

## SYMPOSIUM AND DINNER

In Honor of **ROBERT EDWARDS**, National Council, Independent Labor Party

SPEAKERS AND GUESTS OF HONOR:

ALLAN HAYWOOD, NORMAN THOMAS, HOMER MARTIN, GOODWIN WATSON, DOROTHY DUNBAR BROMLEY, LOUIS ADAMIC, ABRAM L. HARRIS, MARK STARR, CECIL OWEN, LEWIS COREY, CHARLES S. ZIMMERMAN.

JAY LOVESTONE, Chairman

Thursday, June 23, 6:30 P. M., Hotel Victoria, 7th Ave. at 51st St. — \$1.50

## W.P.A. Slashes Wages

an editorial

UPON orders from Colonel Somervell, local work-relief administrator, the wages of over 26,000 W.P.A. white-collar workers in New York City are being ruthlessly slashed, in some cases as much as 23%!

Eleven thousand professional and technical workers, all of whom have been receiving the top monthly security wage of \$103.40, will have their wages cut \$4.70 a month, or nearly 5%.

Clerks and senior stenographers, receiving \$93.47, will have theirs cut \$12.74, or about 12%.

Supervising clerks, receiving \$105.34, will have theirs cut \$13.04, or over 12%.

Junior clerks and typists, receiving \$71.50 a month, will have theirs cut \$11.05, or over 15%.

Supervising stenographers and secretaries, receiving \$103.35, will have theirs cut \$14.95, or 15%.

Clerks, clerk-typists, stenographers and senior typists, receiving \$88.02 a month, will have theirs cut \$16.52, or almost 19%.

In addition, there are to be a number of "rectifications" which will result in even severer wage-cuts. Workers on the health-records projects, for example, will have their wages of \$93.74 a month reduced to \$71.50, a cut of \$22.24, or over 23%.

Do you realize what these dry figures mean? A clerk getting \$21 a week has his wages slashed to less than \$17. A typist or stenographer getting \$19.50 has hers reduced to \$16.50. A junior clerk getting \$16.50 has his lowered to less than \$15. Apparently, the principle seems to be that from them that have not shall be taken away. . . .

This is how the New Deal carries out its pledge not to "let the people down"! As the new depression grows worse, as it deepens into a major crisis, relief wages are cut and thousands on W.P.A. are driven to desperate want!

These wage-cuts are the concern not of the W.P.A. workers alone but of the whole labor movement. When the government takes the lead in putting thru reductions so drastic, so ruthless, will private business be far behind? What the W.P.A. officials are doing now will serve as a signal to the employing class as a whole to take advantage of the depression and unemployment and slash wages to the bone, using the example and authority of the government as their excuse.

It is up to the labor movement to act now, on behalf of the employed and unemployed alike. The danger is great and action must be immediate. The labor movement has supported the Administration thru thick and thin, supported it not wisely but too well. Is it going to be rewarded now by the Administration taking the lead in a campaign of wage-cuts?

Let every union, every labor organization, wire its protest immediately to President Roosevelt and to Harry Hopkins demanding that the work-relief wage reductions in New York be rescinded!

# Workers Age

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

Vol. 7, No. 25.

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## Compromise On Wage Act

### South Gains Leeway To Retain Sweatshop Wages, Hours

After nine days of confusion and bargaining, in which the Southern Senators strove for concessions that would permit employers in their section to maintain starvation wage levels, the joint Congressional conference committee reached an agreement on the wage-hour bill last week.

The new compromise measure, adopted unanimously by the conference committee, establishes an immediate minimum wage of 25 cents an hour and a 44-hour maximum work-week for all industries in interstate commerce. The wage minimum is to be increased to 30 cents an hour and the work-week reduced to 42 hours in the second year. Thereafter, a federal administrator would name industrial boards, on which management, labor and the public would be represented, to study the situations in the various industries and to recommend whether and how the minimum wage-rate should be increased to 40 cents and the maximum work-week reduced to 40 hours, these being the limiting standards. These boards would be empowered to recommend the exemption of any industry after the second year from increasing wages or reducing hours, which otherwise would be expected to reach the limiting standards in seven years.

