

CONVOYS AND PATROLS MEAN WAR!

A Banner Year for Business

Now that the returns are all in, financial observers agree that last year was the biggest year for profits American business has seen since 1929. From the April, 1941, issue of the "National City Bank Bulletin" we take the following table, which should be of interest to every trade unionist:

No.	Division	Net Profits (in millions)	Pct. Change (1939-1940)
238	Transportation	\$ 115 \$ 219	91% increase
1495	Manufacturing	2,096 2,628	25% increase
100	Service-Constr.	49 56	15% increase
127	Mining-Quarrying	67 96	14% increase
137	Public Utilities	597 650	5% increase

THE WORLD AT WAR

America Nears Stage of "Shooting War" as Nazi Armies Roll Toward Suez

By MAX STERLING

In less than three weeks, Hitler has made himself master of the Balkans. After the smashing victories on the continent that preceded the Battle of the Balkans, it was thought that there could be no new surprises. No one believed that it was possible any longer to underestimate the German military machine and yet it must be said that Hitler's Balkan campaign upset many calculations.

It was thought that the importance of the mechanized war machine had been fully understood. If far greater resistance than proved to be the case was expected in the Balkans it was because very few believed that modern war machines could be deployed with such success in the mountainous terrain of Yugoslavia and Greece.

Hopes of successful resistance in the Balkans were not only held by the British, Greeks and Yugoslavs. Not the least among those who entertained high hopes that Hitler would be stalled was Russia. One must recall all the diplomatic moves which Stalin made prior to the Battle of the Balkans—moves based precisely on such hopes. The Red Army newspaper expressed itself in this spirit, and predicted big things for the Yugoslavian, Greek and British armies.

It was these high expectations held by the Kremlin and the terrible disappointment that followed, that give us the key to the sudden and unexpected success attained by the Japanese foreign minister, Matsuoaka, in Moscow. Upon his arrival in Tokyo, with the Russo-Japanese pact securely in his pocket, Matsuoaka himself revealed how surprised he was by the Russian decision to negotiate the pact and how the whole thing took less than ten minutes.

If we add to this the rather blunt statement of Pravda, that the pact "disturbed the plans of London and Washington politicians" while at the same time denying it was aimed at Germany, it is easy to see the terrible fright that has more than ever taken hold of the Russian "statesmen" now that Hitler has made himself all powerful on the Black Sea. Gone is Stalin's brief period of "independence" and "defiance" of Germany manifested just before the invasion of the Balkans. The Kremlin is today more subservient and willing to ingratiate itself with the Nazis than ever.

Since the Balkan campaign is only a prelude to a farther German march to the oil of the Near East and to the Suez Canal, the question once more arises: What will Turkey do? This question could be raised before Hitler's victory in Greece and before the Russian-Japanese pact in the belief that Turkey would, with the help of Russia, resist. This is largely excluded today. The Turks have seen what has happened in the Balkans. As for Russian support, there can be no further doubts of its being farther away than ever. It is for this reason that, despite the tone of defiance that some Turkish newspapers still retain as if by inertia, the Turk-

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Bridges Hearings Reek of Frame-Up

Whatever Your Opinion of Bridges, You Must Recognize the "Trial" as an Attack on Labor

By JACK WILSON

SAN FRANCISCO—The malodorous smell of frame-up so reminiscent of the Moscow trials gets into one's nostrils quickly when sitting in the Harry Bridges deportation hearings.

Take the testimony of Maurice Cannalongo, a member of the firemen's union, who was on the stand the day we attended. He's a former member of the Communist Party and not very happy about his new rôle of stool pigeon.

The red-baiting, labor-hating government lawyer, Del Guercio, questioned Cannalongo about CP fraction meetings which Bridges is supposed to have attended (as though that were a crime!).

Cannalongo just couldn't remember. So Del Guercio introduced three signed statements of Cannalongo's which the FBI had obtained from him.

"Read these," the government prosecutor ordered. Cannalongo looked up helplessly. "Who, me? I can't!"

"But you signed them?" Del Guercio asked. A feeble "yes" came as an answer. "And they're correct?"

"Yes and no!" Cannalongo muttered. (He's supposed to be helping the government.)

The statements said, in essence: (1) Cannalongo was at a top fraction meeting of the Communist Party in

Convoyed to War!



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March, 1937, in Seattle along with Bridges and others who are named; (2) The first statement was wrong in the date. It was May, and not March; (3) And the first statement was wrong in saying a certain Deitrich was there. He wasn't.

Del Guercio then questioned Cannalongo to try to prove Bridges was a member of the party because he was there. But Cannalongo ducked saying yes.

When the government prosecutor tried to question Cannalongo on why he modified his first and major statement, Cannalongo just wouldn't answer.

Prompted by FBI

So the defense lawyers started to question him. They tried to get him first to admit that the FBI had grabbed him, gently threatened him, and finally wrote the statements he signed, after some discussion.

This made the government lawyers furious. They didn't want the FBI methods exposed. The technique of "Now look, brother, we represent the government, we got the goods on you boys, so you might as well come across, cause it'll be easier on you. Someone else is telling, anyhow!"

Then Cannalongo was asked why he signed a second and third statement modifying the first statement. Was it his idea? Not exactly, he said.

Did the FBI call him up and tell him about the mistake? Not exactly. Did he call the FBI up and tell them his previous statement had some major errors in it? No, he did not.

How did he happen to remember the supposed meeting took place in May and not March? Maybe because it was that the discussion was on the CIO affiliation business.

But wouldn't that be true if the meeting took place either in March or May? Yes.

Did the FBI remind him of his mistake? "I wouldn't put it that way?"

And the same kind of evasion took place in the questioning on the attendance of Deitrich.

It was plain to everyone in the court room that no half-way prejudiced jury would ever vote against Bridges on that kind of testimony.

With a gallant disdain for formalities and even half-way credible witnesses, the FBI brought in the next day an unsworn statement of a dead man, testifying that Bridges was a Communist!

Civil Liberties Violated

The whole thing, in a nutshell, is as everyone out here realizes, is that Bridges is being sandbagged, with no regard whatsoever for anything except a pretense of legal formality.

The government lawyers show the most insulting contempt possible for the workers. And the gray-haired old judge takes the whole hearing as a sort of glorified traffic case in a police court.

You watch every basic civil liberty being violated in this august federal court room with the American flag overhead, the whole show appearing as mocking laughter at those who believe in American "democracy."

In the court room audience you can see the representatives of the patriotic societies gloat. "He ought to be burned," they tell you, with a sadistic gleam in their eye worthy of a Gestapo agent.

In the city, many AFL fakers gloat because they see Bridges' deportation as a chance to get at the CIO which they hate more than they do the employers.

On the waterfront, Bridges has plenty of support. Even Cannalongo, the stoolpigeon, said he thought "Bridges is being persecuted because the employers are sore at him."

Bridges signed a lousy two year pact for the longshoremen with the employers partly to offset the heat generated against him. Business Week says some employers are rooting for him because they fear his deportation will bring in new and more radical leadership.

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We Demand That Congress Enact Our Anti-War Plan-- Let the People Vote On War!

"Convoys mean shooting; and shooting means war!" Such is the openly voiced sentiment in Washington—from Roosevelt down.

"Convoys mean . . . WAR!" And because that is so obvious a fact, so clearly understood by the American people, Administration leaders have retreated from their convoy plan to a plan which they hope will provoke less opposition.

That plan is called "patrols." In theory it is considerably different from convoys. In practice it is very little different from a convoy—IN ITS EFFECT.

Finney Case Before Court Of Appeals

AKRON—The case of Ben Finney, 23 year old Negro student who was framed and sentenced to serve one to ten years in prison, went before the Court of Appeals last week. The court's decision on the plea for a new trial made by defense attorney Leonard Bertsch has not yet been handed down.

Ben Finney, whose innocence is doubted by no one familiar with the case, is now free on bond raised by the Finney Defense Committee, a committee whose effectiveness is doubted by the fact that it is composed equally of Negro and white members.

In a defense rally held on the eve of Finney's appearance before the Court of Appeals, Sam Sheppard, chairman of the Defense Committee and local president of the NAACP, gave an excellent report on the work of the committee to date. He reported that the committee was prepared in the event of a reversal in the Court of Appeals to take the case to the Supreme Court of Ohio. He spoke effectively and at length on the question of Negro and white workers uniting and solving their problems side by side. He pointed to the example of the Negro and white worker joining hands in industrial unions and thereby securing conditions above average for both.

He cited one instance where, as a result of Negroes and whites fighting together, the Negro workers enjoy higher wages than any other group of Negro workers in the country.

Speaking especially to the Negroes in the audience, he said: "We have long been aware of, and discussed, the prejudices of whites against Negroes, but it seems to me that it is time that we, the Negro people, do something about our prejudices toward the white workers." He explained that there had been serious objections to the mixed character of the committee from certain sections of the Negroes as well as from reactionary white quarters and repeated his conviction that Negro and white workers must fight side by side for their common good.

