

Shachtman Opens National Speaking Tour on April 9

Following closely on the heels of the exceptionally successful national tour just completed by David Coolidge, Labor Secretary of the Workers Party, the Workers Party National Committee announces a national speaking tour by Max Shachtman, the Party's National Secretary, which will begin in Syracuse on April 9 and conclude, after extending to the west coast and back, in the Boston area on June 23.

This will be the third national tour organized by the Party in the space of a year, in addition to many shorter tours by Party speakers and organizers in the New England, the eastern seaboard and middle western states. Several cities which were not covered in the previous tours will be covered by Shachtman.

Shachtman will combine a series of public meetings in virtually every city he will visit with specially organized Party meetings. The principal topic of the speaking tour will be: "HITLERISM MUST BE SMASHED—A PROGRAM ON HOW TO DO IT." This is the Workers Party's answer to the war-patriots and reactionaries who are seeking to utilize working class hatred of Hitlerism for their own foul ends. Hitlerism must be smashed, but it will not be smashed by the imperialist scoundrels of every hue and stripe who have donned the mantle of anti-Hitlerism, and who are whooping it up loud for boss war. It can only be smashed by the relentless pressure of working class militancy and independence. Shachtman will show how it can be done—THE ONLY WAY IT CAN BE DONE.

Shachtman will speak on other subjects as well. American Labor is now on a strike offensive. While the pay-trioteers are appealing to the heavens—and to their Administration stooges—for restrictive legislation on strikes, etc., Labor is demanding its rights and exerting its pressure in notable instance after notable instance. Shachtman, in his speeches on "AMERICAN LABOR AND THE WAR," will present a program for American Labor in this period of imperialistic war and war preparation.

So, too, while all the yellow-bellies and one-time "radicals" are running for cover behind the skirts of "British and American democracy," while they cackle about the "inappropriateness" of revolution and the certainty of reaction, Shachtman will throw the challenge of revolutionary internationalism into their cringing faces. In answering the question, "WILL THE WORLD WAR LEAD TO WORLD REVOLUTION?" Shachtman will explain the factors making for world revolution in such a way as to stifle the wails of the pessimists with the optimism of revolutionary courage.

LABOR ACTION will carry detailed announcements of the time and place of each public meeting. Watch its columns. Consult also the local Party branch on plans for the meeting. Write to LABOR ACTION if you wish specific information on the meeting in your city. Set aside the day or days in which Shachtman will visit your city for the Shachtman meeting!

Each tour conducted by the Workers Party has been more successful than the last one. LET'S MAKE THIS ONE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL OF THEM ALL!

Schedule of Shachtman National Tour

Syracuse, Wednesday, April 9; Rochester, Thursday, April 10; Buffalo, Friday, April 11; Cleveland, Saturday, April 12; Akron, Sunday-Monday, April 13-14; Detroit, Tuesday, April 15; Ann Arbor, Wednesday, April 16; Chicago, Thursday to Tuesday, April 17-22; Madison, Wednesday, April 23; Minneapolis, Thursday-Friday, April 24-25; Butte, Tuesday, April 29; Seattle, Friday, May 2; Portland, Saturday, May 3; San Francisco, Tuesday-Wednesday, May 6-7; Oakland, Thursday-Friday, May 8-9; Los Angeles, Sunday to Saturday, May 11-17; Houston, Friday, May 23; Kansas City, Tuesday, May 27; St. Louis, Thursday to Sunday, May 29 to June 1; Streator, Monday, June 2; Chicago, Tuesday-Wednesday, June 3-4; Louisville, Friday, June 6; Cincinnati, Saturday, June 7; Columbus, Sunday, June 8; Akron, Monday, June 9; Youngstown, Tuesday, June 10; Pittsburgh, Wednesday-Thursday, June 11-12; Washington, Friday, June 13; Baltimore, Saturday, June 14; Philadelphia, Sunday, June 15; Reading, Monday, June 16; Mt. Carmel, Tuesday, June 17; Newark, Wednesday, June 18; Massachusetts (Boston, Lynn, Worcester, Fitchburg), Friday to Monday, June 20-23.