These provisions are a distinct victory for the Southern Senators who threatened a filibuster against any bill that would make the 40-40 standards mandatory in no matter how long a period. Senators Pepper (Fla.) and Ellender (La.) were the leaders in the filibuster move.

## ALP to Stand by Itself in Council

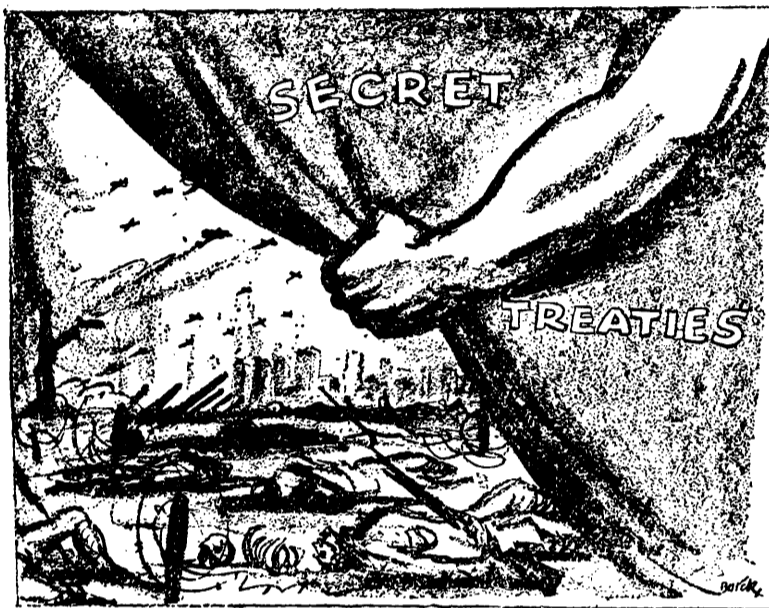
The American Labor Party intends to act independently in the City Council in the future, Councilman Louis Hollander, Kings County chairman of the A.L.P., announced last week.

"The sooner we let the public know that we of the American Labor Party have constituted ourselves an independent unit, appealing for support on the basis of principles and not of expediency, the healthier it will be," Mr. Hollander said.

The only effect of the previous Fusion-A.L.P. coalition, he declared, was to fix in the public mind an idea that the A.L.P. was the dominant group in the Council, even tho it could not count on the

(Continued on Page 2)

## "COLLECTIVE SECURITY"



## The ALP Faces Coming Election Campaign

By M. PETERS

ONCE again, the American Labor Party in New York State is facing an election campaign—this time, one in which a governor, a lieutenant-governor, congressmen, assemblymen and Supreme Court judges are to be elected. Already, at this early date, there are widespread rumors of negotiations and deals between the A.L.P. leaders and various candidates of the Democratic party. Especially disturbing is the persistent rumor that the American Labor Party is considering the endorsement of the Democratic leader in the Assembly, Irwin Steingut—the same Steingut who helped defeat the Child Labor Amendment in the last two sessions of the New York State Legislature!

### Compromises And Deals

Certain compromises and deals are inevitable under present conditions and cannot be ruled out altogether, any more than a union can reject all compromises when it is weak and there is little alternative. But, in making deals and compromises, the A.L.P. leaders should remember certain principles which the unions follow: When the organization is stronger, there is less need for compromise; and, in a compromise in which one necessarily makes sacrifices, it is necessary to see that some concessions are wrung from the other side as well.

In last year's elections, the American Labor Party made compromises, both permissible and impermissible. How these compromises have worked out since

last November is, therefore, an object lesson for the present and future, and, with the new campaign in view, it is not too soon to point out these lessons.

The first reaction to the election results last year among all friends of the A.L.P. was naturally overwhelming gratification at the enormous vote, mixed with a certain amount of disappointment that the party had not gotten more out of it for itself. Emerging as the biggest party in seven assemblies

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## New Assault On the UAW

### Frankenstein-C.P. Clique Tries To Provoke Chaos In Auto Union

Detroit, Mich.

The special International Executive Board meeting of the United Automobile Workers, which had been ordered adjourned, was reconvened Sunday morning, June 12, at the United Mine Workers headquarters in Washington, Homer Martin, president of the U.A.W., announced.

