Labor Must Act To Free The 18 **Gag Law Victims**

By The Editors

When Roosevelt and Biddle in July 1941 indicted the Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO and Trotskyist leaders under the Smith "Gag" Act, many labor leaders preferred to view this as an exceptional and isolated case. They treated the Minneapolis trial as a private conflict between the defendants and government which did not affect them or the rest of the labor movement. Their chief concern was to uphold Roosevelt's reputation as a "friend of labor" and guardian of civil liberties.

Events since the trial have cut the ground from under such illusions and have served to demonstrate the far-reaching significance of the Minneapolis prosecutions and convictions. In wielding the Smith Act club against the Trotskyists, the government launched the initial attack of an allout offensive by Big Business and its political agents to smash the entire union movement and destroy the democratic rights of the American people.

The Minneapolis prosecutions and convictions were deliberately conceived and carried through as an essential part of that offensive. In planning their campaign for undermining the unions and enslaving the workers, the capitalist rulers of America sought to forge powerful legal weapons with which to strike down organized labor. The Smith "Gag" Law, passed by Congress and signed by Roosevelt, was the first of such weapons. That law, strengthened by the precedent established through the imprisonment of the 18, now serves as a cornerstone in the structure of repressive legislation erected in the past three years to deprive labor of its rights and liberties and safeguard the wealth and privileges of America's Sixty Families.

Big Business and the government, emboldened by the effectiveness of their new reactionary legal weapon, have since added other deadly ones to their arsenal. The Smith "Gag" Law has been supplemented by the Smith-Connally anti-strike law. And now as a climax Roosevelt has demanded a forced labor law.

It is true that these repressive laws are designed primarly for use against labor militants who dare to stand up and defend the interests of the workers. But the anti-labor offensive is mounting to such a pitch that no labor leader, however servile, can consider himself immune from the fury of the reactionary forces. Attorney-General Biddle has given prompt proof of this by his use of the Smith "Gag" Act and the imprisonment of the 18 as a precedent in the deportation proceedings against the CIO Longshoremen's Union leader, Harry Bridges, one of the most grovelling supporters of Roosevelt.

Thus it has become clear that the fight to free the 18 Trotskyists and to repeal the Smith "Gag" Act is an inseparable part of labor's struggle against the present Roosevelt-Wall Street anti-labor drive.

Just as the Smith "Gag" Act was the forerunner of a host of repressive anti-labor laws, so the imprisoned 1 rotskyists and Local 544-ClO leaders are only the first of many other militants who will be framedup and jailed unless the labor movement puts up a determined fight to free the 18. An aroused labor movement, fully aware of the danger to its own existence contained in this violation of democratic rights, can compel Roosevelt to release the Smith "Gag" Act's first victims. The fight to liberate the 18 is thus a primary task and duty of organized labor in its struggle for self-preserva-

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Baruch Plan Devised To Pave Way For A Wall Street Grab Of Billions

CIO Publishes Its First Edition of Servicemens News

The first number of the Servicemen's Edition of the CIO News was published last week. The publication of a miniature overseas edition by the CIO is a step in the right direction. The organized labor movement in this country has over 2,000,000 members in the armed services. These union men and women have the right to know what labor is doing to safeguard their interests at home. Equally important is the need to provide them with an antidote to the poisonous propaganda disseminated by the capitalist press. The next step is to see that the Servicemen's Edition is available for distribution at all the post exchanges and other avenues of distribution provided by the Army and Navy.

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

So far the Army and Navy have made their facilities available only to a limited number of capitalist papers, such as the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun. The Army has indicated that the right to distribute miniature overseas editions of American newspapers through Army post exchanges may be made available to other newspapers "provided there was a sufficient demand from the troops." The Servicemen's Edition of the CIO News has been denied these facilities and must now be sent by first class mail addressed to individuals in the armed forces. By the use

of this primitive method only a very limited number of servicemen will get to read the CIO paper.

The CIO claims over 1,000,000 members in the armed forces. There are probably as many and tion.

(Continued on page 3)



WLB Squabble Over Procedure Exposes Real Nature Of Board the entire report. WALL ST. AUTHORS

By C. Thomas

The steel wage dispute, referred to the War Labor Board after negotiations with the employers bogged down, has precipitated a major squabble among members of the board. This tion of Roosevelt, acting through dissension has further served to expose the real function of the WLB as an instrument to enforce Roosevelt's wage freeze.

The United Steel Workers, CIO, are demanding an increase of 17 cents per hour. Un head the OWM unit drafting the der Roosevelt's Executive Order No. 9328, the so-called "hold the line" order, the WLB was inplan Byrnes last November asstructed to limit wage increases to the Little Steel formula. As any wage increase granted the signed Bernard M. Baruch, multisteel workers must of necessity®

go beyond the Little Steel for- AFL members petitioned the may take weeks and a decision mula, a dispute has arisen as to board on Feb. 9 to ask Roosevelt delayed for months. whether or not the WLB has the to modify the Little Steel formula authority to assume jurisdic- in line with the actual increase CIO POLICY

"The CIO members of the board in the cost of living. The petition tional banking interests, was to "ask Roosevelt" to abandon his feel that the steel wage case. Upon certification of the steel wage freezing Executive Order started four months ago, should selected as Baruch's assistant.

The real flesh and bones of the wage dispute to the WLB, the was rejected by the board. The be the criterion on which the wage

Government Schemes To Give New Plants To Corporations

267

Huge Profits Guaranteed in Reconversion; But Jobs Not Assured to Workers, Veterans

By Art Preis

Wall Street's conspiracy to make a grand-slam profits-steal on all war contracts terminations and swindle the American people out of governmentowned plants and equipment worth tens of billions has been endorsed and set in motion by Roosevelt through the administration-sponsored Baruch-Hancock plan for "post-war adjustment."

Heralded by the entire Big Business press as capitalism's "Blueprint for Post-War Prosperity," this scheme for industrial "demobilization and reconversion," as one press

commentator observed, Big Business Men contains nothing which the ruling monopolists Chosen to Direct "might have asked and which has not been given Reconversion Plan them." There is no men-

millionaire stock market mani-

pulator, agent of the House of

Morgan and Roosevelt's personal

consultant. John M. Hancock.

associate of the Lehman interna-

Wall Street could scarcely have picked more dependable men to serve its interests in drafting and executing its "plan for post-war adjustments" than

This so-called "prosperity blue- Bernard M. Baruch, William print" was drafted at the instiga-L. Clayton and Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines. his Director of the Office of War

Mobilization, Southern poll-tax Baruch, chief author of the Big Business "post-war grab-all" Democrat James M. Byrnes. To



tion of organized labor in

LOCAL CRDC BRANCHES ACTIVE IN CAMPAIGN TO FREE THE 18

Smith "Gag" Act, calling their

The National Office of the Civ-

The Civil Rights Defense ment of the eighteen were made by CRDC supporters. The audi-Committee reports progress in ence sent President Roosevelt a its national campaign to win telegram urging unconditional pardon for the 18 victims of the the release of the eighteen classwar prisoners in the Minneaconviction a violation of the Bill polis Labor case. In the past of Rights that "challenges every supporter of civil liberties." few weeks the New York Committee has secured over 1000 | il Rights Defense Committee this signatures from w o r k e r s week moved into new quarters in throughout the city on petitions the same building at 100 Filter Avenue, New York. Three volthe same building at 160 Fifth urging President Roosevelt to unteer Field Representatives grant unconditional pardon to have been added to the staff. the Minneapolis prisoners. Similar petitions are now being circulated by local CRDC branches among trade unions and paign to mobilize all liberal and progressive groups all over the labor forces behind our fight to country.

The New York Local of the Civil Rights Defense Committee presented a Musicale at Carnegie Chamber Music Hall on February | frameup and imprisonment of the 26. An overflow audience responded with enthusiasm to ex-, tive Director of the Detroit Joint cellent performances by a violin- Board, URWDSEA-CIO; William ist, pianist, and Spanish dancer. Schaffer, President of Cramp Swelled by contributions from local unions, the proceeds of the CIO, Thomas DeLorenzo, Presiaffair totaled well over \$300.

SAN FANCISCO

blage of members and friends of President of the New Jersey In San Francisco an assem-State CIO Council. the local Civil Rights Defense Committee attended a performance of "Trial by Fury", musical mittee is greatly in need of funds satire of the Minneapolis Labor to carry out its work as well as trial, presented on February 20. to aid the 18 prisoners and their A cash collection of \$119 was families. All contributions should forwarded for the Minneapolis be sent to James T. Farrell, Prisoners' Pardon and Relief Chairman, Civil Rights Defense Fund, and a number of pledges | Committee, at 160 Fifth Avenue, for the period of the imprison- New York 10, N. Y.

Steel Wage Demands Buried In Graveyard Of Grievances

By R. Bell

Negotiations for a wage increase of 17 cents per hour for 750.000 steel workers have now been in progress for a period of four months. The case has been relegated to that graveyard of the wage demands of one

of grievances, the War Labor Board.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. World-Telegram in- be expected from that body is "a

dicates what fate the War Labor stalemate all around." It is hard wage dispute when he reports: Then will come sessions of the panel with union and employer representatives on whether or not WLB can consider a case if it asks for wage increases beyond the Little Steel formula, and which of the 22 points at issue

"NO COMPULSION"

Here is how Senator Warren R. Austin, co-author of the "This expansion is necessary," Austin - Wadsworth national stated Evelyn Anderson, Acting Secretary, "because of the inservice act, replied to critics tensification of our national camwho contended that the measure, if adopted, would \constitute forced labor. free the 18 and to secure the "The Senator maintained

repeal of the Smith 'Gag' Act." steadfastly that there was no compulsion involved in his bill. Among the prominent union 'Nobody would be compelled leaders who have protested the to work,' he said. However, if any one refused to, after losing 18 are Tucker P. Smith, Executhe various appeals provided in the measure, he would go to jail." (N. Y. Herald-Tribune, Shipyard Local 42, IUMSWA-Feb. 17.)

are under its jurisdiction. Redent of Brewster Local 365, ferring back this fundamental UAW-CIO; Louis Nelson, Manquestion, the full board may find ager-Secretary of Local 155, that it has no authority to con-ILGWU, and Irving Abramson, all, in which event it will have to

The Civil Rights Defense Comnext, resulting in a stalemate all around."