LABOR ACTION

MARCH 17, 1941

Organ of the Workers Party of the United States

THREE CENTS

BOSS CONGRESS LIGHTS GREEN SIGNAL FOR WAR!

This Week's Fireside Chat!

MY FRIENDS!
IN MY LAST FIRESIDE CHAT I SAID "ALL OUT AID FOR BRITAIN SHORT OF WAR", HOWEVER....



FDR Has Served HIS Class With the 'Lend-Lend' Bill—We Must Now Serve OURS!

The "Lend-Lend Bill" is the "law of the land."

The shouting and the tumult have died. The sham battle is over. The "American Way of Life" has been salvaged. Our "democratic procedure" has been vindicated. "Our system of free enterprise" may now go full steam ahead, on government subsidies, to boost profits by manufacturing war materials for dear old Britain, "the last bulwark of Democracy in Europe."

Roosevelt, the War Lord in the White House, is happy. He knew all the time that the bill would pass. He knew that all the little Congressional servants of Wall Street would do right by their masters. He knew, above all else, that the ruling class in the United States decided many months ago to join the war against Hitler.

Hitler forced this decision on them and they had no choice. The Sixty Families in the United States want to rule and exploit the whole earth and all its people. So does Hitler. The only way for the rich boss class in the U. S. to get the plunder is to slug Hitler and take it from him or prevent his getting it. Their servant, the American LEADER, will then become the world plantation overseer, the chief slave driver of the colonial peoples and the industrial and agricultural workers of the world.

Roosevelt knows his masters well. He knows they are a greedy, grasping crew, that never get their fill of profits. "Aid" to England, Greece or other great centers of "democracy," "mercy," "truth" and "goodness," means, FIRST—all aid to the bank accounts of the Sixty Families, their satellites and stooges. It means fat government contracts at 15 per cent or more and "cost plus." It means huge new factories paid for with government money. It means billions spent for war materials.

That's what the "Lend-Lend Bill" will do for the ruling class in the United States. Could they possibly have been against it?

These vultures remember the last war. They know that this war is bigger and that the slice coming to them will be even fatter than their take from the first great crusade.

And how about that little amendment to the bill that would forbid sending "our boys to fight on foreign soil," or outside this hemisphere? The ruling class took care to scotch it! Senator Ellender, who spoke out of turn in proposing it, quickly withdrew it. When it was presented by another senator, he voted against it.

The army will be sent to fight in Europe, Asia, Africa, or any other place, including the moon, if this step is considered necessary to defend and advance U. S. imperialism. The workers of the entire world will be dragged and forced through oceans of blood as the two gangs of imperialist bandits strive for world mastery. The ruling class knows that one cannot always select the battlefield. And what do they care whether WE die in the United States, Brazil, France or Africa; just so United States imperialism triumphs over the fascist imperialism of Germany!

And so we say that the recent little tilt on Capitol Hill was a sham battle, a show that could fool no one but the working class, or more accurately, that part of the working class which still believes this is a war of democracy against fascism.

The honorable gentlemen in Congress who draw \$10,000 a year and other perquisites of office from the public treasury, know that it was a sham battle. They had heard their masters' voice!

Speaker Rayburn announced that there were no differences between the House and Senate that would justify sending the bill to conference. Those for and those against the bill got together in fond embrace. Republican opponents rose to the full stature of country-loving statesmen. Senator Wiley, Republican of Wisconsin said, "We must all accept it as the law of the land... we must close our ranks now that the debate is closed." What the working class must understand is that the ranks of these fakery were closed before the debate began. Wiley wants the bill "sanely." He refuses to "regard war as inevitable."

After Wiley, that stalwart opponent of Roosevelt dictatorship, Vandenberg (Rep.) arose and said: "I wish to make just one observation complimenting the address of the able junior senator from Wisconsin. On the question of national unity in this emergency, I call attention to one figure which seems to have escaped public attention. The outcome of the contest over H. R. 1776 has been heralded across the nation and throughout the world as indicating a division in the ratio of

(Continued on page 3)

In This Issue of Labor Action

SWOC and UMW Demands—by David Coolidge Page 3

Russia and the Balkan Tangle—by Max Sterling . . . Page 4

The Negro and Ethiopia—by J. R. Johnson Page 2

How Not to Make the United Front Page 3.