LABOR ACTION has carried the story on several occasions of the vicious frameup of Ben Finney. The story has also been printed in the

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A convoy of warships protects a given set of merchant vessels which it accompanies. Shooting is the inevitable consequence; and, as Washington admits, "shooting means war."

Patrols, on the other hand, sail the seas in order to warn merchant vessels of the presence of enemy warships.

But these patrols, according to Roosevelt, will be sent into combat zones.

Suppose one of these patrols, sailing in a combat—or non-combat—zone, gets involved in a "little shooting." Will that shooting not mean war? It will. And Roosevelt knows it!

Suppose one of these patrols warns a merchant vessel which cannot slip to safety. Is it too far-fetched to assume that the patrol will find some reason to come SHOOTING to the aid of the menaced vessel? Not if you understand Roosevelt's policy!

Despite all the energy the Administration has put into war propaganda, 83 per cent of the people are still opposed to war intervention. Fearing repercussions among the people, the war administration pulled in its horns a trifle on the convoy plan and substituted the more "palatable" patrol plan.

Substituted it, however, only temporarily!

Roosevelt is committed to war intervention. He no longer makes any bones about that.

Already Washington distinguishes between a "shooting war" and a "non-shooting war." Rockefeller-Morgan-Lamont, in loudly publicized statements last week, urged sweeping aid to Britain—UP TO AND INCLUDING WAR INTERVENTION. And the spokesmen of Rockefeller-Morgan-Lamont readily admit that we are in the "non-shooting" stage, waiting only for the proper pretext and moment before going into the "shooting" stage.

If the patrols prove ineffective in turning the tide against Hitler, as they will, the Administration will lose no time in reverting to the original convoy plan. This may happen sooner than you think. And convoys, we repeat, mean war.

Having psychologized the American people into accepting the "non-shooting" patrols, Roosevelt will take the next little step toward convoys—and toward "shooting." The American people must therefore refuse to allow themselves to be "psychologized," must flatly oppose the patrol plan as another step toward military intervention in an imperialist war of which they want no part.

Morgan-Rockefeller-Lamont act in their own interests when they insist upon war. They are class-conscious representatives of the master class, the Wall Street profiteers.

We must be as class-conscious as they. THEIR interests speak for imperialist war. OUR interests speak against imperialist war.

We want neither patrols nor convoys—neither a "non-shooting" war nor a "shooting" war.

We therefore demand the right to decide, by public referendum, on patrols and convoys—on whether the United States should declare war.

Little time is left to act. Congress and the Administration are marching toward a "shooting" war with seven league boots.

Every union and labor organization must be enlisted. Every union, every labor organization, every man and woman, must now demand, as loudly and energetically as is humanly possible:

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR!

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Textile Union Leaders Hitch Convention to War Chariot

But Rank and File Delegates Prove in Their Speeches That Not All the Membership See Eye to Eye with the Leadership

By SUSAN GREEN

A new low in lickspittle labor leadership was reached by Sidney Hillman at the convention of the Textile Workers Union held in New York City the week of April 21. After a typical war-propaganda speech, he returned to the microphone and in a voice hushed with reverence conveyed to the delegates the personal greetings of "the President." The nauseating picture was made complete when Emil Rieve, the union president, now serving two masters on the National Defense Mediation Board, requested Hillman "from all of us" to thank "the President" and assure him of support in every effort, etc., etc.

But Some Disagree

However, during the discussion on the resolution to support Roosevelt in his war policies, there was evidence that all the delegates have not been caught in the net of imperialist

warmongering. One spoke exposing the fable of "war for democracy," called upon Roosevelt to transport the seven billions of war materials on his own back and ended by reminding the delegates that after the war the international imperialists will again shake hands, but the workers will have paid with their blood for the war.

These remarks received considerable applause from the floor. Another delegate declared that the interests of the working class cannot be served by fighting in this war. He urged the convention to vote down the war resolution and instead pass one calling upon the working people of the world to stop fighting each other.

But these sound working class sentiments were in a decided minority. The war resolution was passed by an overwhelming vote, amid clapping, whistling and other demonstrations of hearty approval. The speeches of

Rieve, president of the union, of Baldanzi, vice-president, of Hillman, Perkins, all followed the line that the imperialists of Britain and America are fighting for labor's rights.

Still the resolution bowed to the anti-war feeling of the workers by opposing sending an expeditionary force to fight on foreign soil "at the present time." There was some opposition to the phrase "at the present time." Someone shouted, "What are foreign lands?" Another delegate called out, "What about convoys?" But the chairman quickly squelched the disgruntled ones.

Back Wagner Bill

Another resolution that took much speech making from above, and received wholehearted support from below, was the one calling for backing Senator Wagner's bill, now in Congress, providing against post-war unemployment by public works and so on—the usual drop that capitalist

politicians are willing to put into labor's bucket. With great rhetorical flourish, Vice-President Baldanzi described the miserable aftermath of the last war, the third of the nation without proper food and housing, the doctors without patients and the sick people without doctors. He talked about the democracy the workers want—jobs, security, liberty. He was roundly applauded, and rightly so. But nothing was said about the ridiculous farce of relying on a poor little inadequate bill in a capitalist Congress, to provide all that for the workers—to protect them from the stupendous war machine as it collapses and crashes upon their heads when the war is over!

The committee on law submitted a resolution prohibiting nazis, communists and fascists from holding any office in the union and any of its locals, and from being nominated for any office. In the discussion that followed, the nazis and fascists were

completely lost in the shuffle and the big guns were turned on the Stalinists. Delegates from the East, Middle West and West recited instances of Stalinist union-busting tactics and accused the CP of carrying out Stalin's foreign policy against the interests of the workers and their unions.

The passage of the resolution was a foregone conclusion. There was also much talk about putting teeth into it and being wary of the new crop of unknown Stalinists who would be sent into the unions now. It evidently did not occur to the delegates that this same resolution might be used by the bureaucrats against militant anti-war workers.

Hit Anti-Labor Bills

The convention let loose against the anti-labor Vinson bill and also passed a resolution calling upon all unions to fight the anti-sabotage bills now being railroaded through the state legislatures throughout the

With the Labor Unions On the Picket Line

By David Coolidge

What Does the UAW Mean by "Non-Defense"?

The General Motors strike, which had been voted by the United Automobile Workers (CIO), has been postponed at the "request" of the National Defense Mediation Board. Union and GM representatives are "requested" by the board to appear at a hearing on May 2. The board further requested that the company and the union in the meantime attempt to settle their differences and that it be understood that any settlement arrived at be retroactive to April 28.

In deciding on the strike the union took a strange position. That is, the leaders of the union took a strange position. They decided that the strike would affect only "non-defense work." The company replied that no distinction could be made between "defense" and "non-defense" work. Of course the company is entirely correct in this and for various good reasons.

In the first place, the company, being a thoroughly class-conscious outfit, knows that the United States is preparing not for defense but for war: for active and aggressive participation in the present Second World Imperialist War. "Defense" to General Motors and to all of the ruling class means something entirely different than to the workers. Defense to the ruling class means waging aggressive war against Germany and Japan for the protection of profits, their class position and their power. Defense to GM, Ford, Bethlehem and all the ruling class means to be in a position to strangle the working class and wreck the unions. The chief rôle of the Mediation Board is to aid the bosses in accomplishing this purpose.

In the second place, the owners of GM, being interested only in profits and the maintenance of their class position and power, don't, of course, make any basic distinction between "defense" work and "non-defense" work profits. "Defense" to the bosses means only an opportunity to make bigger profits while the war is on and while the government is pouring billions of dollars into the plants of the ruling class.

Also, the bosses know that the whole plant equipment of industry is being organized for the production

Less "Aid to Britain," More Aid to Scrubwomen

James J. Bambrick, president of New York City Local 32B of the Building Service Employees International Union (AFL) has pleaded guilty to stealing \$10,000 of union funds. This local was a part of the international which was headed by the racketeer Scalise, who is now in prison. Bambrick was a tool of Scalise and the \$10,000 theft was part of the Scalise racketeering method of running this AFL international.

If Bill Green and the other big shots of the AFL had paid as much attention to protecting the low paid scrubwomen, janitors and other mem-

Keep an Eye on the Rising Cost of Living!

Workers will have to keep a close watch on the rise in the "cost of living." Isidor Lubin, commissioner of labor statistics for the Labor Department, reports that the cost of food has increased 22½ per cent during the past year. Rent, clothing, fuel and furniture have also gone up. The wolves are out to get theirs. All the little and big retailers and wholesalers are ready to defend their country by gouging the working class housewife. Every patriotic landlord feels that every time the workers get a 10 per cent raise he should increase the rent at least 15 per cent. Every hysteric of a wholesaler and every little retail crook of a corner grocer will add a few cents or a few dollars to the price of their tainted meat, their cold storage eggs, their aging butter and their shoddy clothing.

Roosevelt has set up the "Office of Price Administration" with Leon Henderson in charge to deal with consumer prices. Henderson and his OPA will be about as effective as a hen year old child in front of a mad bull. Business is out to make a killing. They will do it one way or another just as the aircraft manufacturers. They will tell THEIR government to take it or leave it just as Bethlehem did during the last war; just like Girdler and Ford.