WLB RUNAROUND

The whole record of the WLB, especially since the wage dispute of the coal miners, confirms the opinion that the BEST that can union's wage demands were then stabilization policy should referred to a six-man panel which | changed." was instructed to hold hearings on "procedure." The conflict now raging is over what "procedure"

the six-man panel will adopt. The AFL representatives contend that if the panel recommends taking testimony on a change in the administration's "wage stabilization policy" it could not be done on the basis

union or one group of employers. Under such circumstances, they insist, the panel must invite the

testimony of all unions and em-Board has in store for the steel to believe that there remains the question of a change in the within the labor movement any "wage stabilization" policy. The "It will take some time just to union leader simple - minded crux of the dispute between the separate the industry into its enough to believe that the WLB AFL and CIO members on the various classifications. Each will has the will, authority or power WLB was presented by a labor have to be dealt with differently. to settle any major wage dispute. reporter for the New York Times, What is involved in the steel Feb. 24:

> wage increase granted the steel the hearings before the steel panworkers would have to be beyond el or any other machinery setup the Little Steel formula.

Under Roosevelt's "hold the function of the WLB has been there are only two alternatives open to the WLB members. They can either reject the wage demands of the steel workers as a violation of the Little Steel

RETROACTIVE HOAX

sider some issues of this case at to the Roosevelt regime, Murray eral wage increase. has become party to an outrageask the President what to do ous heax upon the members of

> delay in the settlement of their wage demands because they were

(Continued on page 3)

plan is an elaborate and explicit program to protect the profits and monopoly interests of Big The employer members on the

board take the position that the Business and give Wall Street an panel must recommend that the even greater share of America's board has no authority to hear economy. To this end, the plan contains arguments in favor of abandoning the Little Steel formula. They | two major provisions. So that the

insist that any change in wage corporations may realize full policy is up to Congress and that profits on government contracts the WLB should carry out its regardless of the cessation of mili-"duty" by promptly rejecting the tary hostilities, a provision is wage demands of the steel work- made to "assure quick cash, penders as a violation of Roosevelt's | ing settlement" on all terminated war contracts. This ensures "the

wage policy. The attitude of the members of immediate payment-the full 100 the WLB supposedly represent- per cent" on all completed coning the "public" is that the steel tracts and from 90 to 100 per cent of "America's Sixty Families", panel, in line with instructions, on the "uncompleted portion of will segregate the data obtained the contract."

in the hearings into two parts. QUICK SETTLEMENT One part will deal with adjust-

ments that fall within the Little | Profit is guaranteed even on pulations, particularly in copper Steel formula and the other with the costs of unfabricated raw stocks. He got his start in the testimony bearing on the aband- migerials. The government con- brokerage business with the aid onment of the formula. "The pub- tracting agencies which have al- of James Keene, confidential wage controversy is the fate "The AFL members favor the lic members may then take the ready showered billions in war broker for J. P. Morgan and Comof Roosevelt's wage - freezing direct approach to the President position," says the Times re- profits upon the corporations are pany. He made his first big "stabilization program." Any as the most practicable one, since porter, "that it is for the Presi- authorized to make the settle- money through assisting the

(Continued on page 2)

Under Roosevelt's "hold the line" Executive Order, the sole function of the WLB has been Proposed URW Wage Revision Falls Far to ENFORCE the Little Steel Short Of Increase In Cost Of Living

By Joe Andrews

Workers of America, CIO, after a general wage conference, have formula, or-delay the inevitable demanded an industry-wide general wage increase of 12 cents showdown on this issue to a time an hour. This 12-cent an hour demand represents a surrender most unfavorable for the workers. of the CIO principle that wages must meet the rising cost of They have apparently chosen the living. Although it sounds like a sizeable increase, as a matter latter course as being more poli- of fact it lags far behind the climb in living costs. tically expedient at the moment.

Last year the WLB set up a •-

rubber panel to recommend a fore 5 percent behind the rise in These facts are well known to decision on URW wage de- living costs, even measured by Philip Murray, head of the CIO mands. The panel found that, the fraudulent Little Steel forand leader of the United Steel according to the Little Steel mula. Workers of America. Because of formula. the rubber workers his complete political subservience were entitled to an 8-cent gen-

WLB ACTION

AKRON, Feb. 27. - The officials of the United Rubber 22-cent an hour general increase only protection against constant-

costs since January 1, 1941 admitted by this government bureau.

(Continued on page 2)

URWA LEADERS GIVE IN

The URWA leadership, however, arbitrarily chose the 12cent figure instead of asking for 40-cent an hour increase to meet the real rise in living costs, for fear their demands would sound "unreasonable."

By this capitulation to the em-The CIO-AFL survey recently ployers' propaganda that the submitted to Roosevelt announced workers' standard of living must

that living costs have risen 43.5 fall while war-profits are skypercent since January 1, 1941. To rocketing, the URW leaders have meet that rise in the cost of liv- admittedly given up the fight to

But in the rubber case the WLB ing the rubber workers are en- keep wages on a par with rising his union. The steel workers have did not abide even by the Little titled to over 40% general in-prices. This is a cowardly surbeen led to believe that they are Steel wage-freeze formula. It crease. This would amount to render of the repeated principle protected against a prolonged granted a three-cent an hour in- about 40 cents an hour. Even by of the CIO that wages should of the war. Only a resolute strugcrease, thus provoking the May the estimates of the U.S. Bureau rise as living costs go up. It is gle for the automatic rising scale strike of 50,000 rubber workers in of Labor Statistics which have the direct result of the failure of wages to meet soaring living Akron, which ended without any been exposed as fraudulent by of the CIO leadership to fight costs can protect the rubber workchange in the WLB decision. The both AFL and CIO, the rubber for an automatic escalator clause ers from steady reductions in rubber workers remained there- workers would be entitled to a in all wage agreements - the their living standards.

to meet the 25% rise in living by rising living costs.

The 12-cent demand represents voluntary acceptance by the URW heads of a cut in real wages. Even if the rubber union should win the 12-cent general increase, this would mean that rubber workers since January 1, 1941 have increased their wages about 15%. That would still be 28% below the cost of living rise estimated by AFL and CIO statistics. The rubber leaders by accepting this 28 percent lag of wages behind prices, have actually acquiesced in a 28 percent

Meanwhile the rubber corporations have more than doubled their profits since the beginning

real wage cut.

BERNARD BARUCH

plan, is included in the official list with a private fortune estimated at around \$40.000.000.

His fortune was garnered through slick stock market mani-



THE MILITANT

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1944

The Class Struggle Of The Workers In Japan

By Miriam Carter

Recently published news reports, based on statements made by Japanese prisoners in China, have torn away some of the secrecy surrounding conditions within Japan and exposed the falseness of official propaganda about the "national unity" of the Japanese masses behind the Mikado's regime. These reports also reveal the deeply rooted antagonism between the workers, peasants and small producers of Japan and the giant corporations, Mitsui, Mitsubishi, etc. 💪

How these family supertrusts dominate Japanese economic and political life is described in graphic detail by Li Fu-Jen, noted Trotskyist authority on Far Eastern affairs, in the first article of his series on Japan published in the February 1944 issue of Fourth International.

War.Weary Masses

Direct corroboration of mass unrest was given by Pfc. Masuomarus Yamoda, 23, a prisoner of war and former coal miner in Japan. "There is no high morale in my unit," he said. "We are all tired of the war. The people and the soldiers of Japan want peace. My friends in the mines work harder since the war, and what the war has done for me you can see yourself." (PM, Feb. 6). Private Tomi Kiji, 24, a former power plant worker, likewise a prisoner of war, stated: "The cost of living is very high in Tokyo. Everybody is disgusted with the war. The rice ration is now very small, but one person can still get along on it. But with the clothing it is different. The ration isn't nearly enough. Because so many workers have been taken in the army those still in the factories have to work harder and harder all the time. The workers want the war to end so that they can get a little freedom back."

The unbearable subjugation of the Japanese workers, together with the precipitous preparation for war, resulted in a series of large scale strikes in 1941, reports Israel Epstein, Chungking correspondent of the Allied Labor Press, in the CIO News.

"These strikes . . . began with economic demands but quickly acquired a political anti-war character." In April, 1941, in Kobe, 100.000 workers went on a sitdown strike, raising the slogans of "Shorter hours and raise wages," "Voluntary night shift," and "2.7 go of rice as promised." (Three and four go is the normal ration. The workers had been given 15 to 20 percent less than the 2.7 go promised them.)

"Groups of workers marched around the factory grounds singing, 'Why should we be such fools as to work?' Almost from the beginning anti-war slogans were also heard. At first the police tried to take the usual measures. But since all the big factories in Kobe were involved in the movement these did not suffice." "Soldiers were ordered into the industrial district. There were clashes between them and the workers. The strike was smashed." Four of the leaders were shot, 24 deported and never heard of again.

"Participants say that the strike failed not only because of the brutal suppression, but also because there was not sufficient contact between workers in the different plants. But although the Kobe strike was crushed, the movement continued."

A strike of 20,000 workers in a Mitsubishi airplane factory in Nagoya brought several concessions, then brutal arrests. In the Kokura plant of the War Ministry Ordnance, employing 60,000 workers, 3,000 workers who manufactured barrels for artillery struck for shorter hours and better conditions in Sept., 1941. Many of the demands were granted, including no reprisals against the strikers.

In October 1941, 20,000 workers in Tsurumi, where most of the heavy industry is concentrated, struck. The salaried employees joined the workers in this strike.

Again the workers were met with severe repressions. Epstein describes the intense oppression

of the Japanese workers which led to these outbreaks.