Martin made this statement: "The actions of Richard Frankenstein and his associates in opposing the policies of the U.A.W. administration have come as a complete surprise to us.

"It is an indication of extreme bad faith inasmuch as the last Board meeting unanimously approved and signed a 20-point program to end factionalism in the union.

"This move of the opposition can only be characterized as a repudiation of their word and an effort to revive factionalism which has been so destructive to the interests of the membership.

"Frankenstein speaks only as an individual and any statements he may make are his own personal opinions and do not represent the views either of the administration or the rank and file.

"When this present Board session first convened Wednesday, the opposition took advantage of the fact that several Board members were absent and tried to stage a coup.

"The Board has been ordered to convene in Washington for this

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## LABOR LEADERS, WRITERS TO WELCOME EDWARDS, JUNE 23

Cecil Owen, of the Washington staff of Labor's Non-Partisan League, will attend the June 23 symposium-dinner as a guest-of-honor. He has been designated by Eli Oliver, executive vice-president of the League, who will not be able to be present because of an engagement in the Middle West.

Louis Adamic, brilliant labor historian and author of "My America"; Abram L. Harris, professor at Howard University and co-author of "The Black Worker"; and Mark Starr, educational director of the I.L.G.W.U., will be among the guests of honor at the grand symposium and dinner that is being arranged by the Summer Labor Institute for Thursday evening, June 23, to welcome Robert Edwards, British I.L.P. leader, who is coming to this country to make a study of economic and labor conditions.

As we announced last week, the guests and speakers at the banquet will include Allan Haywood, New York regional director of the C.I.O.; Norman Thomas, chairman of the Socialist Party; Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers; Goodwin Watson, Teachers College, Columbia University; Dorothy Dunbar Bromley, New York Post columnist; Lewis Corey, author and economist; and Charles S. Zimmerman, vice-president of the I.L.G.W.U. Jay Lovestone will be chairman.

The reception, which will take place at Hotel Victoria, 7th Ave. at 51st Street, will be in the form of a dinner-symposium at which the subject of "World Labor Cooperation" will be discussed from various angles.

A few tickets at \$1.50 are still available at 131 West 33rd Street, Room 707.

### Viewed from the Left

By Politicus

#### Manifest Destiny

THE "labor aspects" of the New Deal are reaching maturity—the policy begun with the National Industrial Recovery Act now enters its full growth with the Presidentially-proposed revision of the Wagner Act thru "study" of British labor law. By its own path and according to its lights, the Administration has reached the standpoint which today unites all the employing-class forces and all the old-party political tendencies: revision of the Wagner Act and "regulation" of unions.

It is a common misunderstanding that, in this openly anti-labor move, as in many other acts of the past two years, Roosevelt and the New Deal are "yielding to pressure from the right," are being prevailed upon, thru some mystic inner weakness of character, to substitute, piecemeal, the program of reaction for the program of progress. Strangely enough, such theories never bother to take into account the fact that, altho Roosevelt's policies are increasingly conservative as they take the road to outright reaction, the New Deal is still engaged in organizational struggle against the champions of the policies he seems to be aping. The fact is that Roosevelt's New Deal has its own "modern" road to reaction; it has an inner consistency from beginning to end and does not have to borrow from the Old Deal for this purpose.

Neither the Administration as a whole nor President Roosevelt personally can be regarded as having stepped out of character in proposing a new drive for the "regulation" of the trade unions. Looking at our recent history merely in news-flash form is enough to confirm that fact. The President's proposal is the most outspoken revelation of the inner core and meaning of the New Deal for labor, but it is not its first manifestation.

What was the N.R.A. as a "labor philosophy"? It aimed to "coordinate" the free trade unions into a state-capitalist structure and it actually served to boom company unionism!

What was the Administration's Auto Labor Board? It was the greatest obstacle to the organization of auto workers, the first big hurdle the U.A.W. had to clear before it could begin the task of unionizing the industry!

In steel, the N.R.A. was the "National Run-Around." In textile, the great strike of 500,000 workers was undermined by the government boards, who promised "adjustments" which never came.

