corporations. Yet, is it not clear that their position would be a'thousand times strengthened if they could meet with representatives of the steel workers, maritime workers, and others, to plan the help that one will give the other, to map a JOINT STRATEGY WHICH WILL AD-VANCE THE INTERESTED INTER-ESTS OF ALL.

Stassen Myth-

(Continued from page 1) koul, has announced that his govern- 544 sought time after time for an election so that the drivers could choose which union they wished to represent them. The Stassen Slave Labor Law made such an election mandatory if a majority among the workers signed / cards specifying a union of their choice. Local 544-CIO several times presented such cards and petitions, signed by a majority of the Minneapolis drivers. Yet Stassen's labor conciliator, acting on orders from the governor, certified Tobin's union as bargaining agent for the entire Minneapolis trucking industry without an election.

We do not pretend that this covers the entire problem. It is merely a part, an important part of the problem. In the situation we face today, more so than when we raised the same slogan two years ago, it is necessary to have DEMOCRATICALLY CHOSEN BOARDS OF UNION STRATEGY, coordinating a COM-MON CAMPAIGN!



(Continued from page 1) almost exclusively an investigation

of suspected "communists."

Much indignation has been aroused by the anti-labor and anti-Semitic activities of the commissioner. It is reported that at an interview with leaders of the Jewish Community Center, Toy admitted that perhaps he shouldn't have made his statement about Communists being smuggled into Detroit disguised as Jewish rabbis. "Since then," he said, "I have been told that some Jewish people are sensitive to anti-Semitism" (!) At the same interview, he said that he thought he should revise his infamous statement on shooting "un-Americans" by saying that first they "should have a trial."

The criminal who almost killed Walter Reuther must be apprehended. The police, directed by a man like Harry S. Toy, cannot be depended upon to do this job. They are not interested in protecting the labor movement and its leaders. To repeat: not a single member of the Ku Klux Klan or any other fascist outfit has been arrested or questioned or even inconvenience in any way.

Make Up for Do-Nothing Policy BUFFALO - The explosive situation

existing at Westinghouse Local 1581 dates back to the beginning of the fight, by BOTH progressive and simpower of the Trotskyists in the Minple red-baiting forces, against Comneapolis labor movement, the officials munist Party domination of the local. of the Minnesota State Federation of So great was this INTERNAL anti-Labor and the Stalinists supported CP pressure that the COMPANY, see-Stassen in the 1942 state elections, I ing the CP administration on the see that the AFL state labor officials ropes, its caucus split, decided to in Minnesota have finally turned on TAKE ADVANTAGE of the union Stassen, and are denouncing him crisis and moved to chop the local weekly, in the St. Paul Union Advodown PIECEMEAL. At the first opcate. A politician too far to the right portunity, a steward (editor of the local's newspaper) was FIRED. The local immediately-AND CORRECTcrats have to nominate for President? LY-closed ranks AGAINST THE They haven't dared come out for COMPANY. Truman. They denounced Wallace for

The Communist Party administration saw in this firing episode a

Kulinski Candidacy in Baltimore No Substitute for a Labor Party

Russia. They are not interested in

the welfare of the workers. How can

they be when they support incentive

pay during the war, the no strike

pledge (of course, only during the

period when the United States and

Russia were honeymooning during an

imperialist war); hallelujahed for

Roosevelt when it served their pur-

pose (having, of course, called him

a fascist before the honeymoon of

U. S. and Russia.) Stalinists cry,

through Wallace, against Jim Crow;

but it was the same Stalinists who

strongly advocated "self determina-

is. Jim Crow on a national scale. The

list of anti-working class actions on

the part of the Communist Party is

UAW Local 239 is correct in engag-

ing in politics, but this requires a

working class program and working

class candidates. A socialist program

advocating workers control of indus-

try is worth striving for. It's an ab-

in the direction of setting up an In-

to engage in class politics. When the

workers of this country adopt a

sound program, it will be possible

Garmatz, the incumbent Congress-

man from the Third District, is a

tion of the southern black belt." that

By HENRY WILLIS

BALTIMORE-Mr. Philip C. Kulinski is going to run for Congress in the Third District on the ticket of the Progressive Party of Maryland (outgrowth of the Wallace-Progressive Citizens of America movement). Mr. Kulinski has a better background than candidates normally have. He is working at the Baltimore Fisher Body Plant, where he has been for approximately 12 years; he is an extremely militant member of his UAW local, having occupied various offices which include the position of International Representative. There is no doubt that he has an active record in the labor movement and particularly in the UAW.

As an individual his desire to adendless vance the welfare of the working class is unquestioned. He, consciously, would never perform an act detrimental to his class. But, the road to hell has been paved with good intentions. Philip C. Kulinski is leading the workers there when he asks solute necessity for Local 239 to work for their support on a PCA program. The Progressive Party of Maryland dependent Labor Party, if it wishes (PPM) proclaims that the old parties. Democratic and Republican, have betrayed the people. However, the workers following the PPM program to attract the support of the middle will also be betrayed and disilluclass. sioned.

NO HOPE HERE

product of the reigning local Demo-The PPM is organizationally concratic machine; such as those controlled by the Stalinists, just as the trolled by Mayor D'Alesandor, Governor Lane, Pollac, etc. If there are entire Wallace movement is on a nano genuine Labor Party candidates tional scale. Not long ago the Stalinists were staunch upholders of the (Kulinski is definitely not one in the Democratic Party regime. Why? circumstances), then the workers What is the guiding goal or princishould support only those genuine ple of their political action? The Stalabor candidates seeking office, even linists are primarily interested in if the office sought is small. It is no

> for a year and a half as a sign of weakness?" There it is! SILENCE FOR OVER A YEAR AND A HALF! Those who see the Communist Party

> > should profit by this short but OH-SO-CLEAR illustration. The truly progressive forces within the local (and by progressive we DO NOT means those well intentioned workers who are consistently SUCKED IN by the sweet talk of the "now-militant" Communist, Party) face DOUBLE DUTY in the coming strike. First: they must be ever alert AGAINST A SELL-OUT of the strike by the CP leadership. Second: they must FIGHT the strike to a successful end AGAINST THE COMPANY.

as a "defender" of the workers

The LABOR ACTION position, chance to accomplish three things:

CPer Sudden Militancy Can't

carrying out the foreign policy of less criminal to ask workers to support a Third Capitalist - Stalinist Party (the PPM or P.C.A., outside of its Stalinist involvements reflects those business interests that feel the squeeze of monopoly capitalism) than it is to support Republicans or Democrats. Supporting the PCA program will only disillusion the workers and set working class politics back.

LABOR PARTY NEEDED

Workers in the Third District and throughout the country must continuously learn to judge politics not by the individual but by the party's program and its action in the past. Many supporters of PPM argue that since Roosevelt's death many of the New Dealers were forced to leave the government because of a reactionary successor. President Truman. This is, of course, absolutely false, for Roosevelt himself declared the New Deal dead. His brain trust advisers, and many fellow travelers, had outlived their purpose, and they were consequently dropped.

If Kulinski is elected to Congress, he will, we assume, follow PCA policy. Wallace's foreign policy is, very briefly, aimed at dividing the world between United States and Russian imperialism. Of course, Wallace does not call this imperialism; only Truman is an imperialist. Socialists maintain that monopoly capitalism and imperialist are inseparable. Wallace is a New Deal capitalist and Stalinist front - man combined. His capitalist views are okay with the Stalinists so long he doesn't interfere with Russian expansionism. And Kulinski will have to give his blessing to Russia's grab of Poland, Czechoslovakia, etc., as Wallace does.