Wage-Freeze Ordered

In 1939, with the intensified preparations for war by the Japanese government, a ceiling was clapped on wages, and the freezing of workers to their jobs was instituted. In the mining areas a "domiciliary system" was introduced. "Workers with their families were moved to live within the mine enclosures which were fenced around with barbed wire. In upcountry mines the enclosures were guarded by armed men in crow's nests. . . The 'domiciliary system' was quickly dubbed the 'prison system' by the Japanese miners themselves."

Labor conscription for all those between the ages of 15 and 70 was introduced in March, 1942. By the end of 1942 women, children and foreign slave labor formed 91-96 percent of the total labor force. In the steel center, Yahata, known as the Japanese "Detroit," where a high percentage of skilled labor is concentrated, only 13 percent of the workers are men.

Forced Labor

"The conscription method is the same as for the army except that draft notices are printed on white cards instead of red. 'White card service' is a word of horror to Japanese workers. It means they are moved from place to place without reference to their family situations and must work for pay fixed at a daily maximum of 40c. for men and 25c. for women. . . One result of the 'white card service' has been a wave of suicides.

"The 16 hour work day and the assignment of inexperienced workers to complicated jobs have produced a terribly high rate of accidents and sickness. A prisoner of war who worked in one of Mitsubishi's electrical factories (with 2000 workers) told how he himself has seen 50 accidents happen in one day, including 7 deaths and 13 serious injuries. . . Besides their 16 hours workers had to carry two night shifts a week. No day of rest is allowed. The militarists have a slogan 'we must change Saturday, Sunday and Monday to Saturday, Monday and Monday'....

"Since 1939 money wages have remained static or have decreased, while the cost of living has risen three to four times. In the case of conscript labor there has been an actual money decrease of from 50 to 70 percent. In spite of Japan's conquests the workers are eating less than they ever did. The monthly ration of rice for factory workers is nominally about 70 percent of the allowance for soldiers . . . and Japanese soldiers are notoriously able to exist on less than those of any modern state."

Monopoly Grab

The small scale manufacturers, artisans and merchants, who numerically form the major strata of the Japanese population, have fared no better than the workers in wartime Japan.

By Pearl Harbor "all economy was already geared to war, and shortage in the supply of both raw materials and power were putting small industries out of business wholesale... Then the great trusts, Mitsui and Mitsubishi, came into the field. . . Both began to buy up the bankrupt factories right and left at rockbottom prices. They became convinced that the military adventures . . . created a never-to-be-repeated opportunity for increasing their already powerful throttle-hold on Japanese industry."

In order to grease the way for Mitsui and Mitsubishi in their power-grabbing orgy the 83rd session of the Japanese Diet passed the "Law Regulating the Application of Capital" which forces the bankrupt small business men to accept shares as payment for their property in lieu of cash. The "Ad-

justment of Enterprises Law" followed, which gave the government power to take over the factories and distribute them to heavy industry - further increasing the domination of the Mitsui and Mitsubishi interests over Japanese life.

Death Penalty

The continued mass unrest and resentment of the Japanese workers at the unbearable exploitation foisted on them led Premier Hideki Tojo to "decree the death penalty, without trial or other legal procedure, for any person attempting 'to change the government's policy or plan during wartime.' A little later at a conference of prefectural governors in Tokyo in a speech broadcast to the entire nation, he declared that Japan faced a 'very serious current situation,' adding this very revealing admonition: 'If one of you should detect any dissatisfaction or unsettled feeling within your (the governor's) jurisdiction you should take immediate concrete steps for the complete removal of these elements'." (Fourth International, Feb. 1944, "Japan Faces the Abyss" by Li-Fu-Jen.)

The Japanese masses, thus cruelly exploited to a barbaric degree, have shown that they can struggle against their oppressors. By their heroic strike struggles in 1941 they upset any plans the Japanese government may have had to attack the Soviet Union. "It is the opinion of such prominent anti-fascist Japanese as Waturu Kaji that the strikes of 1941 led many of Japan's leaders to believe that an attack on the USSR-involving . . . Soviet political warfare-could not be contemplated until order within the country was complete and secure."

With the outbreak of the war with the United States, however, the strike struggles came to an end. Taking advantage of the predatory ambitions of Wall Street in the Far East and the racial hatred fomented

against the Japanese people, the Japanese imperialist rulers demagogically appeal to the Japanese masses, "follow us or the white Yankee imperialists will subjugate us all." Statements made by such official spokesmen as the former U.S. ambassador to Japan. Joseph C. Grew, describing the emperor as being opposed to the war, and Shinto (emperor worship) as "an asset, not a liability" dishearten the Japanese masses who are so brutally enslaved by the emperor and his government and serve to hold them back from rebellious action.

"The people are always thinking of stopping the war-and achieving a peace that will not bring victory but freedom, food and relief from the crushing burden. It is because they see no such peace and no such way out that the new wave of strikes in factories, mines and other rural areas has not taken on anything like the proportions of a revolutionary wave." (PM, Feb. 6.)

Unity A Myth

From these reports it is evident that "national unity" is as much of a myth in Japan as it is in other imperialist countries engaged in this war. In reality the warprofiteering ruling class tries to pile all the burdens and costs of their war upon the masses who suffer terribly from soaring prices, overwork, undernourishment, and forced labor. When the workers resist. they find that the severest repressions are meted out to them.

The Japanese workers have already displayed a desire and determination to fight back against their capitalist oppressors and to find the revolutionary way out of the bloody mess into which these militarist bandits have dragged them. It is this fear of socialist revolution and its consequences for capitalism which leads U.S. State Department authorities to exalt and whitewash the Mikado.



By Joseph Keller

In the message accompanying | ary, he himself received a \$2,500 his veto of the new tax bill, salary increase, plus a \$628 war-Roosevelt carefully refrained time cost-of-living bonus-a hike from criticizing one feature which 10 per cent above that allowed. had Congress particularly hopped | under the 'Little Steel' formulaup in the bill's favor. That is Congressman J. Glenn Beall the amendment-rider requiring (Rep., Md.) revealed last week. trade unions to file with the gov- Congressman Beall hit the nail ernment detailed reports of their on the head when he inquired: "'Does that mean the wage incomes and financial status.

This is the first dangerous freeze applies only to the many, wedge provided by federal law to but not to the few?' pry open the internal records of the unions for hostile scrutiny by by Comptroller General Lindsay the corporations and their gov- Warren, Beall declared that Vinenment agents.

no later review except in the case of "a presumption of fraud." The emphasis in this section of the report is on words like "quick." speed," and "prompt," undoubtedly on the theory that Wall Street's hand must be quicker

than the people's eye. The second of the key provisions involves the speedy "disposal" of so-called "surplus" government property to the private corporations. The use of the term 'surplus" is intended to convey the idea that this property is a Having successfully rammed \$12,500 to \$15,000 and that he is corporations in "taking it off"

son's salary was raised from through this measure against the also getting \$628 more a year un- the government's hands will be are abou "surpluses"

ments. These will be subject to "Hoovervilles."

Weeks before they released heir complete report, Baruch and Hancock gave the big corporations full reassurance regarding contracts terminations through a preliminary report, termed a

'Uniform Article for the Termination of War Supply Contracts." OWM Director Byrnes on Jan. 8 immediately. He also made public a letter from Baruch and Hancock containing the assurance "that manufacturers will benefit from lot of useless junk and that the having this termination article in their contracts."

feeble opposition led by the union der terms of a congressional reso- doing an act of charity. Included GUARANTEED PROFIT

Roosevelt scheme involves nothing cluding the provision of profits Property Administrator within

disposal." He would be assisted a system of bank and government by a Surplus Property Policy Board, composed of representathe corporations "as an insurance tives of the various government contracting agencies, but he as against delays in validating Chairman would retain "full and

The second phase of the Baruchordered this to be put into effect Hancock scheme implements the all-out swindle conceived by Wall Street that is embodied in the section of the plan dealing with "surplus property."

This "surplus" represents some

2,600 giant plants built at a gov-



We believe that all of our ute to the February 5 issue of agents will be interested in the The Militant:

Boston — "I was very much procedure followed by our Los Angeles agent each week upon impressed by the article in The rceipt of The Militant: Militant of February 5 entitled "It may interest you to know 'Why The Steel Workers Are Bethat at our weekly staff meet- coming Restless and Angry.' I ings (the staff is composed of have known of the struggle of

all committee members and de- the workers, being a worker for partment heads who work full many years, and although I had time) we have adopted the pro- an idea what mass production cedure of hearing a report on workers had to put up with I had the latest issue of The Militant no idea that the workers in the Administrator would be to "liqui- and discussing the report with an steel mills had to put up with eye to two questions: (1) In the such intolerable conditions. All I the object of "taking the Gov- light of a political estimate of can say is keep up the good work ernment out of business" and to the contents of the paper to de- in attempting to enlighten the "sell as much as he can as early termine our distribution plan, and workers as to the only road they as he can." He is to be, naturally, (2) to assign comrades to write can take to emancipate thema man of "proven executive articles on various topics, West selves from such inhuman condiability and business sagacity." Coast and otherwise. There are tions, namely through the strugwo assignments right now, the gle for socialism. Sleepy Lagoon case and the Muni-Chicago: "The last issue of The cipal Power and Light strike. You Militant is another exceptionally good one for trade union distribquestions, particularly the strike, by next Tuesday's deadline." ution. Hope we can do it justice by getting it well placed in the * * * The following letters pay trib- | right quarters."

less than a return to an era of even on raw materials stockpiles! the OWM, appointed by the OWM Just to make sure that the Director. This administrator corporations "get theirs" without would have "full authority for any delay or questions being handling every aspect of surplus

asked, the final plan establishes loans to give "quick relief" to

claims.'

GRAB PLANTS

final authority."

TWC -

movement, can now be expected crease. to push for the enactment of more vicious legislation of this type.