Transport Workers Strike New York City Bus Companies

Union Demands

Decent working conditions: that is the crux of the demands of the striking bus workers. They ask:

1. A 25 per cent increase in wages;
2. A six-day, 48-hour working week instead of the present 54-hour week;
3. A three-week paid vacation instead of the prevailing two-week vacation period.

Bosses' Profits

New York City Omnibus Corp. rakes in a yearly profit of \$2,000,000, which represents a 100 per cent yearly return on its invested capital.

The Fifth Avenue Coach Co. has jacked up its \$3,000,000 valuation in 1920 to a \$10,000,000 valuation by 1940, notwithstanding payment of \$9,500,000 to stockholders during the same period. Wages have been cut \$750,000 in the same period and the company proposes further cuts.

Not a Bus Running On Broadway, Fifth Avenue or Crosstown

NEW YORK, Mar. 11—For the first time in years, New York witnessed a strike among its transportation workers this week. Three thousand five hundred members of the Transport Workers Union (CIO) walked out on Monday, tying up 1300 busses belonging to the Fifth Avenue Coach Co. and the New York City Omnibus Corp. The men are striking for a 25 per cent pay increase, a uniform 6-day, 8-hour per day work week, three weeks' paid vacations and improved working conditions, previously submitted as a basis for the negotiation of new contracts.

Elaborate police "precautions" were shown to be absolutely unnecessary. The strike is being conducted in a disciplined and orderly way by the union itself; union pickets keep order, direct would-be bus riders to the nearest subway and see to it that none of the strikers indulges in drinking while on strike duty. Yet the reactionary press tried to swing public opinion against the men by playing up stories of expected violence and fighting.

True, the public is inconvenienced by the strike. But the essential fact

(Continued on page 4)

Support the Bus Strikers!

With the assistance of the boss press and the city politicians, the bus companies are appealing for public sympathy against the strike. "If You Had to Walk Today, Blame the Strikers" reads the full-page expensive ad published by the company in the daily press.

But Labor, and every person who has the slightest regard for human needs—and his own safety—must see that high-priced publicity for the lie it is, and give it suitable answer.

Several thousand workers have struck for a living wage and decent conditions. They are now compelled to work long hours under trying conditions. Their pay is inadequate for the work they do; in the opinion of the strikers—and that's the only opinion we can accept—it is too low for their needs.

The company of course, thinks the pay is enough. Bosses always do. They are interested only in profits—and through a fantastic combination of holding companies their profits are plenty! That's why their opinion of what a worker's wage should be doesn't

count. If they thought they could get away with it they would pay the men half of what they were getting before the strike.

If the strikers' demands are not sufficient argument, which they should be to every worker who feels himself a member of his class—the simple requirements of safety should be argument enough. No city in the world has traffic conditions comparable to those in New York. The bus drivers have up to now had to maneuver giant trucks through the traffic-crowded streets of New York for 54 hours a week. They must be on their most attentive guard every minute of the time. The slightest slip would result in a gruesome catastrophe.

How can they exercise the necessary vigilance in 54 hours of exhausting work? They can't. Even 43 hours is too much! But that's all the union demands—a 43-hour week, which is eight hours longer than the legal maximum for factory workers.

LET'S DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP THE BUS STRIKERS! IT'S AS MUCH IN THE INTEREST OF THE RIDER AS THE DRIVER!

Knudsen Shows True Colors, Threatens Right to Strike

By FRED MORRIS

William S. Knudsen, former head of General Motors Corp. and now director of the Office of Production Management, which directs the national defense campaign, recently testified before the House Judiciary Committee that there was no need for legislation to deal with troubles in defense labor. In advising against anti-labor legislation, he predicted a decline in strikes and said that defense strikes were not numerous or large enough to be considered important.

The same William S. Knudsen, of General Motors and the OPM, on February 28 sent a memorandum to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee proposing, as the conservative New York Times says, "drastic curbs before strikes could be called in the defense industries." Among his proposals were: mediation; notice of strike not to be given until a vote has been taken under Labor Department supervision with at least 60 per cent favoring the strike; the OPM to have ten days after notice

(Continued on page 2)