The government didn't make these bandits to the mark. It was the organized workers through their unions. It was the mass strikes and picket lines. In the days of the NRA Ford told the government that he would run his business to suit himself. He didn't tell the union that because the union had thousands of men and automobiles bumper to bumper at the factory gates.

Wholesalers and retailers are raising prices only because the workers have won an increase in wages. The workers alone can take care of this banditry and in only one way: by a demand for more wages. The cost of food rose 22½ per cent but workers' wages went up only 5 per cent last year! The recent increase in wages in some industries reduces this difference somewhat but does not cover it entirely. Furthermore Lubin says that the rise in the cost of living is still increasing.

of war orders. They are aware that it will be technologically impossible to make any important distinction between "defense" work and "non-defense" work.

The very fact that the leaders of the UAW could make such a nonsensical statement as not to strike on "defense" work shows that somebody is getting scared. That somebody is the union leadership and the CIO leadership. They are getting scared of the militancy of the rank and file workers.

Suppose it were possible to separate defense from non-defense work. How would this serve the interests of the workers and the union? How would such a strike be conducted? Would the workers making pleasure cars strike and picket, while the workers making tanks and aircraft engines remain at work? How would the defense workers win an increase in wages? By remaining at the machines and producing war equipment that is going to produce a large brand new crop of millionaires?

At the bottom of such a crazy proposal of course is the position of the union leaders that the workers should support the war, that it is a war for democracy, that it is a "workers' war. There should be no doubt in a single worker's mind by now that this is a monstrous lie. It is no less a lie when uttered by Knudsen, Sloan or Grace than when told by Murray, Green or Hillman. In fact it is far worse for Hillman, Green and Hillman to mislead the workers in this manner. They are representatives of the working class, whereas Knudsen, Grace et al are our enemies. We don't expect the truth and leadership from our enemies but we certainly have the right to expect honest and correct guidance from our own leaders.

It is precisely on the so-called defense work that the GM strike should be called. Primarily because this is imperialist war work and the workers should be actively against the war. Secondly, because these are the orders that are producing the big profits for the bosses and the workers should strike for an ever-increasing share of this wealth which they alone are producing.

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Brewster Worker Again Writes on Union

Fears Union Gains Are Offset by War Propaganda in the Union

Dear Editor:

I am again taking advantage of LABOR ACTION'S generosity in publishing letters from Brewster workers, to use your paper to write to Brewster workers about the welfare of the men here.

Some time ago a letter dealing with the elections in the Brewster Aero Union, Local 365, UAW, appeared in LABOR ACTION. In it the writer strongly stated that regardless of whatever administration was elected, De Lorenzo or Pope, the men would demand that they accomplish the following things:

1. See that the men were reclassified justly and with more money.
2. More men to be drawn into participation in union affairs through committees, etc.
3. That a program of education be begun to inform the men about their union, the CIO and the labor movement.
4. That certain working conditions such as improper ventilation, poisonous chemicals, etc., be remedied.

The new administration headed by Tommy De Lorenzo has been in office for a little over two months. While that isn't much time, still it is important to know what progress they have made in carrying out the above stated needs of the men at Brewster.

Good Beginning

In regard to reclassification, reports indicate that a good deal of progress has been made in straightening out the work. Whereas before there was a great deal of confusion and every department competed with each other, now all departments seem to be functioning in a systematic and informed way. It remains to be seen whether the union administration can continue the good work by backing up the men whom the company will refuse to classify properly, and to get them the necessary raises. A militant attitude on the part of the entire union will force the company to meet the demands of the union.

A good beginning has been made along the line of drawing the men into greater participation in union affairs. The membership meetings are much better attended and conducted. According to the new newspaper of the union, a good number of committees have been set up to help the membership. Unfortunately these committees still consist of a goodly portion of the old clique. Other steps are being taken. The men, however, should insist on fuller participation in union affairs.

Nothing has been done to improve working conditions. This remains a sort spot with many men. If the union administration really wants to increase its prestige with the men, let them get to work on this job immediately.

Thank you for printing this letter.
A Brewster Worker.

Danger Sign

All these improvements are good, but something new has appeared which in the long run will ruin the union if not ended soon. That something is war propaganda. Yes, war propaganda is being subtly and deliberately pushed on the men by the union officials.

For the first time, war posters of the British government have appeared in the shop. Speeches from Churchill, British labor's greatest enemy, are quoted. Posters urging the underpaid Brewster workers to make financial contributions to some phony relief organization have been put up by union officials. Pins symbolizing that super-exclusive, Shob-bish Royal Air Force are openly sold. Union officials parade around with two or three British pins on their jackets. But worse yet, the union paper which has only appeared twice is doing a noble job to make it easier for Wall Street (Brewster bosses included) to send our men into the war on the other side to pull the fat out of the fire for Wall Street.

In the first issue of the paper there was practically nothing that dealt with the actual welfare of the fellows in Brewster. Yet there were articles and pictures urging aid to Britain. The paper is supposed to be concerned with union problems.

In the second issue the paper devotes the entire front page to pictures urging aid to Britain. About grievances, working conditions, etc., nothing appears. No articles about informing the fellows about the union, CIO, labor. Letters to the editor? Nothing that really vitally concerns the boys at Brewster is printed in the paper. Anyone who reads the paper is struck by the violent pro-British attitude and lack of labor spirit.

The union officials in trying to impose this war propaganda are working against the interests of every union man and his family.

Every man now knows that when Roosevelt finally drags the country into the war he will try to put over severe totalitarian controls over the working man. That means the working man is going to be told what to

do, how to do it, when to do it. No questions asked. Why, look at the draft! You have to carry around your passport which any cop can make you show him.

Not only will they clamp down in such a way that will make it easier for Brewster and other companies to take away our rights, but they have threatened to use soldiers to take over our jobs when we refuse to let our rights be taken away from us. Yes, every time the Brewster newspaper publishes war propaganda, it is making it easier for Brewster to exploit us.

Why are they telling us to support England? Ask any Irishman from Ireland. He'll tell you that the English bosses are just as rotten as the Nazis. Ask English aircraft workers about how they are worked to the bone while their bosses are out at night clubs and elsewhere. Ask any union man in England about how all his rights have been whittled down. No one would support Nazi bosses of Germany! Why support the bosses of England who outlaw CIO papers from the countries they own? Why should American boys go out and die for such things?

If the union administration is really concerned about democracy, there is a big job waiting for them right here in our own country. Let them start right here at Brewster and get our men more wages, more rights, better conditions and make them happier. Let them fight for democracy here by exposing those millionaires and politicians who want to send union men to the electric chair because they stand up for their rights. Let them fight the Roosevelt-Wall Street war machine that is trying to blitzkrieg the American workingman.

But first and foremost stick to the job at Brewster—build the union, fight for more money for the men working here. Don't go offside onto issues that weaken the union. Don't bring British politics into our union—stop imitating the Communists! That's the way to fight for democracy and our men.

Thank you for printing this letter.
A Brewster Worker.

Bridges--

(Continued from page 1)

The CIO understands this hearing, however, for what it essentially is. "Organized labor cannot stand idly by and witness the persecution of any of its leaders or members," Philip Murray, chairman of the CIO recently declared in setting up a special committee to help defend Bridges.

The Bridges case is essentially an attack on the CIO movement and the labor movement generally, because it takes away the right of the rank and file to elect and dispose by its own choosing its official leadership. It's part of a national smear campaign against the labor movement. The San Francisco newspapers distort the hearings atrociously to whip up the public against the CIO. If Bridges should be found guilty and deported a hard blow will have been struck at labor and the unions. The bosses will follow this victory with innumerable assaults on labor.

This attack is facilitated by the stupidities and crimes of the Stalinists within the labor movement. Many workers are so embittered against the Stalinist policies that they fail to see the class lines in the case. Disagreements with the Stalinist policies belong within the union movement. It's the job of the rank and file to oust them whenever their policies run counter to the interests of the union.

But it is not the job of any good union man to join up with the professional pay-tributors and lynch the Stalinists or anyone else while Old Glory waves in shame.

A feeling of revulsion comes over you at the Bridges hearings when you watch the parade of stool-pigeons, human scum and professional labor-baiters doing their part to smash the labor movement and make America safe for Wall Street's profits.

Against this array, every union man should stand shoulder to shoulder with Bridges in fighting against his deportation. Taking care of the "Commies" is strictly a family affair within the union. And the only real methods of fighting against them are honesty, loyalty, devotion and democracy within the union movement as an indispensable part of a militant program of fighting the bosses to the bitter end.

PS.—How ironic! Bridges is getting it in the neck from the FBI by those very GPU methods which he defended so strongly in the union movement.

Take Note!

We go to press too early to report on the May Day meetings organized by the Workers Party. Our next issue will carry a report of the meeting at Madison Square Park, and so forth.

We shall also begin publication in the next issue of a series on the Missouri sharecroppers by David Coolidge.