* * *

Over 400 AFL locals have openly proclaimed their defiance of | fact is the average railway work-Alabama's Bradford Law which | er gets less total annual income requires union locals of more than the increase in salary Mr. than 25 members to file with the Vinson himself received,' Beall state government a full statement | said." of incomes and finances.

With but few exceptions, how- of-living "war of statistics" beever, the CIO and United Mine tween the Roosevelt administra-Workers locals, whose combined tion and the AFL and CIO is a membership is considerably less 65,000-word attack by officials of than the AFL's 125,000, have the Bureau of Labor Statistics elected to comply. When the against the independent report of deadline for filing arrived last the labor members of Roosevelt's Monday, only a selected few of Cost-of-Living Committee, who the CIO and UMW locals held had charged that the BLS index out, for the purpose of establish- showing a cost-of-living rise of ing test cases.

the State Department of Labor dependent survey fixes the rise of their intention to disregard the at over 43 per cent. unions in Alabama.

partment director, threatened AFL sec'y-treasurer. It makes non-complying unions with en- picayunish thrusts at minor forcement of a provision in the points of data in the AFL-CIO utor to the Democratic Party, law prohibiting them from col- report, such as complaining that and in the course of the past 30 lecting dues and banning existing broilers and fryers in Buffalo had years has given hundreds of thoucheck-off systems, and punishing not gone up in price 150 per cent, sands of dollars to aid the camviolations with fines up to \$1,000 as the union survey contended, and hard labor prison sentences of up to one year.

W. O. Hare, AFL state secretary, answered this threat by de- which are affected by changes claring "it would be worth a cou- in income, higher taxes, bond purple of years in jail to win out in chases, cost of migrating to jobs, this fight."

A federal court panel recently upheld as constitutional the com- into account were an essential pulsory financial reports section part of the original objections of the Bradford Law. Another section of the law not reviewed, figures. includes a ban on closed shop contracts.

* * *

"Vinson Got 25 Percent Salary Hike While Denying Railroaders 8-Cent Hourly Raise," is the headline over an article in the Feb. 15 United Mine Workers Journal. This article deserves quotation in and that they should instead try full:

"While Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson bitterly fought a microscopic 8-cent-an-hour increase for railroad workers on the ground that it was inflation-

bureaucracy, an emboldened re- lution giving federal employes a in these actionary Congress, hell-bent to bonus to meet wartime living twenty billions worth of the hogtie and destroy the labor costs-altogether a 25 percent in- newest and most up-to-date plants

"'Mr. Vinson waxed loud and

long that an 8-cent-an-hour increase for the railway workers would be inflationary, but the

"Citing figures furnished him

The latest phase of the cost-

only 23.5 per cent since Jan. 1941 The AFL locals have notified is, false and that an AFL-CIO in-

The wordy BLS defense of its Bradford Law, which their lead-ers termed a "labor-baiting law" figures skirts most of the main Bank—Kuhn, Loeb and Company designed to destroy the labor objections raised in the report is- interests. He then became confidential broker for the Guggensued by R. J. Thomas, UAW-Emmett Brooks, state labor de- CIO president, and George Meany, heims, controllers of the Anaconda Copper Trust.

but "only" 76 per cent! The BLS dential candidates. He contribadmitted that its index was "not a measure of standards of living"

necessity for "eating out", etc. The failure to take these factors which capacity Baruch did so well for the big corporations that he

raised by the unions to the BLS Thomas and Meany answered

the BLS complaint with a statement declaring that "no group

of Government bureaucrats have ever before had the audacity to insult millions of American housewives by telling them that their experiences are all wrong, to live on BLS statistics."

The Militant may now be purchased at 242 Broadway, San Diego, Cal. company for innumerable cotton | ted Farmers of California, strike- of government work relief.

and equipment.

BACK TO HOOVER

sourcefulness can again take tory." Big Business is safe- tions for a song.

provides "for swifter and more \$20,000,000,000. They include equitable settlement" of war con- almost all the nation's synthetictracts upon their termination for rubber and high-octane-gas plants. any cause and regardless of their 92 per cent of the magnesium The real purposes of the stage of completion. The corpora- works, 90 per cent of the aircraft Baruch-Hancock plan are con- tions are insured against all industry, over 50 per cent of the tained in the following proviso: "risks" of loss. In fact they are aluminum and 10 per cent of the "No Government operation of sur- to receive prompt payment in steel producing facilities, a vast plus war plants in competition full and without question, includ- fleet of merchant ships, machine with private industry." Its solu- ing a guaranteed profit based on tools of every description, oil pipe

tion to the "problem of demobi- a "not too rigid" scale. They are lines, billions worth of finished lization"-and its attendant mass assured "an aggregate profit in supplies which have civilian conunemployment — is to be the all cases to a maximum of 6 per sumer uses. All these the Baruchcreation of an "atmosphere in cent and . . . to a maximum of 2 Hancock plan proposes to "get which private initiative and re- per cent on unprocessed inven- rid of" to the monopoly corpora-

Big Business Representatives To Direct Reconversion Plan

(Continued from page 1)

Baruch became a big contrib-

paigns of the Democratic presi-

uted a total of \$60,000, highest

was directly cited after the war

by the Graham Senate Investiga-

tion Committee as being the in-

manipulation of Amalgamated Copper for the National City and South America.

compress and warehouse subsidi- | breaking and lynch agency for aries, with scores of offices in the banks and rich corporation leading American cities and farmers against the agricultural tory lists." The government is throughout Europe, Asia, Africa workers. His firm in 1942 fought thus under pressure either to tear bitterly the establishment of a the property down quickly or His firm of Anderson, Clayton 30 cents-an-hour minimum wage "sell" it to the corporations.

for cotton pickers. Clayton holds seats on every cotton exchange in the country. He is an old Liberty Leaguer.

Roosevelt's new Work Direcplan, Brig. Gen. Hines, has been a Big Business stand-in at the tion, originally the Veterans Bureau, since 1923. He was picked ing, of "Ohio Gang" fame, at training plus "one place in each

actionary Army and Navy Association. His sizable private fortune has been gained from a number of go for a job. business ventures. He is a director and a large stockholder in the Sperry Gyroscope Corp., which fought unionization for many years. Sperry is a leading "war baby" firm, which has expanded enormously on war contracts. Hines in 1941 was a candidate for president of the New York Stock Exchange.

How Hines will deal with the unemployed is indicated by the fact that his Veterans Administration right now has a backlog of claims awaiting action

Indeed they will! This article ernment expense of an estimated CORPORATION AGENTS

In his task he is required "to make effective use of Industry should have articles on both Advisory Committees," which are o receive "strengthening."

The job of this Surplus Property

date government holdings" with

Baruch and Hancock propose in effect that the corporation agents running the government's "disposal" machinery sit down with together work out a mutuallysatisfactory divvy of the colossal loot.

The big corporations with the 'inside track," who already are

running the new government plants, will have a field day. Most | dent to decide whether they shall of the government property is in- take further evidence on the protegrated with the private property posed change in wage-stabilizaof the corporations. The corpora- tion policy, whether he will name illusion that this agency, whose tions can require "prompt another board or committee to clearance of Government property this task or perhaps find another from private plants not later than solution."

60 days after the filing of inven- ROLE OF WLB This whole squabble adds up employers. to the fact that the War Labor Board has been reduced to a ca-

WORKERS GET NOTHING As for the workers and ex- ble of making decisions on the

nothing but empty words. The has been shattered. The members tor under the Baruch-Hancock problem of employment is left to of the WLB are compelled to ada "Work Director," whose sole mit that the board is impotent. directives are "to see that the The primary function of the head of the Veterans Administra- human side of demobilization is board is to bog down the wage not forgotten." Demobilized vete- | demands of the workers in a morans are to be provided facilities rass of red tape. In the end, the must take to maintain a decent for the post by Warren G. Hard- for rehabilitation and vocational workers are forced to take mili- standard of living.

the suggestion of the starkly re- community" where returning short, the plan has in mind simply Director, Roosevelt appointed veterans can go "to learn all driving a large part of the Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines, chief

air, the report states-without standards.

further elaboration-that public Before the workers or anyone works should be designed "to be else could have a chance to exput on the shelf for use if amine or discuss this "pig in the needed." Even here, the report poke" plan, the Roosevelt adproposes that local communities ministration moved with unholy and states shall shoulder the haste to establish the machinery

burden of work relief a la Hoover. for putting it into effect. Within two days of the publica-One section of the Baruch-Hancock letter accompanying tion of the scheme, Byrnes antheir report suggests that soldiers nounced Roosevelt's appointment will be absorbed in industry by of a Surplus Property Administrafactors "which are not now tor to set the plan in motion. The clear," chiefly "the giving up of choice fell upon William L. Clay- misery and mass unemployment war jobs by many women; the ton, world's largest cotton on a scale unprecedented in retirement of older workers." In merchant. To the post of Work American history.

the corporation agents on the In-dustry Advisory Committees and together work out a mutually-**REAL NATURE OF BOARD**

(Continued from page 1)

tant action in order to gain a few cent's per hour increase.

The presence of "labor representatives" on the War Labor Board is intended to create the sole purpose is to hold the wagefreezing line against the workers. is an "impartial" body set up to dispense "justice" in wage conflicts between the unions and the

It is high time to put an end to this farce. In order to dispel ricature. Even the pretense of bethe fog of confusion which has ing a "quasi-judicial" body capaenveloped labor's fight against the wage-freezing Little Steel servicemen, the report gives them | basis of the evidence submitted | formula, the militants in the unions must demand that the "labor representatives" resign from the War Labor Board. Once that obstacle has been removed the workers will see more clearly the road of independent struggle they

their rights and how to get them." | present working force out of the | of the Veterans Administration, It doesn't say where they are to plants and into the breadlines, a 23-year holdover from Hardand using desperate, jobless ex- ing's "Ohio Gang." The ultra-re-"In case" the Work Director servicemen as an instrument for actionary, anti-Roosevelt N. Y. fails to snatch jobs from the thin driving down wage and living World-Telegram purred editorially

about "the wisdom of these choices" and patronizingly commended Roosevelt for his "good start."