Emil Mazey, secretary-treasurer of the UAW, advocates a sound position for labor, namely, INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY. Local 239 and the Chevrolet local, together with the entire Baltimore labor movement, must take steps in the direction of an INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY. Only labor on a working class program can prevent war (and not through the appeasement of Russia). The workers of this country, despite the great wealth they have created, still suffer a housing crisis, high rent, high prices, etc. It is high time for them to take over the government and run society on an intelligent and rational basis. The first step in that direction is to build an INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY.

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WDL Urges Action **On Skull-Cracking** Kansas City Cops

NEW YORK CITY (WDL) - Immediate action by Governor Frank Carl-

TRUCE IMPOSSIBLE

It is irresponsible light - mindedness to talk, as LA does, of a truce as though it might be obtained under some other conditions. The Arabs will accept no proposal whatsoever, whether concocted by the Jewish Agency or by LA, unless it leads directly to the destruction of all Jewish powers of resistance. This intransigence stems from their confidence in their own power and in Britain's backing. Only if they understand that their military superiority is not as complete as they imagine will even a truce of any kind become a possibility.

As an analogy it might be pointed out that there was absolutely no program that the Jews could have advanced which might have induced the German nationalists to abandon their

TERNATIONAL						
AM	A Monthly Organ of Revolutionary Marxism					
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Leon SHIELDS, April 24, 1948

and willing to use violence.

Stassen in his current campaign is double-dealing, as he always hastalking one line and following another. Slippery as ever, he is a butter man in the dairy states, an oleo man in the vegetable oil states. He is critical of the Taft-Hartley law in the industrial states, and a crush-labor man before industrialists and bank-

In return for his aid in breaking the

Subscribers — Attention!

Check your NAME-ADDRESS-CITY - ZONE - STATE appearing on the upper left-hand corner of page one. If there are any mistakes or if any-thing is left out of the address, especially the ZONE NUMBER, cut out your name and address and mail it to us with the corrections clearly printed. tiveness with which Jews are able

> 12-19 If this number appears at the bot-tom of your address, your sub-scription expires with this issue. **RENEW NOW** EXTEND YOUR SUB

take the place of the Farmer-Labor Party which they helped so much to scuttle. That is the tragedy of the 1948 campaign.

the wrong reasons. And they won't

permit the formation of a labor party

for those birds is really "right."

Yet, who do these labor bureau-

Workers Party Holds Successful May Day Celebration in N.Y.

NEW YORK-Local New York celebrated May Day last Friday with a highly successful meeting attended by about 200 people. The well known documentary film "The Wave" was shown together with a UAW short entitled "The Brotherhood of Man." Speaker for the National Committee of the Workers Party was Hal Draper who pointed to the great struggles of American labor in the coming months as indicating the enormous vitality of the American

working-class. The main program for this meeting was presented by Jack Brad, New York organizer, as the struggle against imperialist war under the watchword: "Against Washington, Against Moscow."

(1) turn militant and thereby COV-ER UP its past record of DO-NOTH-ING and SELL-OUT in the local: (2) bury the ISSUE of Communist Party Control under the solid front shown against the company; (3) win the approaching UNION ELECTIONS (scheduled for May) on the basis of a militant show against company anti-union policy.

They, therefore, added four additional grievances to the steward's case, set a deadline for a satisfactory settlement, and put local strike machinery in motion. The company's refusal to meet these grievance demands soon brought an OVER-WHELMING strike vote.

It should be remembered at all times that these grievances are LE-GITIMATE and NOT CP inventions. The question, however, is: how has the CP administration ACTED on these grievances in the PAST and can it be depended upon to fight them in the FUTURE? The ANSWER is found in a recently distributed CP LEAFLET. It states: "Mr. Ludwig (the plant manager), did you interpret our silence on these issues

DEMOCRATIC, PROGRESSIVE, MILITANT LOCAL is slowly coming to the fore among the most advanced Westinghouse workers and will make greater headway with each worker's passing experience. With such a position Westinghouse workers can wage a clear, sharp fight for the largest UE local in the area. With such a position Westinghouse workers can wage an anti-Communist Party fight that will serve as a model to militant UE members everywhere.

FOR

Coming Next Week:

Comrade Erber was unable to complete his article on Churchill and the Moscow Trials for this issue. It will appear next week along with a campanion piece by Jack Weber. Also: a letter from Natalia Trotsky on the GPU latest anti-Trotsky forgery in France; Ann Russell on Miners and the Law; etc.-Ed.

son of Kansas to protect citizens rights and a prompt prosecution by the civil rights section of the Department of Justice were urged in wires sent out by the Workers Defense League after some 100 Kansas City police went berserk April 22 in an attack on the striking meat workers' union hall reminiscent of the Palmer raids.

Describing the raid as "a ten-minute skull-cracking charge," the Associated Press, which is not known for pro-labor slanting of the news, said: "In a matter of minutes after police arrived the hall was empty. Broken glass littered the floor. Some union members jumped through windows to escape club-swinging policemen. Women screamed. Chairs were overturned. Blood was spattered on walls and floor. Ten persons, two of them women, were treated at hospitals."

Ralph M. Baker, district director of the United Packinghouse Workers, said that 100 other persons were injured. Previous to the attack Police Captain Eli Dahlin told the entire police force: "You are to crack skulls, if they ask for it, no matter who they are."

Readers of Labor Action Take the Gloor.

euther Fights BC Jim Crow

Editor: Shortly before he was shot, Walter Reuther made an important contribution to the struggle against Jim Crow-some unionists believe it possible that in this may lie the motive for the attempt on his life. Reuther appeared before the Executive Committee of the American Bowling Congress as a representative of the Committee for Fair Play in Bowling (which has been carrying on the fight against Jim Crow in bowling) and demanded that the ABC eliminate the "white only" clause from its constitution or else the anti-Jim Crow bowling group (of which the UAW is the spearhead) would finance the creation of an In-

ternational Bowling Congress. However, despite Reuther's threat, the reactionary rulers of the ABC rejected an amendment designed to permit

Superior and the second

non-whites to bowl in ABC sanctioned competition.

We, who have been highly critical of Reuther's growing conservatism over the past period - particularly his refusal to break with the boss political parties-do not hesitate to salute him for his courageous stand. Reuther must have known that his appearance as a champion of Negro rights would cause resentment among the advocates of racial discrimination, but he did what was indicated as president of the most progressive union in America.

Sid ROBERTS, Detroit

Squatter's Rights For Socialists

For that we hail him!

Dear Editor:

We've got an apple to peel with Comrade Barton. His article in the May Day issue, linking the develop- unlike the capitalist lumber interests,

ment of California and the development of Marxism since 1948 was very interesting and well done, BUT . . we ask indignantly: how come he omits the most important episode in California history linking the two? In Russia they shoot people for less.

Barton's counter - revolutionary omission is the story of the Marxist Sequoia Trees, appropriately known also as redwoods. Everybody knows that in the Giant Forest of the Sequoia National Park stands the General Sherman Tree, the oldest and largest living thing in the world, 4000 years old and over 100 feet around. But does Barton know that its original name was the Karl Marx Tree? Thereby hangs a tale.

In the 1880's a group of members of Marx's First International came to America and settled in this region, forming the Kaweah Cooperative Commonwealth Colony; they built a sawmill for fir and pine lumber and, dug up a rat named Wolverton who swore he had discovered the Karl

vowed never to cut the big trees. They named the biggest for Marx and the other giants after heroes of the Paris Commune and American socialism. These were the first names these trees were given.

Counter-revolution reared its ugly head, the government raised a howl, and in 1890 the Great White Father in Washington declared the region a national park in order to get them out. That's how the famous Sequoia National Park came into being. Troops were sent in to expel the First Internationalists' colony, and the volume on California in the American Guide Series says: "The colonists retreated with what grace they could muster, but their vocabulary was adopted by their neighbors. . . . The local papers blossomed with phrases like 'Cossack Terrorism' and the soldiers were booed in the streets and shot at from abuscades in the forests." These White interventionists

in an is him and hearing

Marx Tree several years before, and on the strength of this claim the name was changed to General Sherman. Obviously, comrades, the trend to militarization was visible even then.