It was only in the face of the most terrific display of labor strength this country has even seen, thru the formation and activities of the Committee for Industrial Organization, that the

#### A.L.P. TO STAND BY ITSELF IN COUNCIL

(Continued from Page 1) votes of its supposed allies, and thus to saddle the five Labor members with responsibility for much bad legislation.

"It is time for us to stop assuming responsibility for things we oppose," Mr. Hollander continued. He emphasized that the A.L.P. group believed it important to take its place as a frank minority, committed to nothing but its own program. In appealing to others to support this program, the party would not resort to "horse trading or machine politics," declared.

He spoke before members of Local 328 of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, a C.I.O. affiliate. Mr. Hollander is International vice-president of the union.

His remarks were intended to make clear to the members, as trade unionists and adherents of the A.L.P., the course the party is following in the Council.

## A.L.P. in Coming Elections

(Continued from Page 1) bly districts, the A.L.P. nevertheless elected only five assemblymen. Particular disappointment was felt over the outcome in the 18th A. D. of Brooklyn, where, under pressure from the White House, the A.L.P. branch in the district was persuaded not to run a candidate against Steingut. When the votes for the other candidates were counted, it was found that the A.L.P. was the largest party, with 28,155 votes, a safe margin of 5,000 votes above the Democratic party. The A.L.P. could, therefore, have elected its man had a candidate been put in the field.

When no more than a few months had elapsed after the elections, the A.L.P. had even more cause to be dissatisfied with the outcome. It was found that our "allies" in the old parties were thoroughly unreliable on more than one occasion. Irwin Steingut himself, for example, officially released his Democratic caucus in the Assembly from any obligation to vote for the Child Labor Amendment. His alibi, as given to a delegation, was that he "couldn't buck the Catholic Church." More important even than that, it was found that the party's whole strategy in connection with the Constitutional Convention had been a grievous error. The Constitutional Convention, meeting only once every twenty years and writing the basic laws of the state, is of the greatest importance to labor. Yet, the American Labor Party did not run a single candidate of its own, and the Republican delegates it helped to elect are writing a constitution so reactionary that the A.L.P. may have to call upon the

Wagner Labor Relations Act was upheld, after the dismantling of the N.R.A. Yet the Administration did not cease pursuing its aim of "quasi-public unionism." At no time during the long and heated campaign of the employers for regulatory legislation did the President come out against such an idea. In January of this year, he even declared himself in favor of the recommendation of the Business Advisory Council for such legislation and hinted at the compulsory incorporation of trade unions. And now Roosevelt begins the final phase of his drive toward control of the free trade unions, towards the so-called "equalization" of the Wagner Act—a law whose sole purpose it is to give labor something approaching an equal chance before the law!

This is the culmination of New Deal labor policy and, under present political conditions in the country, is the signal for a vigorous united campaign of the employing class against labor.

Now labor must act accordingly! (Read the editorial on page 4.—Editor.)

while he did nothing and had not a word to say against the thirty-day Senate filibuster against the anti-lynching bill?

#### Why These Mistakes?

Why were these mistakes made? First of all, the sincere desire to get rid of Tammany caused the A.L.P. to bend over backwards in supporting Republicans and Fusionists. Secondly, there was no more than a vague idea of what strength the party had in various districts. The 1936 vote on the A.L.P. ticket for Roosevelt was not considered to be an accurate index to the number of votes that could be gotten for independent candidates.

And, finally, there was support for and dependence upon the New Deal. The leaders of the A.L.P. took occasion, after last year's elections, to wire President Roosevelt assurance of their loyalty to his administration in spite of the party's alliance with Republicans in the municipal campaign. Of the causes for last year's mistakes, the third continues to be the decisive consideration in the present period and still tends to prevent the dissatisfaction with some of last year's experiences from expressing itself in greater independence this year.

How the Steingut question fits into this picture is clear. It would be a bad blow to the Democratic party nationally and a demonstration of labor's complete independence to have the A.L.P. take Steingut's seat in the Assembly. It is out of loyalty to the New Deal that labor is expected to deny itself the additional strength that would come from having an additional assemblyman.

Whatever plausibility there may have been in the past to the belief in the ranks of labor that the New Deal Administration must not be offended, the events of the recent past amply demonstrate the fact that labor's debt to the New Deal has been paid in full and that labor is now being rapidly deserted by the Administration.