In this plan Roosevelt and Wall Street have provided the American people with a realistic preview of their future under the continued domination of the monopoly capitalists. This "Blueprint for (Capitalist) Prosperity" promises to bring only hunger,

WILLIAM L. CLAYTON

to have full authority under the Baruch-Hancock plan for "disposal of surplus property" is a & Company has conducted a vicimulti-millionaire cotton merchant, the biggest in the world.

dividual chiefly responsible for what has been termed "an unparalleled panorama of graft. corruption, extortion, knavery and incompetence, if not treason."

The man selected by Roosevelt

ously anti-labor policy in the south-west where it controls the William L. Clayton is principal major share of cotton ginning from 100,000 veterans of this stockholder in the Anderson, and compressing business. He war, and he has publicly attack-Clayton Securities Corp., holding was a supporter of the Associa- ed WPA, NYA and other forms

single offering, to Roosevelt's 1932 campaign fund. During the last war, he was the Wall Street choice for head of the War Industries Board, in



The Army Marches On

the serious world-wide conse-

quences of this policy and take

militant action now. This policy

is at present being carried east

new invasion front. In England,

Also in combat areas Negro

explains everything — yes, EV_7

the 184th Field Artillery was split

the 930th and the 931st. Then

August 16, 1943 after two years

training, they were transferred to

"service units",--- the kind of ser-

vice you serve up with a pick and

shovel. It also explains why the

795th Tank Destroyer battalion

Camp Hood, Texas has been fea-

tured in government "education-

al" films shown to all-Negro thea-

split up and the personnel trans-

ferred to quartermaster and en-

The Negro press recently car-

ried an article from an advanced

Pacific base by Fletcher P. Mar-

gineering corps.

ERYTHING.

according to the New York Times,

The Army marches on and by states that have such laws but its side, matching step for step, it is spreading these same pracmarches old Jim Crow who strives | tices throughout many Northern to crush the Negro soldier in our States such as Michigan that acseparate Negro Army under an tually have laws on their statute oppressive burden of mistreat- books making it illegal to enforce ment at the hands of both Army this practice in public places. The officers and civilians, of intoler- Army policy is obviously to abide able transportation conditions and by state law in the backward of inequalities in the ordinary fa- | South and violate state law in the cilities of army life. A few of more progressive North. the latest steps in this march are JIM CROW ABROAD discussed below.

In a letter to the commanding officer at Selfridge field, Mich. Theodore W. Boyd, former auditor for the 332nd Fighter Group, made public the revolting conditions existing at this base devoted to the final stages of training Negro pilots. These pilots, although in a four to one majority. are barred from the regular officers club. Since under the Army caste system they cannot fraternize with enlisted men, they have diers except in the presence of no recreational facilities whatsowhite persons. This was obviousever. They "have to travel 28 ly at the request of the prejudiced miles each night to enjoy a de-American Officers Staff. cent rest although they must pay for billeting just the same as if troops are almost invariably they slept at the post." Mr. Boyd branded as inferiors by the type states: "The segregation policy of duty to which they are asby means of which as many as signed. According to a recent isfour Negroes often have to share the same bed has created an enormous fund and the scheme of the post administration was either to confiscate the reserve fund or use it to make the flagtroops — the Army's dirty work." rant segregation at the base ap-

pear less obvious." NO "ACCIDENT"

Negro Medical officers, Mr. Boyd says, had pronounced several of the men physically unfit to fly but were overruled by white officers. He openly medical charges that "this fact should explain some of the many fatal plane crashes at this base in which colored pilots have lost their lives." The latest fatality whose specialized training at was that of 2nd Lt. Charles W. Dickerson, 23, of New Rochelle, N. Y. which occurred the morning of Feb. 18, 1944. A special tre audiences has recently been board has been appointed to "investigate" this accident. It needs no further investigation to establish and it is no "accident" that Jimcrowism is being practiced throughout an army supposedly conscripted for the pur-

tin, war correspondent, in which pose of carrying the "four freehe said: "The crack 24th Infandoms" to all points east and west. try Regiment, fully equipped and One of the most frequent subprepared for any eventuality, is jects of complaint by Negro sol- performing service duty at docks jects of complaint by Negro sol-diers is the persecution to which they are subjected while being transported from camp to camp. Such an example happened last week near Bristol, Tenn. when Negro soldiers who had not eaten

Why All Labor Must Support Our Fight To Free The 18 Labor Organizations And Parties In Argentina By A. Roland

(The following article written by its Chairman and reprinted by permission of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, is the foreword to a new painphlet on the 18 prisoners in the Minneapolis Labor Case, being published by the CRDC. Copies of this 32-page pamphlet can be obtained at 10 cents each from the CRDC National Office, 160 Fifth Ave., New York 10, New York.)

By JAMES T. FARRELL, NOTED NOVELIST

The Minneapolis Labor Case is the major case of the present war period involving the rights of labor and freedom of peech. The 18 defendants, now serving their periods of imprisonment in federal jails, have been made convicts by the United States Government merely because of their opinions. The Smith "Gag" Act under which they were convicted is in Negroes must also wake up to flagrant contradiction with the Bill of Rights which states unconditionally that "Congress"

IMPERILS FREEDOM

shall pass no laws. . . abridging countries and for generations they have suffered jailing, torture freedom of speech." Despite and death at the hands of reacand west and the slander of racial this flat contradiction between tion in loyalty to their ideas. inferiority spreads with every the provisions of the Smith Act The facts of this case plainly and those in the Bill of Rights, demonstrate that one can become a new British war order was is- the Supreme Count of the Unia criminal here today in the United States if one defends sued forbidding members of the ted States has, on three occa-ATS, the English "WACS", from sions now, refused even to hear these ideas. For, it must be speaking to Negro American sol- the appeal of the defendants. repeated, these men have been imprisoned not for any overt action, but merely because of the The menace involved in these views which they have presented actions by the government and openly and publicly.

the federal courts should be PREPAVES FASCISM clearly seen by all who have

This attack upon labor, this concern with the rights of labor suppression of socialist ideas and and of freedom of speech. The history of fascism teaches us that imprisonment of socialists paves sue of Time Magazine, "the high the first attacks made by reaction the way toward fascist reaction command has trouble finding are against the labor movement, even if it is taken by a governcombat jobs for them. There is and usually against its extreme ment which proclaims itself the no lack of work to be done by Ne- | left wing. The 18 prisoners in the enemy of fascism. This is the way that fascism undermined demogroes as labor and engineering Minneapolis Case belong to the Socialist Workers Party and to cracy and seized power in other countries. Will we permit this to Simple, isn't it? That statement Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO. As their indictments be repeated in the United States? specifically state, they have been Is it going to happen here?

For example, it explains why put behind bars because they These are questions which all propagated the ideas of Marx, of us must answer, not merely by January 1943 into two battalions: Lenin and Trotsky, because they words but by actions. Free speech believe in the principles of the and the rights of labor are not "Communist Manifesto." lost all in one fell swoop. These Now the force of law and the rights are eaten away. Precedents police power of the state, instead are established. Once they have of reason, argument and debate, been so established, they are then have become weapons used to used for further acts of represcombat the ideas of these defend- sion.

We now see this pattern, which ers of Marxian socialism. Whether or not one agrees with the pro- ultimately led to fascism elsegram and perspectives of this where, unfolding in this country. vorking-class political movement, The government has promptly it cannot be denied that Marxian used the precedent established in socialists have consistently been the Minneapolis Case for another in the forefront of the struggle attack upon labor in its latest for the advancement of labor and effort to deport Harry Bridges, the defense of democratic rights. CIO Longshoremens union leader, They have pledged the sincerity even although he is a staunch supof their convictions, not merely by porter of the administration's words, but by deeds. In many policies. This should demonstrate



SECOND EDITION

One of the Eighteen



Grace Carlson, only woman among the eighteen Minneapolis class-war prisoners, is serving a sixteen-month sentence in the penitentiary at Alderson, West Virginia, separated from all her comrades. In 1940 Grace resigned her post as Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellor to the Minnesota State Department of Education to run as Socialist Workers Party candidate for the United States Senate. In 1942 she ran for mayor of Saint Paul, and although already convicted, received 3 percent of the total vote cast. At the time of her imprisonment, she was New York City organizer for the SWP.

-if further demonstration is needed-that it is not only the 18, not only opponents of the administration's policies, whose rights and liberties are endangered by the Smith "Gag" Act. The entire labor movement, the cherished democratic rights of the American people are directly

threatened. "DANGEROUS THOUGHTS" Free speech is most important or those who have something new, important and vital to say. It means little to those who agree with prevailing opinion, supported by the powers that be. The fundamental significance of the rights of free speech and free press is that they permit those



(Continued from page 1)

more from the AFL and other labor organizations. In addition there are hundreds of thousands mate, the lumber and quebracho of Negroes and other sympathizers of the labor movement. In labor at its worst, worse even fact, the armed forces in their overwhelming majority are made up of working men and women. Out of this mass of workers there should be as "sufficient sponsoring other views to express them openly and in public. Where is for such outspoken there is for such outspoken there is for such outspoken

By A. Roland

Argentina has been built up by it did lead to social legislation the immigrants who flocked there granting concessions to the workbefore the war from southern ers in the matter of hours and Europe. The large numbers of conditions of work. There follow-Italians and Spaniards settled ed the organization of the Gendown for the most part in the eral Confederation of Labor, the cities and towns. Conditions on CGT, much like the AFL. But the farms were not such as to the anarchists again built up attract European workers. Today their own trade union movement. the Argentine presents somewhat | and there has been a constant tug of a paradox for a semi-colonial of war between the two. country, in that 74% of the The Socialist Party was or-

population live in the urban ganized as far back as 1896. In centers and only 26% are rural. | the defeats of the early strike In a land of wide spaces where movement the idea of political there could be land for all, the action gained among the Buenos masses live in wretched housing, Aires working class, so that in in overcrowded cities and towns. 1904 the first socialist deputy was The condition of the working class elected to the lower house. The is reflected first of all in the low trade union question, the opposilevel of pay. The lower paid white tion between moderate and revolucollar workers receive about \$16 tionary trade unions, led to a split per month. A grocery clerk may in the Socialist Party as early as receive \$21 per month, a steno- 1906. During the first world war grapher \$30. The best paid workwhen the first great political ers are the railwaymen who earn crisis struck Argentina, the social-\$50 a month. The cost of living ists managed to elect as many as has been rising rapidly in the 43 deputies to the lower house. recent period so that inflation This was in the administration of threatens at the very time when the Radical President Irigoyen. Argentine warehouses bulge with The socialists then held the farm commodities that cannot be balance of power for they had twenty percent of the deputies, UNION ORGANIZATION

the Radicals having forty percent and the Conservatives the other Textiles form the largest in- forty. dustry in Argentina, with 320