The California Chamber of Commerce-which in most other respects is the soul of truthfulness, as everybody knows-conceals this skeleton in the closet (the arboreal revolution in California). The last time we were there, we asked the park ranger at Colony Mill who the original founders were; he said he didn't know-uh huh. A likely story, in view of the fact that these same rangers are well known to be walking encyclopedias on everything from sidehill-winders to wampuses.

The moral of the story, of course, is that all California socialists are duty-bound to raise the transitional slogan: Give the redwoods back to the reds! Down with General Sherman! Tree cheers for Karl Marx!

Hal and Anne

May 10, 1948

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LABOR ACTION

Editorials.

The Mundt Bill

To a Congress which has already earned a reputation for vicious legislation (Taft-Hartley is among its major achievements), the Mundt bill (HR 5852) adds a particular piece of nastiness. The bill provides that the Communist Party and all Communist Party front organizations must register with the Attorney General, outlaws any movement which the framers of the bill believe will establish dictatorship, and stipulates penalties for violation that include loss of citizenship, loss of right to get passports, loss of Federal employment, fines up to \$10,000 and jail sentences up to three years. The bill, says Congressman Mundt, does not outlaw the Communist Party. It merely achieves the equivalent.

The bill is conceived in the very totalitarian frame it purports to be directed against. So much so that it suggests that the framers of the bill would spiritually be very much at home in the atmosphere of Kremlin totalitarianism. Allowed to pass, it will constitute a major threat to ordinary civil liberties and essential democratic rights. It is clearly a violation of constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and organization. It does in fact go further than undermining these rights, for it would establish as well a malicious thought control. It is quite possible that the Supreme Court would rule the bill unconstitutional. The Court occasionally comes up with a commendable verdict (see below), but only a simpleton will forget the famous observation about the Supreme Court following the election returns.

It'is, therefore, the especial duty of anti-Stalinists, of those who oppose Stalinism because they understand it as a menace to the labor and socialist movements, to do everything possible to defeat the bill. The Stalinists are enemies of labor, and they must be fought. They must be fought with the weapons of the labor movement. And these do not include the suppression of democratic rights.

We say it is a fundamental obligation of labor to fight Stalinism, but not with the methods of the Mundt bill. We are for driving them out of positions of responsibility in the union movement. We are for demonstrating to every person how the Communist Party has debased the noble word, communism. We are for educating everyone to perceive the totalitarian monstrosity which Stalinism actually is. But we repeat: not by assailing the structure of civil liberties.

Moreover, what the Mundt bill seeks to achieve would not only harass the operation of the Stalinist Party and its fronts, but would endanger every liberal or socialist movement, however moderate or extreme, which refuses to accept capitalist exploitation of man as an eternal and immutable necessity. Written by the gutter minds of capitalism, it would place in jeopardy every critic, every opponent of capitalist rule. The bill provides for the punishment of individuals who "attempt in any manner" to organize a "dictatorship." That's a pretty vague (and pretty sweeping!) injunction. Imagine a Mundt deciding what is dictatorship and what is not, what is "an attempt in any manner," and what is not.

Socialists and others in the labor movement have a special concern with extending democracy, and not with limiting it. It is part of their fight against Stalinism! Hence it is precisely they who must act most vigorously against the Mundt Bill. We have heard that anti-Stalinist liberals in Americans for Democratic Action are planning to oppose the bill, though we do not know what action they contemplate. Good. Most of all, we would like to see the anti-Stalinist unions, unions like the UAW, take the initiative in opposing the bill through union resolution and through a cam-

the victims of discrimination and for all of us who, while not directly affected are victimized by injury to any group of people, to consider.

There is also the much bigger problem of ghetto life. Restrictive covenants are only part of the contribution to ghetto life. In the City of New York, for example, Negroes are compressed in a few areas, primarily Harlem. Harlem is not the creation of restrictive covenants so much as it is the creature of an entire pattern. A landlord refusing to rent to a Negro (even when the landlord is the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company which has built a huge housing development, Stuyvesant Town, with the help of TAX EXEMPTION, hence with the support of taxpayers) simply refuses to rent to a Negro. And that remains that-and will remain that until many more decisions are won in court and in action!

There is cause for rejoicing in the Supreme Court decision. But after that we must turn to the necessity of WIPING OUT discrimination, in housing, in suffrage, in education, in working, IN EVERYTHING.



CAPITALIST IMPERIALISM-THE MILITARY PHASE

Capitalist imperialism has passed through several phases. These are not rigidly distinguishable in any particular country since the phases interpenetrate. Nor did the great capitalist powers go through these phases simultaneously. Nevertheless, the history of capitalist imperialism is readily divisible into several distinct epochs.

The first was an era of plunder. Powers such as England and Spain ferociously fell upon less developed countries like India and Peru and relieved them of their gold, silver and jewels. These resources exhausted, England and the Netherlands, in particular, turned to a more pacific trade in spices, silks, coffee, and other products. Then followed the epoch which reached its flower during the Victorian era and whose decay we have witnessed in our lifetime. This period of the dominance of finance capital, analyzed classically in Lenin's "Imperialism," was characterized by the investment of capital in the colonial and semi-colonial enterprises.

The basically economic character of this imperialism was obvious. At first the military aspects were subordinate, although the relation between military operations and economic interest was an explicit one. The role played by military considerations in this imperialist expansion was reflected in the growing proportion of the total national budget devoted to war purposes.

A CHANGE BEGINS

The increasingly important influence which armaments have begun to exert in national economies was analyzed as early as World War I, notably by Bukharin.

By 1914 the opening up of new colonial areas, whereby world capitalism could temporarily avert the maturing of its internal contradictions, had ceased. The great powers began to struggle for each other's colonies. This stimulated the growth of huge militarized states.

Simultaneously colonies became less tractable. Crises in the master countries precluded them from being able to retain the firm grasp on their subject peoples which they once had exercised. The present unstable equilibrium in such countries as India, the East Indies, Korea and Indo-China reflects this tendency. Of the great powers, the United States alone today has the potential for establishing economic dominance over the world. But given the economic collapse in the smaller imperialist countries such as England, France, Italy, and defeated Japan and Germany, even the U. S. finds grave obstacles confronting its pressing desire to exploit the rest of the world. Add to this the fear of a depression at home and the further contraction of the world market caused by Russian expansion in Europe-and U. S. capital is driven to expand armaments production on a grand scale (the production of the means of destruction as contrasted wth the production of the means of consumption) as a method of assuring a continued flow of profits. If the ERP is being used to revive European capitalism it is being done only to the extent that it will (1) not regenerate serious economic rivals to the U.S., (2) stave off the Stalinist penetration which is made possible by the miserable level upon which European workers subsist, and (3) stabilize Western Europe as military powers subordinate to the United States and directed against Russia. Capitalist imperialism today more and more assumes the character of a struggle for military allies, naval, air, and army bases, and strategic raw materials. For the present, direct economic motives are recessive. These considerations influence much of Russia's policy also, though not to the extent that they influence the policy of the United States.



The Follow-Up on ERP:

Although the original report that President Truman planned a special message to Congress, asking for enactment of lend-lease military aid to the countries of Europe receiving aid under the Marshall Plan proved to be premature, it is clear that such action-in one or another form-will shortly be taken.

This inevitable "next-stop" development illustrates one of the illusions held by those who urge wholehearted and uncritical support to the Marshall Plan as such. That is, their false conception of the Marshall Plan as a mere, single act of Congress providing for billions of dollars worth of food and materials to Europe. The actual act adopted by Congress is merely one part, one aspect, of the whole plan itself which is vast and sweeping in scope. The plan is really a broad historic strategy, with political, economic, military and social implications. Bit by bit, this strategic conception of the most far-sighted (from their point of view) American imperialists will unfold before our eyes. We are now witnessing the preparations for stage two-the military guarantee to bolster up the economic aspects of the plan for the rehabilitation of Western European capitalism.