The leaders of the American Labor Party, in considering appeals for help from the White House, should neither forget nor be so quick to forgive the support given by the Administration to Judge Mahoney in the New York municipal campaign at a time when the A.L.P. was staking everything on LaGuardia and an anti-Tammany administration.

How much allegiance does labor still owe Roosevelt after his shameful embargo against Loyalist Spain? Why does the State Department agree to lend battleships to the dictatorial Vargas regime in Argentina, while taking a hostile stand against the Mexican government, the most liberal and democratic of all Latin American governments? Why did the President hasten to send a message to Congress demanding the defeat of the Ludlow-LaFollette war referendum

ers and the British cruiser, Ajax, as well as a number of other war vessels were ordered to Jamaica with instructions to land armed sailors to aid the local officials against the workers.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY DEFENDER OF CAPITALISM!

The following is a letter to the editor published in the May 10 issue of the Daily Worker, official paper of the Communist Party:

"The writer is certainly glad to see that there are a few newspapers in this great country that will continue to uphold the hands of President Roosevelt and, if half of those who are knocking and trying to tear down would join those of us who are trying to save the economic system, or at least make it work, we would be sure to avoid what is happening in Europe. JOHN J. LANG"

while he did nothing and had not a word to say against the thirty-day Senate filibuster against the anti-lynching bill?

The swing to the right on the part of the Roosevelt Administration is not the result of pressure from the "economic royalists" but is the result of its own policy. This swing to the right has of late been accentuated by the necessity to compensate for the loss of support for the "quarantine-the-aggressor" policy. For the loss of such New Dealers as Mervin, LaFollette and others, Roosevelt has been trying to conciliate the very "economic royalists" he is presumably fighting.

The implications of this development for the broad social program of the New Deal are apparent. The wage-hour bill now in Congress bears no relation to the original bill and the housing program is only a weak and puny imitation of what is really needed and was once promised. Even the spending program on which labor depends so much provides only for a continuation and not an increase over the present program. And, on the all-important question of labor legislation, such as the National Labor Relations Act, for example, labor is due for some pretty bad jobs coming from the Administration. Some months ago, in a message to Congress, Roosevelt criticized organized labor for the first time, which was a hint that the campaign for amending the Wagner Act was viewed with some sympathy by the White House. Now that hint has matured into a certainty and Roosevelt has let it be known that he is "studying" the question and is considering a revision of the Wagner Act after the pattern of the British Labor Disputes Act—the old bugaboo of "labor responsibility" all over again.

#### Some Features Of The Early Constitutions

Certain features of that first constitution deserve reference. Despite its reaffirmation that "all men are created equal," qualifications for voters required a man to be a freeholder, possessing a freehold of the value of twenty pounds, or a lessee of a tenement of the yearly value of forty shillings. Higher property qualifications were required of certain office-holders. To be eligible for election as governor, lieutenant-governor, or as a senator, one had to possess a freehold of the value of £100.

In the second constitution, which became effective in December 1822, the property qualifications required for voting were liberalized except as to Negroes. Negroes were singled out and required to have been citizens of the state for three years and possessed of a freehold estate of the value of \$250, on which taxes had been paid. To be eligible for the office of governor, a man had to be a native citizen and a freeholder. In 1826, all white male citizens of 21 years became eligible, if they satisfied residential requirements, and in 1845 all property qualifications for office holding were abrogated. It is significant, however, that the discriminatory property and residential qualifications required of Negroes were not abrogated in New York until after the Civil War, thru a constitutional amendment adopted in 1874.

The Bill of Rights, as now known, is a product of gradual development. In 1777, the rights of citizens, as guaranteed by the state constitution, were limited to: the right to protection against disfranchisement or the deprivation "of any rights or privileges secured to the subjects of this state . . . unless by the law of the land or the judgment of his peers"; the right of accused to counsel; the free exercise of religious profession without discrimination; and the right to jury trial. It is worthy of note that, in the first constitution, the legislature was directed to excuse from military service all inhabitants of the state averse to the bearing of arms from scruples of conscience. In 1822, provisions were added identical with or substantially similar to those in our present constitution covering the writ of habeas corpus; the rights of accused to presentment or indictment of a grand jury in capital or other infamous crimes, to counsel, to protection against double jeopardy for the same offense, to protection against self-incrimination; protection against deprivation of life, liberty or property without due process of law; provision for the payment of just compensation where private property is taken for a public use; and the guarantees intended to protect freedom of speech and of the press.