SOCIALIST PARTY

cotton mills, 20 spinning mills, That was the high point of and 30 weaving mills. Shoe facsocialist influence. Its middle tories employ 30,000 workers. The 150,000 railwaymen make up just class outlook, its toadving to the under 20% of the industrial prole- Radical Party in power, its tariat. This proletariat is well or- counter-revolutionary attitude toganized in trade unions. In 1939 wards the Soviet Union, quickly sixty-six percent of all industrial alienated the workers. Even in the world economic crisis of 1929 It must be remembered that the it did not regain the ground it

had lost. Its representation fell to largest enterprises are foreignone or two in Congress. owned, so that a strike is directed

The second World War has immediately against the imperialbrought about a situation strikists. The government often found it politically expedient in the past ingly like that during the first to tolerate the trade unions and war. The Socialist Party has the strikes of workers so long as revived, not in outlook, but in these were directed against for- working class strength. It once eign business. As in Mexico, the more wields the balance of power government has maintained a firm | in Congress.

hold on the trade unions, their This was brought about in the leaders accommodating them- tense situation that arose when selves to government policies. But Castillo took over power from in the present period the ruling Ortiz. Opposition to the comclass feels a threat to its own pletely reactionary policies of power in the labor movement. Castillo led to the election of

tney nave

workers.

Little attempt has been made seventeen socialist deputies. No towards the organizing of the majority existed in the House. agricultural laborers. The farm The Radicals pursued a policy of workers in the sugar cane fields, obstructionism to the National the workers who produce yerba Democrats. But Americo Ghioldi, socialist leader, declared that the laborers-these represent contract party was opposed to mere obstructionism (except when "printhan in the deep South of the ciples" were involved!) and that United States. The same evils it would support the government. arising from company stores, The socialists too stand for entry company scrip, exorbitant prices into the war on the side of the for everything, terrible housing, Allies. In short, in a tense crisis, bad food, exist in the rural hinter- the socialists again prove that

in over 24 hours were preparing explanation of the disposal of this to be seated and be fed in the end Negro infantry regiment. of a Pullman diner legally set All of us with relatives or aside for the "colored race". It was discovered that the Jim Crow curtain which is drawn between white and colored passengers had

with the type of facts enumerated been forgotten. Consequently the soldiers had to stand and wait for three hours until the very last white person had left the car be-fore they could buy a meal. In the rush that accompanies

the "war effort" the curtain was forgotten but they were not too rushed to forget the Jim Crow State law just because there were hungry soldiers waiting. The we will discuss the only course Army is not only giving silent of action that can logically do sanction to segregation in those that job.

PIONEER PARAGRAPHS

PROLETARIAN DISCIPLINE IN THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT

"For us the party must be a The proletarian revolutionist is a combat organization which leads disciplined man, since the party a determined struggle for power. cannot exist as a combat organ-The Bolshevik party which leads ization without discipline. When the struggle for power needs not he finds himself in the minority, only internal democracy. It also he loyally submits to the decision requires an imperious centralism of the party and carries out its decisions, while he awaits new and an iron discipline in action. It requires a proletarian compo-sition conforming to its prole-new opportunities to discuss . . . tarian program. The Bolshevik "The petty-bourgeois intellecparty cannot be led by dilettantes tual, who wants to teach and whose real interests and real lives guide the labor movement withare in another and alien world. out participating in it, feels only It requires an active professional loose ties to the party and is alleadership, composed of individu- ways full of 'grievances' against als democratically selected and it. The moment his toes are stepdemocratically controlled, who ped on, or he is rebuffed, he fordevote their entire lives to the gets all about the interests of party, and who find in the party the movement and remembers and in its multiform activities in only that his feelings have been a proletarian environment, comhurt; the revolution may be implete personal satisfaction. portant, but the wounded vanity

of a petty-bourgeois intellectual "For the proletarian revolutionist the party is the concen- is more important. He is all for trated expression of his life pur- discipline when he is laying down pose, and he is bound to it for the law to others, but as soon life and death. He preaches and as he finds himself in a minority, practices party patriotism, be- he begins to deliver ultimatums cause he knows that his socialist and threats of split."

(From "The Struggle for a ideal cannot be realized without the party. In his eyes the crime Proletarian Party" pages 14-15, of crimes is disloyalty or irre- by James P. Cannon. Published sponsibility toward the party. 1943 by Pioneer Publishers, 302 The proletarian revolutionist is pages, cloth \$2, paper \$1,50; orproud of his party. He defends it der from Pioneer Publishers, 116 before the world on all occasions. University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y.)

SOCIALISM ON TRIAL

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Minneapolis Labor Trial

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such guarantees of free expression organs of Wall Street 'as the exist, men are enabled to think Times, Tribune and Sun. It would honestly. If the minds of men are not

thoughts alone are dangerous and that they make known their criminal, then the seeds of cowardice are implanted in the midst of society. Cultivate this carry any such appeal. seed by establishing precedents such as this, based upon the

Mikado's doctrine of "dangerous thoughts," and you will have established one of the most important prerequisites for a police state, based on force and fear. OUR DUTY

IN MILWAUKEE

Buy "The Militant"

at the newsstand on the north-

west corner of Wisconsin Ave.

on Third St.

This pamphlet contains a sum- terested in such plans. But does mary of the salient facts in the the CIO propose to carry these Minneapolis Labor Case and brief plans to fruition by depending on biographies of the 18 prisoners. the Democratic and Republican The story of their lives shows parties, who have combined in a terests of labor, for their ideas, democratic rights? It will be ex- sale expulsion in 1902 of Spanish movement must now come to how they have fought for the in- savage attack upon labor and and for a better world. They have tremely difficult to convince the not given up that cause, even at thinking servicemen that this is The movement was broken, but threat of a military reaction.

the price of jailing. Today behind possible. prison bars they remain loyal to their principles. It is the duty of labor must break with the parties of annitalist reaction and arganized **Steel Demands Buried** those of us who are outside the of capitalist reaction and organize prison walls and can speak and act, who understand the importance of this case, who realize the plans and program seriously when dangers it can lead to, it is our they see that the labor movement duty to devote ourselves to the is determined to realize them in campaign for their freedom. It is struggle against Big Business granted a retroactive clause after our duty to fight for the repeal and all its agents. of the vicious Smith "Gag" Act. Unless we do this and do it

You can get THE MILITANT at the FAMILY THEATRE NEWSSTAND opposite the theatre

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the USA. The pay is a few cents a day, very rarely as much as 50 seem obvious that the next step cents. There are 200,000 such

in the CIO campaign to reach the workers who still live in virtual free, if they are made to feel that servicemen should be an appeal peonage. demand for the Servicemen's

shipped out.

workers were organized.

ANARCHIST INFLUENCE Edition. The first issue does not

ONLY A BEGINNING

The publication of a special Servicemen's paper is a good beginning-but only a beginning. The first edition carries a number of "plans for social and economic security in the post-war world." The servicemen are vitally in-

In order to carry conviction vigorously, there may be many more than these 18 behind bars. In Detroit, Mich.

suppressed and led to the whole-

(Continued from page 1) their Christmas eve walkout. by Roosevelt to get the workers | Wall Street wage-freeze. back into the plants, contains the tricky formulation that: "If any wage adjustments are made they must of course be made in ac- Buy 'The Militant' cordance with the act of Congress of Oct. 2, 1942 (the Stabilization Act) and executive orders numbers 9250 and 9328, and the policy directive of May 12, 1943." All of which means that any wage adjustment made must be within the Little Steel formula! The steel wage dispute is the number one wage controversy

involving labor's struggle against the administration's wage freeze. The New York Times speaks for Big Business , when its editors write: "WLB's decision in the pending case on steel wages will be crucial. . . WLB must hold the line.'

The steel worker's struggle for higher wages is indeed crucial for

) the entire labor movement. That movement must unite its forces around a program of independent action to scrap the Little Steel The retroactive clause, framed formula and smash the Roosevelt-



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Carries full stock of Pioneer Publishers Pamphlets; also other U.S.

and foreign Marxist Literature.

The trade union movement, now under attack by the reaction,

UNION MOVEMENT

forms a powerful force. The largest union organization today The organizing of workers into is the CGT with over 300,000 trade unions goes back to the members. The syndicalists in the

period of German immigration in Union Sindical Argentine (USA) 1882. The Germans brought with have 27,000. These are mostly them the ideas of social demo- public employees, maritime workcracy, so that the earliest unions ers, telephone workers. The came under socialist influence. Catholic Unions exist among the But the later influx of workers women workers in the needle from Italy and Spain changed the trades with about 20,000 (in the FACE). Then there are autocomplexion of the trade unions. In 1901 the first big dock strikes nomous unions with about 120,occurred in Buenos Aires under 000 workers. The railroad men the leadership of the Anarchist (90,000) form the backbone of the Regional Labor Federation. CGT. Its leaders incline to the These strikes were bloodily SP, with a few Stalinists. This and Italian trade union leaders. grips with its future under the VOL. VIII-No. 10

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Application for entry as second-class

TANT which are expressed in its editorials.