TOWARD MILITARY INTERVENTION

If the political objective of the ERP is the rehabilitation and stabilization of Western European capitalism, to suit the needs and necessities of American imperialism, then it follows wth perfect consistency that this program must be underwritten in military terms. A series of events have begun which must end in ever growing military interventionism.

First, five nations of Western Europe (England, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg) signed the Brussels Pact which formed a loose military alliance and defensive pact. On the same day this Pact was signed, Truman told Congress, "I'm confident that the United States will, by appropriate means, extend to the free nations the support which the situation requires. I am sure that the determination of the free countries of Europe to protect themselves will be matched by an equal determination on our part to help them to do so." By "appropriate means," of course, arms and munitions was meant.

A provision was written into the Marshall Act itself providing for the standardization of military equipment in the various treaties which each recipient nation must sign.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Spaak of Belgium visited Washington and openly suggested that Congress be asked to provide weapons for Belgium and other signatories of the Brussels fifty-year pact. It is also ru-

By AB7 STEIN

Russia.

them were aviation students sent to

Russia by the Negrin government for

technical instruction; some were mer-

chant marine sailors caught in the

Black sea ports; some were civilians

who had accompanied the colonies

and groups of Spanish children to

All of these Spaniards, whose only

crime was that they were anti-fascist,

and that they had seen the inside of

story of their compatriots.

STALIN'S INTERNATIONAL SLAVE BRIGADE

mored that important military figures from Norway and perhaps other Scandinavian countries are in Washington for similar consultations.

AWAIT INITIATIVE FROM ABROAD

ference that the project of sending armaments to Europe was under "active study." The heads of the armed forces were working on this project, labeled as military lend-lease revival. Then the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee asked the State Department to draft such a bill for its consideration, while broad hints were sent around that the European Marshall bloc should prepare a balance sheet on military needs, in much the same manner used for the balance sheet on economic needs.

Then came the denied report of the Truman special message—but this step appears to be scheduled for later on. Truman undoubtedly desires the initiative to come from the Marshall bloc itself, in the form of a request which he will promptly fulfill. Besides, it would not be wise to prematurely speed up the military phase of the Marshall Plan, particularly when its propagandistic aspects of food shipments must be emphasized now. The next step will, in all likelihood, be the passage of a revived military lend-lease bill and, ultimately, the actual creation of a sweeping military alliance in which America pledges immediate support in the event of an open Russian attack upon one of the bloc.

These facts carry their own message. They should be carefully considered by those critical of LABOR ACTION for its critical attack upon the Marshall Plan and its refusal to give it blanket endorsement while, at the same time, insisting upon the necessity of economic aid and rejecting the sectarian position of simply being "against." It is not so much a problem of "for" or "against" as of clearly understanding what the whole strategic orientation of American capitalism is, at the moment. That may be summed up as hegemony of Western Europe and active preparation, on all fronts, of war with Russian imperialism. The Marshall Plan, narrowly considered, is a part of this orientation; more broadly considered, it is this orientation. If "war is a continuation of politics by other means," then war with Russia will be the planned continuation of Marshall Plan politics, by the medium of military guarantees and alliances.

HENRY JUDD

(We have received several letters criticizing our comments on the Marshall Plan. These letters will appear in next week's LABOR ACTION with an editorial rejoinder.-Ed.)

Secretary of State Marshall then told a news con-

ganic Pact, the so-called "constitution" of the Pan-American system is to have a vague and generally harmless character; the burning economic issues which the Latin-American countries wish to bring out into the open for discussion are to be shunted off until another conference, scheduled to meet at Buenos Aires in several months. The only practical issues being settled at the Bogota Conference are those dealing with military matters.

By A. FERRARA

The first point is the transformation of the Joint-Arms Board, a temporary war - time creation, into a permanent body which will have broad powers in its capacity as the general staff of the hemisphere. The second point is the unification and standardization of armaments and military training in the Western Hemisphere. It is no secret as to which country will provide the model to be followed in the matters of equipment and training.

MASTER PLAN OF U. S. IMPERIALISM

Historically, the Bogota Conference represents the culmination and triumph of Franklin D. Roosevelt's master-plan of American military control of the Western Hemisphere, a plan which he first sketched at the Inter-American Conference held at Buenos Aires in 1936. Roosevelt called the Conference and gave the main address, in which he raised the question of "joint responsibility and defense of the hemisphere against aggression." The second step was taken at the 8th Pan-American Conference which took place at Lima, Peru in 1938, also during the Roosevelt era, and under the dark shadow of the impending Second World War. An American-inspired declaration was drafted providing for consultation among the American nations in the event of the threat of war.

A system of foreign minister meetings was established to implement this declaration, that is, of bringing the Latin-American countries into the coming war. The next formal step was taken during the war at the Chapultepec Conference in 1945. Mexico presented a resolution providing that a permanent body composed of representatives of the general staffs of the American nations should be created for the purpose of facilitating unified military action, when such action should be deemed necessary.

The diplomatic measures taken by Roosevelt to involve Latin-America in World War II now logically serve the Truman Administration as the point of departure in preparing Latin-America for involvement in World War III but on a much larger scale than in the previous Imperialist conflict. Invoking the Lima Declaration and the Act of Chapultepec, the Truman Administration called the Rio Conference last August. At that conference Washington proposed, and the Latin-American nations agreed to a pact which calls for joint military action against any act of aggression from without or within the hemisphere. The pact also called into being a joint military staff to direct military measures of continental "defense." The actual creation of such a hemispheric general staff was postponed until the Bogota conference.

This historic background provides the scale

When the Spanish Civil War ended - las fuiridanay a parting in March, 1939, several hundred Et que sub cure Spanish anti-fascists found themselves stranded in Russia. Most of

GPU Chains Spanish Loyalists

Le contraintrainter de la sino 13 San encontrainter un el año 13 i de joneito republicame de URSS sana inades ad clano de Picto un un profe inades ad clano de Picto de Picto

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que s'eus subs à ans d'internesent au camp de EARAGATDA. us han Finide costo po en. .

> DEPORTE E DTELT POLITIQUE - 51, rue de Boulaisvillier FARIS (18-1, as repportant & is estuation for Ecos



Under the false banner of Pan-American sol-

idarity, the United States is relentlessly carry-

ing through its plans to force the nations of the

Western Hemisphere into a militaristic strait-

jacket. This is clearly reflected in the agenda of

the conference now going on at Bogota. The Or-

Page 3

paign of protest. That way we serve democracy. That way we oppose Stalinism!

Blow at Racism

The decision of the Supreme Court holding that restrictive covenants cannot be enforced through state or judicial processes represents a significant victory over Jim Crow and bigotry. It is a victory not only for Negroes, Jews and other minority peoples (Indian, for example) against whom restrictive covenants are directed, but for every decent minded person as well.

Welcome as is the decision, it must nevertheless be noted that the real battle against Jim Crow ghettoes is yet to be won, and it will not be won through court actions alone. The Supreme Court ruling is indeed an historic occasion. It kicks a major prop from under the ghastly evil of restrictive covenants by declaring that there is no way in law to uphold these covenants. However, it does not declare that restrictive covenants are themselves illegal. That is, people can enter into "voluntary association" to bar Negroes or Jews from access to a given housing area. So long as a participant in that "voluntary association" does not challenge the agreement by seeking to rent or sell to a Negro or Jew, the covenant is operative. Long experience with Jim Crow in all its forms has taught us that there is more than one way, the "legal" way, to exercise discrimination. Thus, the Supreme Court in its decision cites the 14th Amendment which forbids a state to "deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." The 14th Amendment has, however, been honored much too frequently in the breach as 13,000,-000 Negroes can testify.