Labor Action Bookshelf

By DWIGHT MACDONALD

LABOUR IN THE WAR, by John Price, with an introduction by Ernest Bevin. (Penguin Books, 25 cents.)

THE PENGUIN HANSARD: Verbatim Extracts from the Official Report of Debates in the House of Commons. Vol. 1: "From Chamberlain to Churchill." Vol. 2: "The National Effort." (Penguin Books, 25 cents each.)

Here are three volumes of the "Penguin" series which have just reached this country from London and which should be of interest to the readers of LABOR ACTION. Only one of them—Vol. 2 of "The Penguin Hansard"—is worth the general reader's quarter, but there is something to be learned from all three.

Price's "Labour in the War" is as dull a little book as I have had to wade through in a long time. It's dull because it is a semi-official volume, written by the political secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union and with a foreword by Bevin which puts on it the official OK of the British trade union bureaucracy. It is written in that interminably longwinded and colorless style bureaucracies seem to favor, a style designed to cover up and conceal rather than to communicate.

To those innocent souls who hope that the British Labor Party, led by Bevin, will bring in socialism bloodlessly and painlessly after the war—for such innocents, this book will make sad reading. For it is clear that Price and his master, Bevin, conceive of the unions as organizations to DEFEND the existing capitalist system, to make it work better and smoother, and not as the spearhead of any working class movement against capitalism. Throughout the book, the emphasis is on how much "labor" has contributed to the war effort, how "reasonable" and "unselfish" the unions have been in subordinating their interests to the "common" war aims.

The more intelligent leaders of the British ruling class realize this full well. As Price writes, with the honest pride of a lackey whose master appreciates his services: "The place of the unions in the state is now recognized in some, though not all, government circles, amongst the better type of employers and in the more enlightened organs of the press. So intensely respectable is Price, so determined to avoid all unpleasant themes, that, in his chapter on "Trade Union Development," he performs the miraculous feat of tracing the history of the British trade union movement for the past 150 years without even mentioning the 1926 general strike! (In which, by the way, his leader, Bevin, played a rather shabby part.)

In defending the British labor movement against the horrid charge that it should have entered the government much earlier in the war, Price writes: "If Labor members had joined Mr. Chamberlain's government, they would have had no really adequate opportunity of influencing the conduct of the war. They would have been little more than hostages." But how much more than hostages are the Labor members in Mr. Churchill's government today? It is significant that Price's book ENDS with the formation of the Churchill-Labor government in May, 1940. Significant because he would have had to do a lot of explaining if he had carried the narrative even through the first six months of the new régime. Why did Churchill last fall accept the official leadership of the Conservative Party? Why was Laborite Morrison replaced in the vital Supply Ministry with the steel magnate, Duncan? Why was Halifax sent to Washington? Why was the Tory flip, Margesson, made Secretary for War? Above all, why has the Churchill-Labor government refused time and again to state its war aims? Mr. Price was well advised to end his book with May, 1940.

The Parliamentary Record

"Hansard" is the British equivalent of The Congressional Record, and these two little books are made up wholly of extracts from this official report of the proceedings in the House of Commons. They are more interesting and valuable than similar extracts from The Congressional Record would be because the actual business of government is carried on to a much greater extent by the British Parliament than by our own Congress. The responsible ministers appear before the House frequently to explain their measures, answer questions, and generally debate the issues with the members of Parliament. (As though Roosevelt and Hull and Stimson were to argue personally for the Lend-Lease Bill in Congress, with heckling and questions from the members.) So these volumes of extracts from speeches give a vivid and often lively picture of political currents in England up through last summer (where they both end).

The first volume, titled "From Chamberlain to Churchill," is the least valuable. It is devoted to the broader questions of political and military strategy, to the reactions of the House to the outbreak of the war, the Finnish war, and the Norwegian campaign. There is a good deal of pure oratory here and little that is not already well known. The chief impression one gets is the constant criticism of the policies of the Chamberlain régime and the remarkably stupidity and ineffectiveness of those policies. The bankruptcy of a ruling class which entrusted the defense of its interests to Chamberlain & Co. is underlined on every page.

The second volume, "The National Effort," is devoted to the organization and debates through the summer of 1940, arranged under general headings: Munitions, Food, Trade, Labor, General Economic Policy, etc. Since I have already written at length in LABOR ACTION on the British war economy, I won't go into the content of the book here. It provides a rich mass of data on the subject, even though the selection of extracts (as with the other volume) naturally has a national-patriotic bias. The point must be made once more that it is strategic to end the book with June, 1940, since an extension beyond then would show the discouraging (to the patriotic publishers of the Penguin series) fact that the same basic problems which were unsolved under Chamberlain are still unsolved under Churchill.

New Tax Proposals Hit Those Who Can Least Afford Them

By FRANK DEMBY

The Treasury Department has recommended to Congress the adoption of new taxes designed to raise slightly more than three and a half billion dollars—about half of the cost of the Lend-Lease program. While it is too early to say definitely what the final bill will be, as the various big business groups are now engaged in the highly edifying American pastime of passing the buck—on to consumers and other business groups—through their powerful lobbies in Washington, all the proposals made point to the strengthening of the already reactionary tax structure of the country.

While the capitalist press has headlined the scheduled increases in the income tax rates, the really significant aspect of the Treasury's proposals are the additional \$1,233,600,000 of indirect taxes. These are the taxes which are passed on to the consumer in the form of higher prices. The workers, those who can least afford it, will foot the largest portion of the bill designed to make the world safe for American imperialism. The middle class (those with incomes between \$2,500 and \$10,000) will pay the next largest share. And, as usual, the big capitalists will pay the smallest portion of the cost of their war.

Over \$200,000,000 will be raised through additional tobacco taxes. This means that cigarettes will go up another two cents a pack. Almost the same sum is expected through a higher liquor tax. This means much higher prices for beer, wines, whiskey, etc. Over \$842,000,000 will be obtained through excise taxes on some 25 items; some representing additional taxes on those already in existence, like another cent on each gallon of gasoline (expected to bring in \$255,000,000); others representing entirely new taxes, like the proposed one cent a bottle on all soft drinks (expected to bring in \$132,500,000). One and a half billion dollars is

Shachtman Meeting In Los Angeles - -

Subject: THE PROGRAM FOR SMASHING
HITLERISM
Time: TUESDAY, MAY 13, AT 8:00 P.M.
Place: STUDIO HALL, EMBASSY AUDITORIUM, 9TH AND GRAND
Auspices: WORKERS PARTY

Enthusiastic Meetings Mark Shachtman Tour in Chicago

A series of enthusiastic meetings marked the Chicago stay of Max Shachtman, national secretary of the Workers Party, now on a national tour.

Negro Meeting

A South Side audience of Negro and white workers heard Shachtman speak on "The Second World War—What Does It Mean to the Negro People?" at a meeting sponsored by the Workers Party at Boulevard Hall, Thursday, April 17.

Leaflets advertising this meeting, which raised the question, "Why Should the Negro Go Abroad to Fight for the Democracy He Is Denied at Home?" were received by Negro workers with statements like "That's right, that's what we've got to do, make our fight for real democracy here at home first!"

University of Chicago

At the University of Chicago, Max

Shachtman spoke on the same platform with Prof. Louis Wirth of the Department of Sociology on "Should We Support Armed Intervention of the United States to Aid the Allies?" under the auspices of the Campus Discussion Group. Professor Wirth, an advocate of armed intervention, was thoroughly discredited in the debate and retired under the "boos" of the student audience of 100.

Downtown

At a meeting in the Loop, about 75 sympathizers heard Comrade Shachtman analyze the war situation and the perspectives of the Workers Party.

Guest of Honor

A "spring get-together" of Negro and white sympathizers and members of the Workers Party and the YPSL in Shachtman's honor climaxed a successful Chicago visit.

Schedule of Shachtman National Tour

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

A May Day Salute to the Workers Party and Labor Action

South Side Branch — Central Branch
CHICAGO

May Day Greetings to the Workers Party

from the
National Council of the YPSL

The Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor . . .

HITS WAGE CHISELING AT FORD INSTRUMENT

Dear Editor: If Mr. Knudsen of the OPM had mingled with the men when he visited our plant, the Ford Instrument Co., a couple of months ago, we could have told him a thing or two. But like Knox and the rest of the big shots before him, he passed through the plant speaking only to the bosses in the front office.

Since, as we all know, the company is making all its money from government contracts, it ought to be especially careful about how it treats its employees. The government is even buying machinery at its own expense for the company, as we saw from the "U. S. property" tags put on many of the new machines.

But what has the company actually done in these last months? Due to the enormous expansion as a result of government contracts, the company is hiring scores of workers to prepare for production in its two new plants as well as to staff the old plant. Large numbers of these workers are young fellows and girls hired as "learners" at 40 cents an hour.

In most cases these fellows and girls are put on jobs or parts of jobs that used to be done by men at much higher rates of pay. Thus it is revealed that the present hiring policies of the company are directed at reducing pay scales for many types of work.