Saturday, March 4, 1944



The columns are open to the opinions of the readers of The Militant. Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers, but keep them short and include vour name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed. - Editor.

R. R.

Manchester, England

From England

secret agreements had been concluded at these Editor: secret conferences. But now Churchill finds it ex-

the opposing factions." In Yugoslavia the Anglo-

American allies are striving to bring together King

shows how full of deceit imperialist diplomacy is.

Tito, who yesterday was but a bandit agent of

Moscow sowing division in Yugoslavia, has today become in British eyes the head of "a national and

unifying movement." Now Churchill suddenly dis-

covers and discloses that Mikhailovitch, formerly

a heroic national liberator, and his commanders

have "drifted" into deals with German and Italian

When Hull returned from Moscow and Roose-

velt from Teheran, they solemnly swore that no-

pedient to reveal a bit of the bargain he and

Roosevelt made with Stalin. "Marshal Stalin and

I. . . agreed upon the need for Poland to obtain

compensation at the expense of Germany both in

the North and in the West. . ." This disclosure

not only exposes Roosevelt and Hull as hypocrites

and liars. It also goes to prove that at Teheran

such rotten methods of traditional secret diplomacy

and power politics as the partitioning of territories

without consultation with or concern for the peo-

ary aims of the Kremlin ruling clique are of the

greatest service to the Anglo-American partners in

promoting their sinister designs. To crush Ger-

many and Japan, and even more in order to obtain

Stalin's aid in crushing the European revolutions,

they must come to terms with the Kremlin and

give certain concessions to Stalin. That is why

Churchill tacitly acquiesces in the incorporation

of the Baltic countries into the USSR; agrees to

It is true that the Tory Churchill is attached to

"the monarchical principle" which has proved so

useful to the British capitalist rulers as it has to

the propertied classes elsewhere in Europe. But

Churchill's-and-Roosevelt's basic attachment is to

the principle of capitalist private property. It is

to protect the property, profits and power of capi-

talism that they support the monarchist and mili-

tary swine, that they make secret deals with the

counter-revolutionary Stalin, that they fear to

give any kind of democracy to the Italian people.

These stewards of Big Business understand that

the European workers and peasants don't want

either the retention of their capitalist oppressors or

the return of any of their crowned or uncrowned

political servants. They look forward to the cre-

ation of a new society of equality, freedom and

security under socialism. Allied intrigue and secret

diplomacy aims to head off and crush these revolu-

tionary aspirations of the European masses.

The counter-revolutionary policies and reaction-

ples involved held full sway.

Churchill's about-face in regard to the Partisans

Peter with Marshal Tito.

forces.

I was transferred under the Essential Works Order from a factory in Glasgow to Metro Vickers in Manchester which employs about 25,000 workers. Needless to say I did not wish to leave Glasgow!

at fivepence a bar, toothpaste at There is great discontent among the women over the question of one shilling a tube, etc., you can the other people? Have not we see what things are like. Many of transfers. I am staying at a Hostel with over 200 girls, the the girls have been paying as majority of whom have been much as 15 shillings income tax the men and women they want to transferred from all parts of the out of this miserable wage becountry. Practically all of them cause of higher earnings before. are working either at Metro Vickers or Fords and earning far less wages than they were previ-

ously. Fords pays the women Poll-Tax quite well although it is a sweat Editor shop.

There is great discontent at Enclosed is a copy of a letter Metro Vickers, nearly all the to President Roosevelt. "In the name of God in Heaven women are on the 4-lb. plus bonus am I to understand that the Pollrate and since the bonus is bad. it is nearly impossible to live on Tax means that a citizen of these these wages. They charge 25 United States of America has to shillings at these hostels for room | pay for the chance to vote? I am

with two beds and breakfasts and | so ashamed that I can hardly feel dinner at night. This means that like looking at people, because I out of the remaining 25 shillings, have not read enough about this approximately six goes for fares thing to know what it was all which are expensive (it is almost about. Is it the truth that people impossible to get rooms near who are citizens of the United work). Then dinners midday at, States, have to pay extra for work are four shillings a week. voting? Any people, whatever If you reckon up how much their color? essentials cost today, that is soap

"What in the name of the ruler of the universe have we to teach been told that this is a country where the people go and 'vote in' represent them in the Senate and Congress? And how proud we have been of our Democracy? I feel like some awful weight fell on my heart. .

"I say: I won't have it, no Poll-Tax in this United States of America, 'the land of the free and the home of the brave.' I, meaning we-we the people. We won't have it.

"And what about the 18?" M. M.

Minneapolis, Minn.

Huge Wartime Increase in Child Labor Exploitation

Part of the Big Business wartime drive to break down labor standards and undermine progressive social legislation won by decades of working class struggle is the tremendous increase in child labor during the past three years.

Child labor, one of the vilest features of capitalism, has increased 400 per cent between 1940 and 1943 in the state of New York which boasts of its progressive legislation against this social evil. This includes almost 50 percent of the young people between the ages of 14 to 17. Before the present antichild labor legislation was on the New York statute books, in 1920 during the worst sweat-shop era, only 37.5 per cent of this age group was gainfully employed.

According to the report of the State Department of Labor, which revealed the foregoing figures, over 400,000 children are now employed in low paid sweated industries in New York State, where only 76,000 were employed in 1940.

The state statutes and the federal Fair Labor Standards and Walsh-Healey Acts, which specifically enumerate and prohibit many illegal child labor practices, are being openly flouted under the pretext of wartime necessity with the full knowledge and support of state and federal authorities.

These are the facts fully known to N. Y. State Industrial Commissioner Corsi, who piously observed recently that "the contributions of youngsters to the war effort should not be made at the expense of labor standards and protection. . . Honest gains of. . . social progress must be preserved. This is especially true of youngsters, who must not and will not be exploited."

Fascist Cartel Interests Thrive Under Allied Care

American and British authorities have been according suspiciously considerate treatment to the Western Hemisphere interests and transactions of Alberti Pirelli, one of the "Big Three" leaders of Italian monopoly capitalism and a chief fascist cartel partner of American Big Business.

Pirelli, with extensive holdings in Latin America, particularly Brazil and Argentina, has managed to keep his enterprises off American and British blacklists. He has been able to buy war materials from Allied sources to keep his companies in operation and to provide his Spanish and other neutral countries subsidiaries with scarce machinery and supplies, enabling these in turn to feed wire and rubber products into the Axis countries.

The British government intervened to protect the Pirelli interests in Brazil, when that government tried to take over his properties as enemy-owned.

Pirelli has a tidy royalties fund piling up in England, his share of profits from the international patents pools in which he participates. Other American royalties awaiting him are one-fourth of those from a war-vital rayon process used in the fabricating of tires from synthetic rubber, the patent for which is owned by the duPont subsidiary, U. S. Rubber.

Pirelli was one of the heads of the Fascist Union of Italian Industrialists, a senator and minister of state in Mussolini's government, and a member of the Fascist Grand Council. His American cartel partners include General Electric, Standard Oil, International Telephone and Telegraph, and U. S. Rubber. He is

matter is pending. To defend the USSR as the main fortress of the world proletariat. against all assaults of world im-

perialism and of internal counter-revolution, is the most important duty of very class-conscious worker.

surrender part of old Poland, and switches military - LEON TROTSKY support from Mikhailovitch to Tito.

JOIN US IN FIGHTING FOR:

- 1. Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions. Special officers' training camps, financed by the government but controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.
- 2. Trade union wages for all workers drafted into the army.
- **3.** Full equality for Negroes in the armed forces and the war industries-Down with Jim Crowism everywhere.
- 4. Confiscation of all war profits. Expropriation of all war industries and their operation under workers' control.
- 5. A rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.
- 6. Workers Defense Guards against vigilante and fascist attacks.
- 7. An Independent Labor Party based on the Trade Unions.
- 8. A Workers' and Farmers' Government.
- 9. The defense of the Soviet Union against imperialist attack.

Baruch Plan

The Baruch-Hancock "demobilization" plan, inspired and promoted by the Roosevelt administration, would enable the big corporations and banking houses to tighten their stranglehold upon the productive wealth and resources of the country. It would pour more billions in profits and properties into the laps of the plutocratic parasites who have already piled up the greatest profits in history during this war. This plan provides further proof of the Roosevelt administration's complete catering to Big Business. The corporations have filled their treasuries to overflowing through government war contracts. Roosevelt's principal appointees and advisers in the war production and contracting agencies come directly from the offices of the monopolist companies and the big financial houses. Now, after having poured streams of wealth into their coffers, Roosevelt and his aides are planning to hand over to the privateers of industry and finance not only many billions more but most of the government-owned · properties. These servants of Big Business have become so brazen that they no longer resort to such window trimming to conceal their chicanery as occurred with the war production agencies where "labor advisory committees" covered up the profiteering operations of the dominating corporation agents. The thousands of up-to-date government-financed plants which the Roosevelt administration under the Baruch plan proposes to dump into the hands of monopolies have been built by the workers and paid for by the taxes of the American people. These productive facilities, these efficient plants and modern equipment should be used for the benefit of the workers to provide them with jobs and with consumers' goods. Instead, Roosevelt has shown his intention of selling them for a fraction of their cost to the monopolists. Wherever and whenever these private interests need to maintain their profits or to limit production, these plants would be shut down or scrapped. Their control by the profit-seeking monopolists would mean starvation wages, destitution, mass unemployment for the workers and ex-servicemen. Such is the prospect in store for the masses if the administration and Wall Street are able to put over the gigantic swindle of the Baruch plan. In order to combat this attempt to steal the people's property and operate American economy for the exclusive benefit of the monopolist bloodsuckers, labor needs a program which will ensure the use of all existing productive facilities and resources for the welfare of the masses. Not a single government-financed plant must be turned over to the big labor-hating corporations. Let all the war industries be taken away from the monopolists by the government and operated under workers' control. In no other way can the workers be assured that industry will be operated at full capacity to provide jobs and living necessities for the people.

ers Party," issued as a 30-page pamphlet by the Australian is devoted to explaining the role Australia and the decline of Trotskyists, and of the fort- and position of the Australian nightly magazine, Al-Magalla el working class in the present war, Gedida, published in Cairo by a as well as the position and aims group of Egyptian Trotskyists, of Australian capitalism. An imhave just been received in this portant section of the Manifesto the Australian workers to fight deals with the developments of against the imposition of the

Voices Of Trotskyism Speak

The first copies of the "Mani-| international background of the | Revealing information is con-

Out In Australia And Egypt

country. Australian economy, and the These afford evidence of the increasing political activity of the growing dependence of the Aus-Trotskyist movement in Australia, tralian capitalists upon American protection. one of the most advanced sections

of the British Empire, and in The Manifesto then analyzes Egypt, the most developed counthe activities and programs of try of the Middle East. the leading working class and

Al-Magalla el Gedida, printed capitalist political movements. It describes the role of the Ausin Arabic, is a full size 24-page tralian Labor Party and its publication which is being issued leadership. While that movement twice a month. The copy received has instilled in the Australian here of the October 1, 1943 issue contains not merely material workers "an elementary sense of analysing political developments class unity and of the antagonism between capital and labor," its in the Middle East, but articles on Canada, China, England and present leaders have fostered

other countries which reveal a labor to the capitalist war-machworld-wide outlook. The Manifesto of the Australian ine.