Further, it is possible that where the bigots cannot resort to legal action they may resort to more direct means to enforce their covenants. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which pursued the case to its result is to be commended for a job well done. Yet, in what comes next, the NAACP policy, which relies almost exclusively on court action, will prove itself inadequate. It is something for

LABOR ACTION

A Paper in the Interest of Socialism

Published Weekly by the

Means are becoming ends.

As never before in its history the world is becoming a huge machine for making war.

The alternatives confronting humanity, the capitalists do not understand very clearly. But if they do not, we do. Either socialism will triumph, or the world, held in bondage by U.S. or Russian imperialism, will enter into an epoch of twentieth-century barbarism.

Thus ends the great saga of capitalism which began in an upsurge of economic activity, culture, and hope during the Renaissance.

The wealth of U.S. corporations has increased almost 250 per cent since 1939.

The Securities Exchange Commission reports

And at the same time the National Associa-

tion of Manufacturers announces the largest

propaganda "war chest" in its history to convince

the American people that everybody is happy in

this best of all possible corporate worlds. And it

the second s

War Paid Off...For Some!

have been declining for over a year.

is for them.

Stalin's Russia, suffered the same terrible fate: that is all except those who died in the course of their tragic odyssies across the wastelands of Russia. From many different parts of Russia, Stalin gathered them together and imprisoned them in the concen-703 - IPEUtration camp of Karaganda. A few of those interned at Karaganda have lived to tell their own story and the

On the basis of the information provided by these fortunate few, the Spanish Federation of Deportees and Political Internees has begun a campaign to liberate the remaining fifty odd survivors, out of the original few hundred, who are known to be interned at Karaganda. In the face of the vilest type of Stalinist slander which brands these victims of Stalin's concentration camps as "spies" and in spite of the cowardly silence of the officialdom of the Spanish-Government - in - Exile, this courageous group of Spanish anti-fascists is carrying on a struggle to arouse the conscience of the international workingclass and win the release of these innocent victims of Stalinism. We reprint below an excerpt from the Spanish POUMIST paper in France, "La Batalla" whose latest issue is devoted to this campaign.

One final point deserves mention. When most of the crew of the Spanish merchant ship "Cabo San Augustin," stranded in Odessa, expressed a desire to go to Mexico, Stalin exiled them to the northernmost regions of Siberia. On the other hand, those few sailors who evinced a willingness to return to Franco Spain were permitted to depart for Spain via Turkey. Stalin could rest confident that these Spaniards were only transferring themselves from one prison to another!

THE CAMP OF KARAGANDA

"Situated in the 'steppe of hunger' as the arid regions of Kazakstan are known, the camp of Karaganda lies to the north-east of Balchak Lake, between the city of Karaganda and the town of Spaask. It is designated by the Russian administration as "Camp Number 99"; its postal address being 99-22 Spaask."

"The camp measures about 300 meters in length and 300 meters in width, forming a perfect square. It is enclosed by three wire fences, and in each corner of the camp there stands a watchtower occupied by a guard tion is severe with those who saboarmed with a machine-gun. During tage the construction of Socialism." nees are forced to endure."

the share and the

(En companie es espanol de ma a encla par nes fantames otre sape meneres espantes tante of intern Rue of a Via hagai by galany saiding harra les getany muto Repeterson les yes joiners pe muto Peterson les yes person pe

TWO IRREFUTABLE DOCUMENTS: On the right, the letter in which Senor Bornet, ex-internee in Karagansa, certifies the essence of our story. -On the left: the ansquished message of one of the interned Spaniards, whose name and signature we have blocked out for reasons of discretion.—From "La Batalla."

the night these posts are reinforced with more guards and trained sentrydogs. Escape is totally impossible."

"About two months ago the internees in Karaganda numbered about daily ration is as follows: 900 men, women, and even children, some of the latter born in this same camp, for despite the fact that there are separate barracks for each sex, there is some sort of collective life. The internees comprise a great many nationalities, but the majority are Austrian Jews."

THE LABOR DISCIPLINE

"Karaganda is a camp of obligatory, forced labor; he who rebels against this discipline is immediately condemned to the camp prison, to a regimen even more severe and insupportable. The labor is of an agricultural nature, being expended on state farms which the internees have themselves shaped out of the wilderness. They work under the close and constant surveillance of guards who never relax."

"The work is exhausting, given the severe climate of the region, the permanent under-nourishment, and the perpetual bad treatment. We repeat, the work is compulsory, no matter what the physical condition of the prisoners may be. The overwhelming majority are sick, many being seriously afflicted with pulmonary tuberculosis. But this does not matter: the camp administration sets a minimum degree of production which must be accomplished: those who fail in their appointed quotas suffer the consequences.

"The consequences are immediately felt in the form of corporal punishment and solitary confinement in the camp prison. While this punishment lasts the prisoner receives only one meal every three days. And this meal consists of an undigestable soup and 100 grams of bread. The administra-

aus I'as partage le sort Pair + PADIS 10 lar Decembre 1967 Is. Press 140.0 10--utos irrefutables. Arribu La curta Bornet, ex-internado en Karaganda, lal de nuestra información. A irani settor Be de uno de los capa

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"The end of the war did not bring

any improvement in the diet of the prisoners of Karaganda, as one might assume. At the present time their

600 grams of black bread 10 grams of margarine 17 grams of sugar (not distributed regularly).

At noon and at night a soup composed of turnips, carrots, cabbage and other such vegetables. The soup in question is so bad that it repells even the most hardened palate. The Russians call it Kasha.

"Never anything out of the way; never the slightest improvement; always the same barbarous diet: and so it continues, day after day, month after month, year after year."

"The barracks are made of hard earth and have flat roofs, also of hard earth. Three-storied bunks with straw mats and one blanket for each person serve as beds. There are no electric installations in the camp; the functionaries and guards use oillamps, and the prisoners, if they do not wish to remain in darkness must devise makeshift candles with tincans and bottles."

"As in all such camps, the internees are obliged to answer to a rollcall before going out to work in the morning and after returning in the evening. The absence of a single person is immediately noticed. If a prisoper thinks of attempting to escape, he knows his flight would be immediately noticed. During the roll-call, blows and kicks are rained down on the internees."

"On the return from work, at the moment of entering the camp, each prisoner is carefully searched. If a vegetable taken from the place of work is found on anyone, that person is immediately thrown into one of the cells in the prison camp."

"Such is the camp of Karaganda.

with which to measure the importance and significance Washington attaches to the Rio pact and the Bogota Conference. What the Lima Conference was to World War II, the Rio Conference and Bogota are to World War III. It is no accident that Secretary of State Marshall, the supreme symbol of American military power is the main American spokesman at Bogota.

PREPARE FOR WAR

Since the Latin-American countries were dragooned into support of American Imperialism in the early stages of World War II (with the exception of Argentina), Washington's insistence on a formal pact may seem like a waste of energy. Pact or no pact, it may be reasoned, the Latin-American countries will bow to the power of American Imperialism and repeat their performance of World War II at the outbreak of World War III.

Such a view is incorrect because it is incomplete since it overlooks the following points which determine Washington's policy of "democratically" preparing Latin-America for the coming war

(1) For "security" reasons Washington wants the right to send occupying forces (something provided for in the Rio Pact) to any country in the hemisphere when internal or external aggression is threatened. Leaving external aggression aside, Washington has no illusions about the fact that the Stalinists will attempt to impede the flow of raw materials and food to the United States and its allies by a variety of means. Washington will also classify as "sabotage" any genuine popular outbursts against the war and against regimes which support Washington; strikes, mass demonstrations against the high cost of living will also come under a similar heading. Washington wants the "democratic" right to intercede if and when local governments are too weak to act. The recent rising in Bogota itself, is a case at point. It is no accident that this outpouring of popular wrath against a conservative and murderous regime was labeled a "Communistic plot" by Marshall. The future casts its shadow over present events.