The company can get away with this at present because its contract with the union permits the hiring of "learners" without defining that classification. This not only results in low wage scales for the "learners," but also makes it more difficult for the older men in the plant to ask for raises. How can I get a raise when the new man next to me, who is doing much the same work as I,

is making 30 cents less per hour than I? All the other men face similar problems.

Many helpers who have been waiting for months to get on machines now find themselves left out in the cold while newly hired "learners" are put on machines at lower pay—so that the company can save a few dollars.

I know that our local, No. 425 of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, is now moving for reclassification in its conferences with the management. But that's not enough. The grievance committee should immediately take up every individual case of a worker who is being paid less for some job than was previously paid to others for the same type of work. This would assist the young workers who but are still receiving wages in the "learner" category, or at the bottom of the "helper" class. Many unions throughout the country are making this fight for "equal pay for equal types of work" a big point.

Such a move by the union would not only help the newcomers and show them what the union can do for them more than mere words, but would make it easier to get a pay rise all around for the older men. This would result in better attendance at meetings—a big problem at present—and would put the membership solidly behind the union.

The company is making a fortune on government contracts with government machinery. The Sperry Corporation which owns Ford Instrument, made more than \$7,000,000 net (after paying all taxes, etc.) in 1940, or about \$1,000 for every man it employs. And that figure doesn't include the big salaries paid out, such as \$100,000 to Thomas A. Morgan, who heads the corporation. With

FROM OUR WEST COAST CORRESPONDENT

And What About Life in the Army?

LOS ANGELES, Apr. 21—Once upon a time—maybe nine months ago—a handful of America's top flight capitalists sort of put their heads together and decided that they wanted to own the whole world.

"Why should Hitler take it over for the German capitalists?" they asked. "Why shouldn't one of our boys take it over for us?"

Hearing no objection from among their own number, they decided it was a good idea—for them.

They already owned all of the United States and half of the colonial and semi-colonial world. The biggest factories, the richest stores of raw materials, the most powerful newspaper, radio and motion picture propaganda mills were already at their disposal. All they needed was an army—the millions upon millions of men who must fight to kill and be killed in order to wrest control from the German capitalists and place it safely in the hands of the American capitalists.

ONE ARMY—COMING UP!

So the order went out to the politicians who work for the industrialists and the bankers: Wanted—one army. And like the chef in a cheap hash-house, the politicians—led by the head politician in the White House—jumped to fill the order. One army—coming up!

A handful of brains figured out the plans for the capitalists. The politicians whipped them through the Congress. One morning—maybe six months ago—American young manhood woke up and found itself in the army. Seventeen million men, mostly sons and husbands of the working class and lower middle class, found themselves earmarked for death . . . because Sixty Families of parasites decided they wanted to own the whole world.

Six months have passed since the draft was started and hundreds of thousands of men have been dragged into the army. We know the capitalists are pleased—their only complaint perhaps is that the army isn't big enough. They want a bigger and better draft so they can get into the war sooner.

THE MEN DON'T LIKE IT

But what of the men in the army? How do they like the life that was going "to build them up" for death? What do they think of the conscript camps, etc.?

No official surveys are available; no genuine, far-flung inquiries are possible. The army doesn't allow them. But here and there, in letters and personal visits, in stories told by one friend to another, a picture is rapidly crystallizing out. Now, with the draft becoming widespread, with someone in your family and your neighbor's going next week, the real situation in the army camps is becoming known.

Assuming that life in the west coast army camp is no different from that on the east coast, or in the middle south, we can report from letters and person interviews on life in the army generally. Not so confidentially—it stinks!

The chief problem, in all camps, is that of food. From Fort Lewis, Wash., to the Mexican border, every letter seems to mention the vile food. Up in the Washington camp, the men got diets that looked like this one day: Lunch, hamburger; dinner, hamburger hash; breakfast the next morning, creamed hamburger! Down in San Diego, the army got stuck with a load of hot dogs and the men ate hot dogs three times a day for three days running!

At Camp Roberts, outside of Paso Robles, Cal., there is never anything edible in the way of sweets or desserts. The men wait until Sunday, go into town and dose themselves with pie, ice cream and mals as long as their money lasts. Those are the only decent sweets they get.

A NATIONAL SCANDAL

Both sleeping and toilet facilities are bad up and down the coast. The men might as well be living in trenches for all the "modern conveniences" provided by the army.

It is a national scandal, reported even in the boss press, that army housing and sanitation facilities are still largely non-existent. A worse scandal yet is the leech-like fastness with which small town tradesmen and businessmen have pounced on the draftees with a determination each to make his own million dollars this time.

On this subject two maritime unionists recently wrote a letter to their west coast union paper. Food and clothing prices, costs of incidentals and

the like are so high, that the \$21 dole paid out monthly to the soldiers isn't even enough to keep the men going. Everyone who has a relative or a friend in a city is writing and asking for small loans!

It seems that when, as and if the draftees ever get out of the army at all, not only may they be crippled, unemployed and penniless, they will even be in debt over their heads in the bargain.

MEN GET SORE—AND ACT

At Camp Roberts, however, the men decided to do something about the chiselling little businessmen who are trying to celebrate Christmas every day of the year. One such skunk operated a small cafe near the camp. To all his usual customers, the regular price on the most regularly ordered item in the world—a cup of coffee—was five cents. To draftees trying to squeeze an existence out of \$21 a month, the price was a dime!

It was enough to make any man's blood boil and that's just what it did to the draftees. They got hot enough to do something about it and one Sunday morning they acted. Conscribed men came into the place, took every available seat, ordered coffee. Then they nursed their drinks along, keeping their seats, refusing to leave until the price was knocked back down to a nickel!

A little incident, that was, but an important one. An embryo sit-down strike, conducted by draftees to win their collective demands. More power to them, and bigger and better demands!

MANY HAVE DEPENDENTS

Actual familiarity with conditions in some of the camps belies the baloney, dished out with sickening regularity in the daily jingo press. Married men won't be drafted? Men with dependents exempt? Physically disabled men will get special consideration and treatment? Horsefeathers!

A Sunday trip to any coast camp will reveal visitors who include wives, children and assorted dependents of the draftees. The leniency for physical disability can be demonstrated with the case of one private in a west coast army camp.

Private X has a bad case of flat feet. Third degree flat feet, the army doctor said. So flat that he couldn't possibly pass the physical examination; other army doctors agreed. So what happened to him? He was drafted anyhow. He was taken to camp and assigned light camp duty, while his arches were taped and strapped up. When his feet improve to second degree flatness he will be assigned to regular duties and he can then march till his arches break—for all the army cares.

Of course, all these incidents have an effect on army morale. Of that there can be no question. A visitor at one of the California camps had a long talk with a drafted friend. The draftee said, in no uncertain terms, the following things:

"The men in the camp almost unanimously hate it here. They so detest the officer clique that, with the exception of the usual handful of deluded high school boys, none of them even wants to become an officer!"

This chap thinks life in the army is so rotten that he advised his friends to "act crazy" if they have to in order to stay out of the army!

And even that, it appeared from another source, was futile . . . because a certain Los Angeles probation officer, who prefers to remain anonymous, has been telling of his experiences.

He works for a public mental corrective institution. His job is to keep track of those mental cases who are paroled from time to time. And his greatest trouble has come from the army!

Client after client has been seized by local draft boards and he has had to fight to get them deferred. The final blow came a couple of weeks ago when a poor, diseased case, suffering from dementia praecox and liable to get violent at any time, was actually drafted.

The parole officer has been unable to get hold of the patient since that time and the draft board can feel smugly satisfied that it has filled its quota.

JACK BORDEN.

Kansas City Home Guard Drills for Strike Duty

Special to Labor Action

KANSAS CITY, Apr. 3—The Kansas City Home Guard today completed another phase of its drill in riot duty formations at a local armory. Company C swung briskly through a demonstration of the half-wedge formation, which is used to disperse loose, unorganized crowds, while Capt. William D. Brewer lectured to Companies A and B seated in the stands.

"This type of formation we would use on a mob gathered in the area between the City Hall and the Court House," Brewer explained, while his charges briskly demonstrated their skill in the fine art of dispersing unwanted gatherings, "but if we found a strike mob gathered, for instance, in front of the Armour plant, we would use another formation which we call the 'double-wedge'."

"This double-wedge," continued the doughty captain, "has been used most successfully against mobs that were partially organized—mobs are never fully organized, only the army is."

One young trainee, however, was not enthusiastic over the proceedings, for two months of such anti-labor drill had nauseated him.

When questioned, he said, "Supposing we were ordered out on strike duty to some plant where a friend of mine works. Could I crack his skull?"

"Or," he continued, "what if I was working somewhere instead of being on WPA, and we went on strike for higher pay. Could I leave the picket line to come back a few hours later with this outfit to break it up?"

"Some of the boys think they're going to have a lot of fun backing these picket lines, but it looks to me like the strikers' heads won't be the only one cracked."

"That's why I want to quit," he concluded with finality.

The awkwardness with which the Home Guards went through the few regular army formations and drills showed that their instructors had not wasted their time on non-essentials, but had concentrated on key lessons.