The document points out that aims of Australian capitalism to Trotskyists is a full elaboration of the ideas and program of the revolutionary socialists should regiment labor.

Stalinist influence within th It closes with an 11-point pro

gram of transitional demands for capitalist war burdens on the

Prospects

"I can only promise the House plenty of difficulties, plenty of disappointments and much deception in the times that lie ahead," said Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden in his speech to the House of Commons on Feb. 23. At last-a promise Churchill's government will fulfill!

working class, to safeguard the inreformist illusions and shackled terests of the workers and soldiers in the impending period of economic crisis and to defeat the

Trotskyism as these apply to the strive within the powerful trade The Manifesto reaffirms the adherence of the Revolutionary revolutionary tasks of the Aus- unions and Labor Party to win the workers over to a program Workers Party to the principles tralian working class. It presents, first of all, a Marx- against collaboration with the of international socialism and the ist analysis of the present stage capitalist government and its unshakable conviction of its ranks of world capitalism in its period agents and toward the struggle in the triumph of the Trotskyist of "death agony," and gives the | for socialism. program in the period ahead.

tained in the Manifesto about the festo of the Revolutionary Work- second imperialist world war. A large section of the Manifesto growth of fascist movements in labor movement.

Churchill Speech

"Here in this island we are attached to the monarchical principle," declared Churchill in his latest speech to the House of Commons on Feb. 22. This will come as news to all those who believed the Anglo-American spokesmen when they talked about fighting for "democracy" and "the four freedoms." As the war unfolds, the lying phrases needed to dupe the people tend to shrivel and disappear. Less and less do Churchill and Roosevelt bother to camouflage the reactionary aims of their foreign policy.

The Tory Prime Minister proclaimed his fidelity to "the monarchical principle" in order to justifv the Allies' policy toward Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia. Despite the promises broadcast from Moscow last November to restore representative government, democracy and civil rights to the Italian people, Churchill pledges continued support to King Victor Emmanuel and Marshal Badoglio as "the legitimate Government of Italy." He tells all Italian parties that they can have no authority "until the present King either abdicates or he and his successor invites them to take office." It is clear from Churchill's words no less than from their actions that the Allies are determined to carry through to the end their deal with the beneficiaries and accomplices of fascism regardless of the wishes of the Italian people.

AMG has already handed over the rule in southern Italy to the King and his Duke of Addis Abbaba. Imagine the outraged feelings of workers in northern Italy battling against the Nazis and the remnants of Mussolini's mercenaries when they know that in the event the Anglo-American forces drive the Nazis from the peninsula they will then have reimposed upon them the detested King and Marshal who ruled over them under fascism!

The Allied leader also reaffirms support of the kings of Greece and Yugoslavia. "We cannot dissociate ourselves in any way" from King Peter, asserts Churchill. But civil war is openly raging in these countries and it is no easy job to resaddle these monarchs-in-exile upon the insurgent peoples.

So Churchill and Roosevelt are compelled to seek an agreement with the present Stalinist leadership of these popular movements in order at a later and more favorable stage to strangle their democratic aspirations and suppress their revolutionary potentialities. In Greece, says Churchill, "we are doing our utmost to bring about a reconciliation, or at least a working agreement, between

International Notes

GERMANY

So great is the antagonism and was in a precarious situation. An Indian correspondent writes bitterness against the Nazi regime among Berlin workers, that in the British New Leader, Jan. Hitler keeps the city heavily 8, that the women were employed ringed with SS (Elite Guard) to do the "work that is done by troops in anticipation of violent pit ponies. They were actually mass outbreaks, according to an strapped to the coal wagons, eye-witness account relayed from which they were compelled to Stockholm, Sweden, to the N. Y. haul along the roads and up steep inclines." They were paid about Times, Feb. 25.

"The atmosphere in Berlin is oppressive, with a feeling of bit- no place to leave their babies, the felt his regime shaking. Upon terness among the masses," reported the returned traveler, a feed them opium to keep them banned the labor unions; now he Swedish worker. "Although the quiet. Nazis try to paint a picture of

IRELAND 95 per cent solidarity with the The Irish Labor Party, which regime, anyone who has been mingling with the workers and has been making impressive headway during the war years, has been 'back stage' as I have, knows it is a lie. Pessimism is suffered a serious setback according to reports received here. This rampant in all camps, and above is the result of the withdrawal all, among workers and women, from the party of the important who only want a quick end of Irish Transport and General the tragedy at any price." Workers Union, headed by Wil-Only the fear of violent repri-

liam O'Brien. sal thus far has curbed open This backward step is the condemonstrations of the widespread hatred against the Nazi regime, sequence of an unprincipled clique stated this worker. A recent fight between O'Brien and James speech of Goebbels praising "to- Larkin, head of the Irish Work tal war" aroused a tremendous ers Union. The Irish Labor Party up to wave of anger.

The proletarian revolutionary the time of this 'split had been volcano in Nazi Germany is making rapid progress in cementrumbling and boiling. ing working class unity around an independent labor political pro-

INDIA

gram against the nationalist capi-The bestiality of British rule talist parties. Within the past in India, exceeded not even by four years the party had grown the Nazis in occupied Europe, from a small propaganda group is underscored once more by the to a mass party, with branches announcement of the British au- throughout Ireland and in every thorities that women are again Dublin ward. Its representatives to be employed in the place of in the Dail, the Irish Parliament

draft animals in the Indian mines. had increased from 3 to 17 in a Two years ago this abominable single election. It had made sizslave practice was suspended as able inroads into De Valera's rulpart of the unsuccessful British ing party, whole branches of attempt to win the support of the which came over to the Labor Indian masses for Britain's war Party.

against Japan, at a time when If the breach created by O'

the British empire in the East | Brien's split is not soon closed, it will provide a dangerous opportunity for the Irish capitalists and landowners to strike new blows against a politically - weakened and divided working class.

PORTUGAL

When widespread strikes took place in Portugal last July immediately following the overthrow 15 cents for 10 hours work. With of Mussolini, Dictator Salazar women workers were compelled to coming to power in 1926, he had retaliated aaginst the aroused workers with more ferocious repressions. 12,000 were arrested. At the end of September 3,000 strikers were still in prison, some in old ships, others in labor camps.

By the middle of September Salazar's Fascist Legion, equipped with new arms from the Allies, was parading "against the elements of national disruption within the country."

In a speech reported in the Feb. 18 issue of the London Tribune. Salazar boasts:

"There will be no intervention from the Allies to help democratic forces in Portugal, because after the end of this war the greatest need and even a greater one than hitherto will be for order. This is recognized by the most eminent representatives of the United Nations."

This assurance to Salazar, adds the Tribune, "can have been made only by either Churchill or Roosevelt or both.

READ **'THE FOURTH** INTERNATIONAL

nnected with I. G. Farben, and other trusts.

Kaiser Yards Turn Out Ships That Fall Apart

Liberty ships constructed in Henry Kaiser's West Coast super-speedup shipyards have been cracking up wholesale on the Alaskan run, according to' evidence disclosed before the Truman Senate investigating committee early last January and only revealed in the past two weeks.

Most recent development in what Senator Wallgren of Washington, a member of the Truman committee, has been forced to term a "major scandal", is the report in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Feb. 19, that a troop-laden Liberty ship tied up to an Alaskan dock recently split wide open. The same paper reports that 10 other ships, costing \$21,000,000 and representing 100,000 tons of tied-up shipping, are being held in the Seattle area because the Army and Navy fear to use them.

So damning is the evidence placed before the Truman committee that only the Shipyard Worker, official organ of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, has thus far dared to publish the full facts. The capitalist papers have buried them.

Included in the evidence before the Truman Committee is the testimony of Congressman Warren Magnussen who revealed that in one run to Alaskan waters 14 ships cracked up due to defective construction and materials.

One crew member who escaped alive from a crackup testified to 10 fatalities among his shipmates and stated flatly, "They will never get me on another Liberty ship.'

The testimony further disclosed that the shipbuilding corporation and the Maritime Commission knew about the unsafe construction but ignored the facts. The Kaiser management wanted "to achieve a reputation for speedy construction," - thereby cornering more profitable government contracts -- and "violated all established principles of shipbuilding construction, sacrificing the safety of the cargoes, crews and troops," reports the Shipyard Worker.

Robert P. Day, a former Maritime Commission inspector at the Kaiser yards, testified that he had reported the dangerous practices both orally and in writing to the company and Maritime Commission. On one occasion, his senior inspector told him, "To hell with it. We don't care about that - forget it."

Against instructions not to go over the head of his immediate superior, Day wrote detailed reports to Rear Admiral Vickery, vice-chairman of the Commission in Washington. The reports were completely ignored.