(2) The unification and standardization of arms and military training. There is no doubt that the United States will attempt to tap Latin-America's vast reservoir of man-power for military purposes on a large scale. It is toward this end that the United States has been selling quantities of surplus war equipment to the Latin-American regimes. It has also been continuing a war-time policy of training thousands upon thousands of Latin-American officers. During World War II, only Brazil sent a small token force into combat in the European theatre of war. If it can, Washington intends to extend and enlarge the participation of Latin-America in the actual fighting in the next war. For this it must prepare now, and it prefers to do so "democratically."

It goes without saying that the corrupt governments of Latin-America are ready to deliver the vast natural and human resources of their countries that Washington will demand before Such is the regime which its inter- and during the next world — but at a price. (Continued next week)

Labor Action Publishing Co. 114 West 14th Street, New York 11, N. Y. General Offices: 4 Court Square Long Island City 1, N. Y. Tel.: IRonsides 6-5117 Vol. 12, No. 19 May 10, 1948 Emanuel Garrett, Editor **Editorial Board:** Hal Draper, Henry Judd

Business Manager: Paul Bern scription Rate: \$1.00 a Year; 50¢ for 6 Mos. \$1.25 and 65¢ for Canada, Foreign).

that corporations that owned 241/2 billion dollars in 1939, now own \$60,900,000,000 of net working capital. The war was no losing proposition. The Bureau of Labor Statistics revealed last week that money wages have declined for the fourth consecutive month and that real wages



Re-entered as Second-Class Matter, May 24, 1940, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1874

Page 4

LABOR ACTION

Henry Wallace's RECORD on Labor And Jim Crow Unlike His Promises

(Continued from page 1)

seems to me the part of wisdom for labor and industry to do everything possible to avoid serious strikes in 1947," he piously advised, and he continued:

"If there is to be legislation, I would suggest first, a carefully worked-out program for fact finding; second, a mechanism for voluntary arbitration; and third, a labor court operation under the supervision of the President's Economic Advisory Council and dealing only with those disputes in key industries which it is felt were of supreme interest to the general welfare.

"If a strike takes place in one of the little handful of industries which are essential to the continued life of the nation, the industry should be taken over and operated by the government until a settlement can be reached . . .

"If experience proves, by repeated strikes in such an industry, that the welfare of the whole country is damaged to an unendurable degree by

continued private ownership and operation, I feel we must consider public ownership and operation. In such a case the workers in that industry would, like other federal employees, GIVE UP THE RIGHT TO THE UL-TIMATE RESORT TO THE WEAP-ON OF FORCE, IN THE FORM OF A STRIKE."

Why is Wallace getting so het up about the Taft-Hartley Law (vote fishing apart)? What's wrong with a little injunction to halt strikes for 80 days, when it's all right for the government to "take over" the industry on paper and forbid a strike indefinitely until a "settlement" is reached under circumstances where the union is deprived of any power? And here also we can see why Wallace refuses so "principledly" to utter a peep about the Russian slavery. He proposes for America that nationalization must mean NO **RIGHT TO STRIKE.** In Russia, all the industries are "nationalized"owned by the totalitarian state-and ALL the workers have no right to strike. Logical, isn't it?

"friend of labor"-now that he is an "out."

But Wallace is a "friend of minority peoples" too. He is against Jim Crow now. He makes speeches. What did this guy DO when he had more than the power to shoot off his

mouth? The official organ of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, the Crisis, said in an editorial this past February:

"Under his secretaryship the Department of Commerce was more than ordinarily ridden with humiliating separation of workers because of color and limitation of promotion for the same reason. While in the latter months of 1947, just before the announcement of his candidacy, Mr. Wallace was railing against segregation and refusing to speak to separated audiences, for five or six years prior to that time he had dodged speaking before conventions of the NAACP. . . . While turning aside NAACP invitations, Mr. Wallace found time to sneak several times at Tuskegee, an institution where white and colored guest speakers are sent to separate guest houses."

During his regime as Commerce Secretary, the National Airport restaurant was under his jurisdiction. It was thoroughly Jim Crow. Wallace took personal responsibility for this state of affairs. He advanced two reasons why it had to be Jim Crow: (1) The airport was just over the was a concession and the policies were not established by the Com-

merce Department. Both reasons were hypocritical \$4,500. Again, this highlights the dif- fakes. This isn't strong language, but only a fact. Proof?

> Building also held cafeterias run on a concession basis and was also located in Virginia. Stimson-who did not even pose as a liberal-ordered a no-discrimination policy in them. Wallace discovered he was against segregation when he no longer had

Can anyone point to anything "this guy DID" against Jim-Crowism during over a decade of high office in Washington?

While Wallace was vice-president, the great campaign was going on to save Odell Waller, Negro sharecrop-

per, from being railroaded to death in Virginia. The vice-president of the United States (now currently declaiming against segregation) neverraised his voice. Maybe nobody asked him? A delegation of outstanding Negro and white leaders called on him to enlist his aid, to prevent a heinous crime.

After promising to meet them in his office, Wallace ducked for three

No Help from Henry

Odell Waller

ing from the scene, spoke over his

shoulder: "There's nothing I can do,"

dent of the United States of Amer-

ica! What does he think he can do

"Nothing I can do"-as vice-presi-

and disappeared.

now-as vote catcher?

Wallace now denies this episode. Good! let us say that all the outstanding men and women in the delegation are liars. But he does not deny that the delegation called on him. THE FACT IS THAT WALLACE DID NOTHING - did not even express a pious opinion-NOT ONLY FOR ODELL WALLER BUT FOR THE CAUSE OF RACIAL DEMOC-RACY ANYWHERE. . . .

Until he became the Stalinist choice as candidate for president.

WHAT'S HIS MOVEMENT?

Well, so he is a candidate for president, but he talks right, doesn't he, huh? That's more than the reactionaries do, isn't it, huh? Maybe Wallace hasn't been all there all of the time, but he's a good guy now. isn't he? And besides it's the movement he represents that's important, not the man. . . .

WHAT MOVEMENT?

The Third Party that Wallace talks about doesn't even exist as a party. There is no party, there is no organization, there is nothing to be supported except - Wallace and his promised good deeds. The "movement" consists of two parts: the Stalinist apparatus running the Wallace campaign; and the people who are being sucked into voting for Wallace by that apparatus.

There is no doubt that the latter half represents a "movement" among the people. It consists of people who DO want something different from the bipartisan reaction now going on, who DO want a party that represents the interests of the little people, the workingmen, the victims hours. As the delegation was leaving, of exploitation and bigotry and profiteering.

BUT THE WALLACE-STALINIST COMBINATION CAN'T GIVE THEM THAT. THIS MARRIAGE BETWEEN OPPORTUNISTIC PHRASEMONG-ERS AND TOTALITARIAN STOOGES OF THE KREMLIN DOES NOT OFFER ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR LABOR TO STRIKE OUT FOR ITSELF POLITICALLY.

And only if labor organizes its might on the political field can there arise a real alternative to Democratic and Republican reaction - 'a real party of working-class struggle for peace, abundance and democracy.



May 10, 1948

By H. BENSON

DETROIT-Some tight-rope walker, juggling his pencil in the current issue of Ammunition (UAW educational magazine) attempts to "explain" the 1948 political policy of the United Automobile Workers Union.

In question and answer form we are told just why we should not support the Wallace movement. We receive an IOU handout on the promise that after the presidential elections this fall the UAW will help organize a genuine third "majority" party based largely on the union movement. But sad to say we are told this cannot be done now; for now is not the time. (The epitaph of the leaders of the American labor movement will read: "Now was not the time.") No, there is too much "educational" work to be done and besides, the state election laws would make it impossible to get on the ballot in time for the '48 elections.