The bosses are preparing their campaign to stop the forward march of the Kansas City workers. Their plans include using these misguided volunteers against their fellow-workers without paying them a dime—not even a cent. In order to maintain the morale of this private army they have trotted forth local employers as sponsors of the organization.

It is now up to the organized workers in Kansas City to form their own Workers' Defense Guards to meet this boss offensive. We must be ready to defend our right to strike and picket which is being threatened under the guise of national defense. This is especially important to the UAW, which will intensify its organizing campaign in this area in the near future.

Finney--

(Continued from page 1)

Call Post, Cleveland Negro newspaper. But the Akron Beacon Journal, together with the Akron University campus paper has refused to give one inch of publicity to this rank miscarriage of justice.

Finney was framed on four trumped-up charges of rape and robbery against four white women, none of whom could identify him satisfactorily. One of the women "identified" him as the man who attacked her shortly before 6:00 o'clock on an evening when his employer testified he had not left his place of employment until 6:30.

Another woman first admitted that she could not say whether her assailant was Negro or white and then was "able" positively to identify Finney as the attacker. (Guess who had been talking to her!) Another of the women said she could identify the man only if she heard his voice and then proceeded to name Finney as her attacker despite the fact that he had not spoken a word in her presence.

Although in addition to this a score of reliable character witnesses testified as to Finney's unassailable character and a professor of psychology testified that the women were incapable of reliable accounts, the jim-crow court found Finney guilty on one of the four counts of robbery, and sentenced him.

This reporter had the opportunity to speak to various members of the Defense Committee regarding developments in the case. Some of them were dissatisfied with the legal conduct of the case. It was also learned from a member of the Defense Committee that many elements are trying to put a crimp into the conduct of the case.

Despite the opposition from many sides, the Finney Defense Committee is determined to continue their fight until they secure full freedom for Ben Finney.

In this as in all cases where the oppressed masses fight for their rights, LABOR ACTION stands behind them 100 per cent.

With a May Day Pledge for Wider Distribution of LABOR ACTION —St. Louis Branch

May Day Greetings from DR. PAUL NESSON

Revolutionary May Day Greetings to a Revolutionary Paper —Youngstown Branch

Phila. Forum Hears Exposé of Labor Spy Racket

More than 50 persons, comprising the Modern Forum's largest spring turnout, heard Joseph Austin dissect and analyze capitalism's "Labor Spy Racket" last Sunday at 329 Pine Street. Based on testimony compiled by Senator Robert La Follette's Civil Liberties Committee, the one hour lecture featured the private showing of the revealing Memorial Day Massacre films, a pictorial record of Mayor Kelly's heroic Chicago bulls in action, suppressed by Paramount Studios as "dangerous."

"Capitalism knows how to organize," Austin emphasized. "Capitalism organizes to smash unions and depress the worker's living standards. The La Follette testimony reveals the National Association of Manufacturers as the super-employer, the clearing house for labor spies. This same association also pools blacklists and distributes them among its members, so that a worker can be squeezed out of industry from coast to coast because he dared raise his voice against discrimination or unhealthy factory conditions."

Labor spy firms, said Austin, offer industrialists four services. These include union-smashing by creation of

internal and racial antagonisms where the union is powerful, creation of a "fake" industrial disturbance where there are no unions, shipment of tear, poison, and nauseating gas when a strike has reached the militant stage, and future protection against the formation of unions. Most spy firms pad their weekly reports and whip up a union scare so that the employer will retain their services.

The La Follette testimony reveals that nationally known Philadelphia firms employing labor spies include Edward G. Budd, Abbott Dairies, Campbell Soups and the Friehofer Baking Co.

Textile Workers Meet - -

(Continued from page 1)

speech "protecting the workers' right to strike"—which can be very conveniently shoved aside by the other provisions of the law. A delegate from Baltimore, where the Textile Workers Union along with others had fought the anti-sabotage bill which is now before the governor for signature, saw through this farce and wanted the resolution returned to committee for strengthening. However, this was not done.

Too "Cooperative"

The resolutions committee also displayed a very "cooperative" attitude in its recommendations on wages and hours. The decision was to do nothing about hours until "after the emergency," which is yielding a point to the bosses, who want to extend hours "during the emergency." And, as the cost of living rises and promises to go much further, the resolution on wages was to the effect that since wages have been increased under the wages and hours law until now some textile workers get 37 1/2 cents an hour, the 40 cent minimum should not now be asked for.

On the resolution to organize the unorganized textile workers, a southern delegate disagreed with the statement that the union had made great progress. He said the stretch-out was being ignored by the union, although it has kept hundreds and hundreds of workers from jobs. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the progress made and demanded help on organization, on the stretch-out and speedup.

At the Wednesday session, Labor Secretary Perkins delivered a long

speech on how wonderful everything is and claimed her share of the credit for making it so. She praised President Rieve for using the Labor Department "to keep out of trouble." She had the nerve to state before a body of union men and women that the Textile Union owes its strength to "law" and not to "the use of force." The day before, one of the delegates had been applauded when he asserted that the workers had to have the right to strike to make the bosses obey the laws, pointing to Ford and Bethlehem as shining examples. There was no applause when Perkins spoke about her ambition to see labor disputes settled without any strikes.

Tightly Controlled

Sidney Hillman's ascent to power has made of him a most fawning lieutenant of the capitalist class. His constant reverent references to "our great Chief Executive" are disgusting to hear. "Knowing him as I do," says Hillman about Roosevelt, as if they had been chums on the East Side together. He constantly boasts of his conferences and of his office and of his staff. Hillman has become one of "them" to such an extent that the words "capitalist," "capitalist," and "capitalism" have completely disappeared from his vocabulary.

This second biennial convention of this important CIO union bore all the earmarks of being tightly controlled from the top with the object of putting the Textile Workers Union on record as supporting the Roosevelt war program. This was accomplished. But there was plenty of evidence of rank and file militancy.

Editorials

OUR PROGRAM AGAINST THE WAR

- 1. Not a man, not a cent for Wall Street's war. All war funds to be unemployed.
2. For a rising scale of wages to meet increasing cost of living. Thirty-Thirty—\$30 weekly minimum wage—\$0.30 hour weekly maximum for all workers.
3. Expropriate the Sixty Families. For Government ownership and workers control of all war industries—aviation, steel, chemicals, railroads, public utilities, etc.
4. Against both imperialist war camps. For the Third Camp of World Labor and the Colonial Peoples.
5. Let the people vote on war. For the right of youth to vote at the age of 18.
6. Abolish secret diplomacy. Open the files of the State Department.
7. Withdraw all armed forces from territory outside the United States. Free the colonies. Hands off Latin America.
8. Against compulsory military training and conscription.
9. For the defense of civil liberties and workers' rights. Stop the persecution of aliens. Against the M-Day Plans and war-time dictatorship.
10. For full social, economic and political equality for Negroes. End discrimination against Negroes in industry and trade unions.
11. For an independent Labor Party.
12. For Workers' Defense Guards against Fascist and vigilante attacks.
13. No confidence in the Roosevelt government. For a workers' government and a people's army.
14. For Peace through Socialism. For the Socialist United States of the Americas, for the Socialist United States of Europe, and for the World Socialist Federation.

For A Socialist New World Order!

As Hitler's legions advance swiftly and relentlessly over the small states of southern Europe, this leader and prophet of world imperialist barbarism continues to announce that he and his followers are establishing a New World Order. "Democracy" is out of date, says Hitler. The democracies such as the United States and England are in decay; they have lost their power, their potency and their promise. The democracies, says the Leader, can no longer serve the interests of the people and must be replaced by the New Order of Hitler and German fascism.

We are convinced that a New World Order is necessary and imperative. A New Order is necessary and imperative in every capitalist state, in every colony and every colonial and semi-colonial country.

The New Order, however, must not be the rule of Hitler, the regime of fascism. Because the rule of Hitler, of fascism, is the rule of capitalism, of imperialism. Fascism is capitalism in the raw. It is capitalism that has discarded all democratic pretenses. It is capitalism that has divested itself of its democratic garments and is standing stark naked in all its imperialist oppression, cruelty and barbarism.

Fascism is

The Old Order

camouflaged and in disguise. It is capitalist imperialism in the grip of its death agony but holding on with tank and machine gun; concentration camp and bombing plane; murder, plunder and devastation.

Fascism is a final attempt of the ruling class, any ruling class, to save itself and its profits. It is the ruling class in action today against a militant working class which threatens its power, prestige and ownership. It is the last desperate and violent attempt of the ruling class to crush and enslave the workers of the world.

The New Order, then, cannot and must not be the rule of Hitler or Hitlerism. The workers and their friends must understand this well and thoroughly. There are those, even among the workers, who have been misled by the military victories of Hitler. They are saying that fascism is something new, that it is not capitalism, that it is a new social order. Such people are misled, confused, muddled and dangerous. They do not understand capitalism and the varying ways in which it manifests itself from time to time. It is necessary, for the ruling class to do this whenever and wherever the working class shows its might and threatens their dominance.