"NATURALLY, WE DON'T KNOW"

After many questions and many explanations we finally reach the \$64 item (quotes are from Ammunition):

"Question: But whom do I vote for for President?" "Panel (Answer): If you don't know, naturally we don't know. . . ."

That's clear enough. The UAW leaders just don't know. For years, the CIO leaders, including those of the UAW, have commanded great prestige among millions of workers; they have pounded away at the necessity for political action; they have denounced all proposals to establish labor's own party; they have stubbornly insisted that the only "practical" political policy was to support so-called liberals in the two capitalist parties. And now, after years of experience with this policy, at a time when the union movement is under attack from every department of government, they can only offer this advice: "naturally, we don't know."

Ammunition continues with its brilliant political advice: "Actually, if we start working immediately on a political program that deals with housing, Taft-Hartley, prices, taxes, and monopolies we may yet find a candidate and a program we can support in November."

How does this abracadabra make sense? Only in one way. If by some miracle or by some hypnosis whose workings is as yet unknown the CIO leadership could perform the impossible and arouse the enthusiasm of its membership for the current bankrupt political program . . . and if as a result the CIO could put on huge political demonstrations in some form or other . . . then it is doubtless true that some phony "liberal" in the Democratic party who now prefers to remain discreetly silent might utter a few ineffectual mutterings which could be interpreted by the desperate CIO officials as "progressive" and "New Dealism." Then we could all jump on his bandwagon and try to postpone the whole annoying business for a few more years.

TIME IS NOW, NOT LATER

But if such pressure would accomplish such results, what could the immediate formation of a labor party bring? CIO members would respond by the millions as they did in the days of the formation of the CIO itself. That is guaranteed. And, seeing the determination and resoluteness of the workers, it is also certain that the politicians of all parties would try to woo the workers away from this movement by all sorts of concessions and compromises. And the more we spurned their crumbs the more they would try to offer in order to stave off the growth in influence of our party.

It is true that these concessions would not last forever, for when our party grew in strength, as it inevitably would, the capitalist politicians would fight us with the same reactionary methods that they use today against our unions.

But the immediate formation of a Labor Party, now . . . today would mean a big step forward and an immediate improvement in the conditions of the whole working class, regardless of the outcome of the current elections. NOW is the time for the formation of a Labor Party.

OPENING A DISCUSSION ON CZECH EVENTS By E. R. McKINNEY upport the thesis that the workers of committees? Is the writer of the ar- that Stalinist anti-capitalism is totali-Czechoslovakia supported the Stalin- ticle saying that the workers con- tarianism. They are advanced enough

the University of California placed (Continued from page 1) the needs of a family of four in the that can be expected under present unemployment insurance is from \$80 to \$100 for a five-week wage loss. INSULTING STANDARDS Is it any wonder that the workers are asking for what has come to be called "labor's third round of wage increases?" Is it any wonder that they want also a guaranteed annual

\$3,500 a Year ---

wage? The average worker lives on a level far below the BLS requirement. When he is laid off, his level sinks even lower. And that is not all. The standard used by the BLS is an insult to the working people. In

this age when the possibilities for good living are almost limitless, when profits go beyond the capitalists' fondest hopes, when billions flow freely for war preparations, the BLS budget allowed for workers - and which they do not even get—is a skimping, worrying, gruelling and humiliating thing.

The wife is supposed to do all the housework-the marketing, the cooking, the cleaning, the washing and ironing-without any paid assistance. While the budgeteers conceded that a washing machine is necessary under these circumstances, actually out of one hundred families, in a twelve month period, only seven can afford

San Francisco region at \$450 higher than the \$3,500 of the BLS-another measure of the abyss between what workers need and what they have. line in Virginia; (2) the restaurant Only recently the New York City Housing Authority has been obliged to raise the ceiling of incomes for tenants in city projects to \$4,000 and ference between the minimum needs of workers and their actual receipts. Thus we see the insecurity that sits like a ghost at the worker's meager board. Such figures as above enable us to understand the compulsion behind labor's drive for higher wages; the motive of the miners in

their strike for pensions; the more urgent demands for health insurance and sick benefits, for unemployment insurance, for guaranteed pay. They also underscore the need for labor to form its own class party.





to buy a washing machine. This status assigned by the BLS budget the measure of the whole shabby standard.

While the budget allows for a five-room living unit with bath, electricity and heat, and in not too bad a neighborhood, it makes no provision at all for repairs and redecorating that so many tenants must do themselves these days. The food allowance is 24 cents per meal per person, a figure below the average per capita consumption in the United States as a whole. The meat ration is a little more than one quarter of a pound per day per person, naturally of the lowest cost cuts, provision being made magnanimously for a turkey on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.

The principle followed by the budgeteers is summarized in their words thus: "The budget level must be sets of goods and services regarded as so necessary that families would go into debt or reduce their level of savings to maintain consumption at that level when, for example, prices in general were increased . . ." In a word, the irreducible minimum is good enough for the workers - and they don't get even that.

The clothing allotment, for instance, includes one fifth of a skirt per year for the wife and one tenth of a suit for her. The housefurnishings budget permits two pillow cases a year for a family of four. Of smaller items, one telephone call is permitted every three days, one half pack of cigarettes a day for husband and wife together, six tenths of a permanent wave per year for the wife. Against a rainy day, this worker is supposed to insure himself in an amount not exceeding \$85 a year premium-which is absolutely laughable in its inadequacy. No other allowance for saving is made in this munificent budget.

LABOR'S NEEDS

Recently Fortune magazine broke down the spending of a family in the \$25,000 income level, and showed how difficult it is to make ends meet these days. The workers of this country do not reach even the miserable \$3,500 allotted them by this government bureau!

Other budgets for working class families, from non - government sources, have been higher than that of the BLS. For example, the Heller pacity (based upon organic need) to Committee of the Social Research of mobilize the working masses, in the

(The following article was written three weeks before the Italian electo the working class housewife, is tions. It is being printed without changes or additions.)

> I am writing this piece to discuss points of view expressed in LABOR ACTION recently by Comrades Judd and Howe. The Judd article was his "World Politics" column for March 1 1948 Comrade Howe's article appeared in LABOR ACTION for March 8 under the title, "Observations on the Events in Czechoslovakia." It is my opinion that whereas there is a difference in the approach and point of view of Comrades Judd and Howe, both of them at bottom hold fundamentally similar positions. Furthermore, I believe that their analyses of the Czechoslovakian events are woefully inadequate, invalid in part, and more the product of a feeling of alarm than of sober and painstaking reflection. I believe the central theme of the Howe article to be totally inadmissible and must be rejected unceremoniously by the Workers Party. My purpose in writing this article is to validate these

contentions and this position. I will begin with the Judd article in LABOR ACTION for March 1. Comrade Judd writes: "The Stalinist road to state power is marked by the use of blackmail, threats, violence and coercion in every shape and form possible. Kidnapping and jailing of opposition leaders, bribery of Social Democratic leaders . . . police violence against opponents meetings.... Behind all this hovers the menacing shape of the Russian armed forces, able to invade and overwhelm the nation at will.

"But all these are techniques . . . and as such are subordinate to factors far more important for socialists to grasp. These weapons alone could never put Stalinism in power in Czechoslovakia or, for that matter, anywhere else. Together with their use. Stalinism must (a) mobilize the working class of the country and (b) offer a political and social program that will actually mobilize the workers." What is Judd saying here? He is saying that Stalinism must depend on the working class if it is to have organizational and administrative success in a country. Not only must Stalinism get the support of the working class but it must have a "political and social program" which workers can support, or which workers think they ought to support. Judd says further: "The greatest threat in the nature of Stalinism lies in its ca-

eral contributi degree with articles that have appeared in LABOR ACTION on the Czechoslovak events. Because these events are of tremendous importance to the labor movement, and have stimulated a wide discussion on the problem of Stalinism, we have decided to open the columns of LABOR ACTION to discussion. The article that begins below, and two others, will be printed in their entirety, inasmuch as they arrived before we set any limit on size. Further contributions will have to limit themselves to 1,000 words! Shorter articles are preferred- The New International is also throwing its cvolumns open for discussion of this issue. Space requirements will not be as exacting in the NI. Insofar as it is practical to do so, we will try to devote a half page per issue to this and the Palestine discussion which also continues for the time being. Additional discussion articles will appear from time to time in the Workers Party bulletin which can be ordered direct from the Worker's Party. The letter column of LA is, of course, always open for discussion of any issue. In the letter column, however, the editors reserve the right to condense material to fit the space requirements of the paper. Articles contributed to the discussion column will not be altered in any way. If they exceed 1,000 words, they will simply be rejected.-The Editors.

name of a social program (nationalization) which appears to be revolutionary and progressive."

That is, according to Judd, the political and social program utilized by the Stalinists to win the support of the masses is nationalization, the taking of the capitalists' property and making it state property. Further on Judd writes: "Capitalism, the bourgeoisie, capitalist parties cannot fight Stalinism successfully. Stalinism will defeat its opponents except where American imperialism is the counter factor, in every case because the capitalist parties are politically and socially bankrupt and cannot halt the Stalinist mobilization of the people." The implication here is that the Stalinist parties are not bankrupt; they have a political and social program (nationalization) which gives them an appeal to the working class which the capitalist parties do not and cannot have.

THE DECISIVE POINT

Comrade Judd's article bristles with difficulties. What does he mean by the "organic need" of Stalinism to mobilize the masses? And if Stalinism has this organic need and if Stalinism must present a political and social program to attract the masses and if Stalinist "techniques" are not sufficient, and if that political and social program is presented to workers in a way which wins their acceptance and support, then we are forced to accept one of several alternative conclusions: (1) We can accept Comrade Howe's conclusions that the workers ". . . also support them (the Stalinists) because their conception of what socialism is has been debased and corrupted as a result of the cataclysmic declines and the barbaric experiences of recent history"; (2) that the Stalinists, to some degree bring real benefits to the workers of a country and improve their conditions; (3) the workers, say, of Czechoslovakia, are merely stupid and don't recognize totalitarianism when they see it. Or they are not only stupid but so backward that they can be taken in by the Stalinist fraud about the "new democracies." and "workers action committees" taking power in the name of the Czechoslovakian people. This isn't all. If the Stalinists are successful in making their social program appear "revolutionary and progressive" we have to ask, how is this possible? If the Stalinists' are able to make their reactionary program appear revolutionary and progressive to such relatively advanced workers as the Czech proletariat, how will genuine anti-Stalinist revolutionaries distinguish themselves from the Stalinists? If the Workers Party should be in such a situation how would we convince the workers that we were genuine, and the Stalinists totalitarian frauds who would cut their throats on the morrow? Isn't it more likely that these workers would cut our throats today? This is a decisive point. If the Stal-

inists are able to give real benefits to the workers before and after their "nationalization" then how can Stalinism be exposed to the mass of workers as an evil to be shunned? Are workers, as a group, expected to have made the Trotskyist analysis of Stalinism and be prepared to reject the Stalinist benefits because of their understanding of "socialism in one country," the Moscow trials frameup, and all the various political zig-zags of Stalinism over the past 20 years?

ist coup voluntarily, the proponents of this view must hold that previous the coup and as the Stalinists to the coup the Stalinists had gained "moved rapidly to build their totalithe support of the workers by anwertarian state?" My last question is; if the workers were voluntarily suping their needs, or that these workers had become so thoroughly deporting the Stalinists, why is it necessary for the Stalinists to postpone graded that they could no longer disthe elections until the "results are tinguish between what is evil for entirely guaranteed?" There is anthem and what is good. This is not other sentence in this article which all; we have to know just at what point the Stalinists cease to do good reads: "At the same time, he (Gottwald) is taking any possible control by the workers and at what point the workers begin to understand this. of the factories out of the workers' This is a legitimate question because hands by sending his government adit is Judd's contention that although ministrators (all members of the Communist Party) to assume control the Stalinists use terrorist tactics in the seizure of power, this is not really over each of the seized factories." What happened from one day to the the way they take power. They can only take power if they mobilize the next? Why does Gottwald find it necessary to send "his administrators" masses around a political and social program which "appears" progresto take control of the factories when sive. Let's get the whole picture bethe workers are voluntarily supportfore us. Before the seizure of coming Gottwald? And who are these plete power the Stalinist already had people sent by Gottwald to take facvirtual control of Czechoslovakia. Intories away from workers' commitdustry was already 75 per cent natees? Why is the writer of the article tionalized. The Stalinists had already so considerate and gentle as to give been using "blackmail," "threats," them the innocuous title of "adminis-"violence," "coercion," "kidnapping," trator?" "bribery," and "jailing." This was one IMPLICIT CONCLUSIONS advantage they had. But added to this In his LABOR ACTION column for they had another advantage: in the March 1, Comrade Judd says: "Capimidst of the use of the above-mentalism, the bourgeoisie, capitalist partioned "techniques" the Stalinists ties cannot fight Stalinism successwere successful in presenting a social fully . . . because the capitalist parand political program to the workers ties are politically and socially bankwhich "appeared" not only "progresrupt and cannot halt the Stalinist sive" but "revolutionary." Consequently the proletariat took to the streets voluntarily, under the Stalinist banner, in their own action comabout "capitalism," "bourgeoisie," mittees and workers militia. They "capitalist parties," without making took over the factories and cast a clear what the real nature of the conmenacing, and what they thought was flict is. The conflict is between boura "progressive" glance in the direcgeois-democracy and bureaucratiction of Benes. The remaining 25 per collectivist totalitarianism. This is the cent of capitalist enterprise was nacorrect formulation unless Judd is tionalized, or at least the proletariat saving that the U.S. is no longer a thought it was being nationalized. bourgeois-democratic country, or that Simultaneous with all of this, accordbureaucratic collectivism and bouring to the screaming and hysterical geois democracy are "equally reaclead article in LABOR ACTION for tionary." Judd's argument is that if March 8, the Stalinists were also Stalinism is defeated it will be demoving "rapidly to build their totalifeated by American imperialism and tarian state. Once they had decomnot by any political superiority which posed and disintegrated the feeble rebourgeois-democracy may have over sistance of the capitalist parties and bureaucratic collectivism. I take it the Social Democrats . . . there was that he means by "American imperinothing to halt the Stalinist machine. alism," American armed force of the All factories, newspapers, radios, Marshall Plan. It is Judd's position means of communications, etc., are therefore that workers will reject now firmly in the hands of the totalibourgeois democracy because it is tarians. Elections have been postcapitalism but will accept bureauponed and will take place only when cratic collectivism because it is antithe results are entirely guaranteed." capitalist. Or to put it another way;

tinued to support the Stalinists after to reject bourgeois-democracy but not advanced enough to reject Stalinism.

2

3

Implicit in Judd's article is the belief that the whole world politically, today, outside the Marxist movement, one solid "reactionary mass." Therefore no appreciable distinction can be made between fascism, Stalinism and bourgeois-democracy. According to this one must say that Europe is entering the century of de Gaulism or the century of Stalinism. (Concluded Next Week)

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Again I have to ask some questions. Are we to understand that where the article above quoted says "totalitarians" the reference is to the action

I want to repeat, that in order to

mobilization of the people." Judd obscures the real issue by the way he formulates this sentence. He talks

the Czech proletariat was advanced

enough to be against Czech capital-

ism but not advanced enough to know

1