There are others who, fearing a Hitler victory and the triumph of fascism, develop moods of pessimism, defeatism and hopelessness. They rush to place themselves at the disposal of their own ruling class. This is happening today in England and the United States. The intellectuals, liberals and the entire middle class capitulate com-

pletely and become willing tools of the warmongers.

Thousands of workers are caught up in the wave of imperialist war propaganda and are swept into the slaughter. They see Hitler tramping in seven league boots across the face of Europe and say to themselves that there is no way out save in the army of their imperialist masters. This is drummed into the ears of the working masses not only by the imperialist war lords, the Roosevelts and Churchills and the leaders of capitalist society, but also by the traitorous leaders of the workers, the Greens and the Murrays.

The workers are correct in being against Hitler and fascism, and in being against Hitler and fascism with all their might and fury. We must destroy Hitler and fascism and wipe them from the earth. Hitler is not impregnable and his armies are not the irresistible force they may appear to be. They can be defeated and overwhelmed by the armed forces of the working class, under the leadership and direction of the working class, fighting for liberation on a working class program: the program of SOCIALISM.

No; the New World for which the workers must struggle must not be the New Order of Hitler. But neither must it be the scheme of things for which Roosevelt and Churchill stand. Roosevelt-Churchill and Hitler-Mussolini are brothers beneath the skin. The trimmings are different; the furniture is of a different period, but in both the house is the same.

The national ruling classes of England, Germany and the United States are makers of imperialist war. They are brothers in capitalist plunder, pillage and oppression. Roosevelt and Churchill speak for U. S. and British capitalism just as Hitler speaks for German capitalism.

They Lie

to the workers of their countries as Hitler lies to the workers of Germany. They fight for democracy no more than Hitler fights for democracy. They both fight to determine which group of imperialists shall dominate the world and its people.

The workers in the United States should know these things. They have had and get daily ample demonstration that what we say is the truth. They behold daily the rapacity, the greed and the relentless determination of the capitalists to crush the workers and keep them in poverty, subjection and misery. There can be no doubt of this. The capitalist police prove this at every picket line in a way that even the dullest worker can understand.

Yes; there must be a New World Order. It must not be the Order of Hitler nor the Order of Roosevelt-Churchill. The workers must make no mistake about this. The workers of Germany made the mistake of following the "democratic" rulers instead of themselves taking power—and got fascism. The workers of Italy made this mistake and they were engulfed in fascist oppression and murder. The workers of France believed their Roosevelts who said they were fighting for democracy and against fascism. And today France is fascist!

The New Order must and can be the rule of the working class, of the majority. The New Order must be the workers in power, the Workers Government and the Peoples Army to protect and defend that Workers Government.

The capitalists and imperialists have demonstrated again and again that the workers can only gain power and freedom through the overthrow of capitalism and world imperialism. There is no other way. All other methods have failed. The capitalists and imperialists will go on forever and ever with their exploitation, their wars and their enslavement unless we stop them and destroy their system and their rule.

This is the road for the working class,

The Only Road

Neither Franklin Roosevelt nor Adolf Hitler. Neither the rule of the United States ruling class nor the rule of the German ruling class. Fight for the rule of the working class and for socialism.

The workers must make this decision with determination and courage. They must make it before it is too late. We must organize all the workers into fighting militant unions. We must organize shop committees and form our workers' defense guards.

We must form our own political party of the working class: the workers' party. Our political party must lead the workers to the overthrow of capitalism—to peace, security and freedom—to the Workers Government—to Socialism, the New World Order of the Working Class!

A Series on the Aircraft Industry

After the War, What Then?

By BOB FELLOWES Aircraft Worker

PART IV

In the richest land of the world and of all time, the aviation worker, like so many other workers, lives a hand to mouth existence. The aviation bosses make millions of dollars while the aviation worker, who makes this possible, gets just enough to keep himself and his family going from week to week.

Many aviation workers are now saying to each other: "The shop is operating at full capacity. The war is going on at full blast. And yet all we get is just enough to keep us going. Soon there will be a million

of us engaged in the industry. As long as the war drags on, we work. But when the war ends and they don't need airplanes to kill people, what then?"

The problem that now concerns so many aviation and other armament workers will interest more and more workers as this slaughter drags on.

When the World War I came to a close in 1918, all the war industries which had been dependent on the sale of death dealing instruments began to contract and many closed down. The false prosperity that had been created by the tidal wave of death and destruction collapsed. The millionaires, old and new—all those who had been responsible for the war—retired momentarily to enjoy

the fruits of their ill-gotten gains. Some bought yachts, others went to the warm Mediterranean. It was a merry time for them. But what of the workers who were thrown out into the streets? And of the millions of doughboys who returned from the war to find themselves unemployed and destitute?

Industry Folds Up

In 1919, at the close of the war, industry had a production capacity of 21,000 planes. In 1925, when times were beginning to pick up, a little, the production capacity of aircraft was 1,000 planes—an astounding drop. Needless to say, thousands of aircraft workers were soon pounding the pavements looking for work. Their life savings vanished. Once again they had to begin from scratch.

What the aircraft workers now want to know is: Will this tragic scene be repeated all over again?

Will millions of men on the morrow after this war again be out on the streets?

Will apple sellers reappear as if by magic on the thoroughfares of New York and other cities?

Will the rich again retire with the dough they rake in from the present slaughter?

The answers to these agitating questions are dependent on the attitude demonstrated by the working people of America—nay, of the entire world.

An answer that must be given, not tomorrow after the war—but RIGHT NOW!

What Is the Answer?

Aviation workers! Men and women! What is it you want? More food? A little fun in life? Money to pay the rent? A chance to put away something for a rainy day? It is yours for the taking!

The aviation bosses are making millions of dollars. Their backlog of orders is tremendous. Any interference with production hits them where it hurts—in the pocket. Demand what is yours by right of your labor. Do not fear the accusation of "fifth columnism," "saboteur," etc. by those who are the foulest of the foul. If the boss refuses to give you what you justly deserve, strike. Strike while the iron is hot! Don't permit them to freeze your union with a 30-day cooling off period or any other such nonsense. If you don't get what you want now, you certainly won't get it after the war.

Build, strengthen your unions, organize the unorganized aircraft workers. In the days to come, the army and the newly organized home guard will try to break your unions. Even now legislation is being prepared to draft strikers into the army. Deferred men are to have their leaves cancelled. They may even try sending in \$21 a month conscripts to break your unions. The best way to forestall these actions is to make every man a 100 per cent union man. Further—organize on a national scale with your fellow workers in other industries for a labor party of your own. A party that will help you win your strikes, not break them. A party that will organize a government really by, of and for the people and not such as we have now—by, of and for the 80 families.

Aviation workers, there is no need for the aircraft industry to grow smaller and throw out hundreds of thousands of workers after the war. Airplanes are not made only for purposes of killing men, women and children. Airplanes can be used for other purposes: to span the world, to bring it closer together for peaceful means in order to construct a better world for working men and women.

The aircraft industry can be expanded to unheard-of heights. Why can't every working man have a flivver airplane? Why can't every hamlet, town and city have an airport for the use of workers? Why can't all the continents be spanned regularly, not by one or two planes, but by thousands? Yes, there could be no limit to the growth of the aircraft industry and the further employment of millions of working people.

But, in this present world, you will never have such a development! For as long as the present conniving, corrupt, governments of the rich continue to rule in the United States, England, Germany, Italy and elsewhere, so long shall it be our plight to live in a world where workers of each country are forced to slaughter one another for the benefit of the rich. As long as the Churchills and Hitlers continue to rule, so long shall our jobs be insecure. Yes, as long as these people continue to dictate, we shall never see the full fruits of our labor.

Is There a Way Out?

Yes! The war can be ended. Insecurity, unemployment, nazism—all this can be removed from our lives—if the people take over. They must establish a government which will run all the industries through the unions and other organizations of the working class—for the benefit of the working people. Such a government would eliminate all the fundamental evils of the world.

To hasten such a day, the aircraft workers, men and women, must play their part.

The Workers Party stands four-square behind you!

Cannonites Play Possum On WP May Day Proposal

Two weeks ago we published a letter sent on March 31 (a month ago) by Harry Allen for the Workers Party to the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party (Cannonites) proposing a united May Day demonstration on the basis of a series of slogans which we believed both organizations held in common: Let the People Vote on War; Nationalize the War Industries Under Workers' Control; A Capital Levy for All War Appropriations; Defend the Democratic Rights of the Workers; A Minimum of \$30 a Week for 30 Hours of Work.

In the opinion of the Workers Party these slogans constituted an adequate basis for united action on May Day. The letter, however, offered to discuss these slogans if they were found to be unsatisfactory by the SWP, or if the SWP wished to propose other slogans which could be agreed upon by the two organizations.

Over a month has gone by, May Day has passed—yet no acknowledgment and no answer to the letter has been received. The SWP evidently preferred to hold by its petty factionalism, demonstrated on other occasions as well, rather than explore the possibilities of united action. Instead it made a vain effort to enter the Stalinist May Day parade. The Stalinists excluded the SWP on the Stalinist pretext that the aims of the SWP are contrary to the ideals of their May Day parade! The official organ of the SWP, The Militant, then bewailed the bureaucratism of the Stalinist May Day Committee—as though bureaucratism and anti-Trotskyism were not inevitably to be expected from any organization or body connected however slightly with the Stalinists.

In short, the SWP preferred to explore the possibilities of united action with the very group with which they have least in common, and cynically ignored the possibilities of united action with the one group in the country whose principles are closest to their own.

Some of the local branches of the Workers Party tried to effect united May Day action with corresponding units of the SWP. In California, for example, several proposals were sent. A member of the Workers Party went to a public meeting addressed by James P. Cannon, leader of the SWP, and there asked why no answer had been given to the WP proposals. Cannon launched into a vicious denunciation of the "petty bourgeoisie." Our comrade informs us that Cannon's "answer" was followed by wild applause from two people. (He adds that he was able to sell \$2.00 worth of WP literature at the end of the meeting.)

Failing an answer from the SWP, the WP went ahead with its own arrangements—for a public meeting in Madison Square Park in New York, etc. Up to the last moment, however, the WP was ready to alter its preparations to include the SWP in the event that the latter decided to act like responsible revolutionists.

In this event, as in other instances in the past—such as the proposed joint picketing of the Soviet consulate after the murder of Leon Trotsky, which the WP carried out alone—the Socialist Workers Party may find something of which to be "proud."

What Happened to "Defend the Soviet Union"?

And while we're on the subject of the Cannonites, an article by Albert Goldman calls our attention to a detail which the SWP has been overlooking rather consistently. The Goldman article purports to prove why everybody has to defend the Soviet Union in this war and at this time. Reading the article, however, we were struck by the fact that except for this late contribution, and one or two incidental references, the Cannonite press has been fairly devoid of agitation to defend the Soviet Union. This would not be so startling were it not for the fact that defense of the Soviet Union in this war is supposed to be one of the leading slogans of the SWP—if not THE leading slogan. One would expect a little more attention paid to a slogan of such importance! Emblazoned across the front page occasionally; hammered home in issue after issue. Especially inasmuch the The Militant, very properly, devotes considerable space to attacking the Stalinists—so much so that a worker picking up an average issue of the paper would hardly get the impression that here is an organization challenging the whole world with its defense of the Soviet Union. Can there be a reason? Can it be perhaps that some, let us say, trade union elements might have judged the slogan a little inappropriate to present-day needs?

P.S.—When the Cannonites tried to enter the Stalinist May Day parade they brought with them a proposal that "Defend the Soviet Union" be included in the slogans of the parade. This, they explain lamely in the current issue of The Militant, was to put the Stalinists on the spot. But in this same issue there is printed a May Day manifesto. We looked in vain for the slogan, "Defend the Soviet Union." Good enough to propose to the Stalinist May Day parade. Not good enough to include in their own manifesto. How come?

World at War - -

(Continued from page 1)

ish government at any rate has been practical enough to negotiate new trade treaties with Germany while it quietly awaits the return of the German ambassador from Berlin with the new demands that Hitler will make upon it.

British Count on U. S.

The Balkan campaign and the simultaneous swift advance of the Nazis through Lybia demonstrated that, wherever it was possible for the Germans to engage the British on land, the latter do not have either the necessary quantity of men or materials.

In his latest speech Churchill was compelled to "admit as much, for he could express confidence in only two sectors of the war front—the Battle of the Atlantic and the Battle of the British Isles. He practically wrote off the coming battles for the Near East, Suez and the Mediterranean. In short, what Churchill did was to take the "long view"—a view that is possible only by looking toward America or, as Churchill with his penchant for poetry declaimed, "but westward, look, the land is bright!"

And it is true that the outlook for British imperialism in "the west is bright" because American imperia-

ism, more concerned than ever by the spectacular rise and strength of what is now its most important and deadly rival, Nazi imperialism, has come to the fore with what is to date its most extreme commitment—a naval patrol of the seas. Still graver steps are in the offing—awaiting only the dictate of the further course of events and the promotion of a warlike feeling among the anti-war American public.

"Shooting War" Coming

In Washington they speak openly of what they call the coming "shooting war." The distinction between America's present rôle in the war and the "shooting war" is made not only to distinguish between two different stages, but in order to disarm the people's present opposition to war by making them feel that such opposition is no longer necessary since they are already in the war and that there is only a subtle and unimportant difference between our present intervention and intervention accompanied by shooting. Convoys are admitted to be part of the "shooting war" and convoys will be the next step. A poll of the Senate has already been taken on this question with the result that a majority of the senators are in favor of convoys.

THE NEGRO'S FIGHT

A New Joke-- "Jim-Crow Helps The Negro Race"

By J. R. JOHNSON

"Oh, Judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts, And men have lost their reason."

This is what Shakespeare makes Mark Anthony (that great faker) say in the famous speech over Caesar's dead body. Often when one looks at capitalist politics today one is tempted to say the same thing.

Friends, Americans and countrymen, lend me your ears. This war is a war for "democracy." It is a war to preserve "a way of life," it is a war against tyranny, persecution, aggression. It is a war for freedom. So our modern Mark Anthony, Franklin Roosevelt, says. And all the liberals and the labor leaders follow him shouting "Hosannah!"

STATE ATTORNEYS GIVE THEIR VIEW

Now one of our most precious "free" institutions is Congress, and in this Congress is one solitary Negro, Representative Arthur W. Mitchell. Brother Mitchell tried to travel in a Pullman coach in the South and was kicked out and made to go into another carriage. He filed an action. The case is before the Supreme Court. So far, nothing unusual. This happens regularly. (Since this column was written, the Supreme Court has upheld the right of Negroes to travel in Pullmans. We will comment on this decision next week—Ed.)

But note now what has been the result. The attorney generals of ten states, Alabama, Kentucky, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, these men who are the expounders of the laws of democracy, they drew up an appeal and sent it to the Supreme Court, asking it not to take any decision on this question. These lawyers of democracy say that the Jim Crow laws (most elegantly called "segregation statutes") "were enacted for the purpose of promoting the welfare, comfort, peace and safety of the people of both races." And these attorney generals of "democracy" say that "it is a matter of common knowledge, which this court probably knows, that in those states which are parties to this brief, where large numbers of both races reside, such statutes do, in truth and in fact, promote the welfare, comfort, peace and safety of the people of both races."

In other words, these men of "democratic" law say this: "If Representative Arthur Mitchell or any black man travels with whites, he is personally offensive to the whites. We don't want him. He offends our welfare and our comfort."

"If he insists on traveling, we southerners are going to beat him up. That will offend his peace and safety. In the course of beating him up or lynching him, he and his friends may hurt some of us. That offends OUR peace and safety. So the laws are for the benefit of both of us. Therefore, Supreme Court, do not interfere."

THERE IS A REASON FOR WHAT THEY SAY

Is it any wonder that Hitler laughs at Franklin Roosevelt's pretensions to being a defender of "democracy"? There are ten million Negroes in the South whom these and similar laws directly affect. There were only about half a million Jews in Germany. If Hitler had said that the laws against the Jews were passed for their comfort, peace, welfare and safety, how Mark Anthony Roosevelt would have thundered. Hitler, however, says simply and plainly: "We don't want you Jews. Get out!" But these southern democrats say that their fascist types of racial laws are FOR the BENEFIT of the Negroes; and the men of law, the attorney generals, write to the Supreme Court and say the same thing.

We began by quoting the passage from Shakespeare, saying that men had lost their reason. Have these southerners lost their reason? Oh, no! They want to keep the Negro where he is in order to exploit him, to work him hard and pay him cheap. That is why they tell these abominable lies and talk this abominable legal nonsense. They SEEM to have lost their reason. In reality they have very good reasons for saying what they do. But the Negroes have very good reason for saying: "You and your holy war against fascism may suit you, but they don't suit me! I have my war. And it is against you, Messrs. Attorney Generals, to break that system which is so rotten that it compels its defenders to talk like men who have just come out of a lunatic asylum."

LETTUCE PICKERS WIN STRIKE

VENTURA, Cal.—Unpublicized and ignored, 3,000 lemon workers fought against the customary wave of terror to maintain a picket line and win a strike for higher wages here.

Chief weapon of the planters is eviction of the strikers from the company-owned shacks. Since packing house workers refused to cross the picket lines, they too are being evicted. Local justices are preparing writs which will drive a total of 3,500 agricultural workers, lemon pickers and packers from their homes if the orders are carried out.

The strike was called by the AFL Agricultural and Citrus Workers Union a few weeks ago.

LABOR ACTION Official Organ of the Workers Party Published weekly by the Labor Action Publishing Company Vol. 5, No. 18 MAY 5, 1941 114 WEST 14th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. (3rd Floor) Editor: JOSEPH CARTER Managing Editor: EMANUEL GARRETT Business Manager: JOHN BILLINGS Subscription Rate: \$1.50 per year, \$1.00 six months (\$2.00 per year or \$1.50 six months for Canada and Foreign) Re-entered as second class matter May 24, 1940, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.