The inclusion of the provision that no one shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law and the provision that private property shall not

be taken for a public use without just compensation, were added simultaneously in 1822. Separated by only a semi-colon, they were tacked on to the section devoted to the provisions safeguarding the traditional rights of accused in criminal cases. One cannot but wonder whether these two provisions, which were to become the chief constitutional rocks on which various attempts at social legislation were to be broken, were not placed there by the prototypes of our reactionaries who still attack all progressive social measures in the name of personal freedom and liberty.

The third constitution of the state of New York, adopted in 1846, added one further section to the Bill of Rights. It prohibited the requirement of excessive bail, the imposition of excessive fines, the infliction of cruel and unusual punishments, and the unreasonable detention of witnesses. This further constitutional safeguard of the rights of persons accused of crime was far outweighed, however, by two provisions intended to safeguard property rights. First, the provision protecting owners of private property taken for any public use was enlarged, and second, and far more important, a new section was added providing that the credit of the state shall not, in any manner, be given or loaned to, or in aid of, any individual, association or corporation. This absolute restriction of the use of state credit was somewhat modified by an amendment in 1874, so as to except legislative provision for educational purposes; education and support of the blind, the deaf and the dumb; and juvenile delinquents.

At the same time, however, a similar restrictive provision was added to prohibit counties, cities, towns or villages from giving money or credit to aid individuals, associations or corporations. The action of counties and cities was further restricted in 1889 by fixing a debt limit at 10% of the assessed valuation of real estate. When economic conditions and the political situation ultimately compelled direct public aid to the destitute after 1929, the passage of emergency legislation was necessary in order to permit the localities to act. And the state is still avoiding the issue by reimbursing the localities for part of their grants instead of giving aid directly.

Regardless of the purpose or the expectations of the authors of this section, restricting the use of state money and credit by the state and its political subdivisions, these provisions have persistently been employed to evade the acceptance by the government of responsibilities essential to the "safety and happiness" of its constituents. These provisions are now regarded by many as an effective bar to the use of public funds or credit for the extension of unemployment benefits and as a constitutional threat to any health-insurance legislation under which the state could be required to make contributions.

Education And Workmen's Compensation

In 1894, the fourth constitution of New York was adopted. Leaving the Bill of Rights substantially unaltered, it added a provision that no law shall be passed abridging the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government or any department thereof; at the same time a provision prohibiting the contracting out of prison labor was enacted. At this time, the right to a public-school education was first given substance on a state-wide basis, thru the addition of Article IX, Section 1. This section made it mandatory on the legislature to provide for "the maintenance and support of a system of free common schools where-

# THE STATE CONSTITUTION CONVENTION

By THOMAS GREGORY

THE first constitution of New York State, adopted on April 20, 1777, provided in its preamble for the establishment of such a government as the elected deputies "shall deem best calculated to serve the rights, liberties, and happiness of the good people of this colony." This preamble incorporated the Declaration of Independence. It is interesting to note that, in the concluding words of the preamble, the convention restated its task to be one of establishing a government "best calculated to serve the rights and liberties of the good people of this state, most conducive of the happiness and safety of their constituents in particular, and of America in general."

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prisoners were confiscated by the police. Besides this, a new wave of arrests has taken place since the middle of April. A partial list of the comrades arrested follows:

WILEBALDO SOLANO: general secretary of the J.C.I., secretary of the International Youth Bureau, and member of the Executive Committee of the P.O.U.M. We fear that he will be summarily executed on charges of "desertion."

He and the other comrades listed could not present themselves to the military officials as they knew they would fall into the hands of the G.P.U., which has been on their trail since June 1937.

ARINYO: organization secretary of the J.C.I.

ARINYO'S wife: working in the Red Aid of the P.O.U.M.

MARIA TERESA ANDRADE (Andrade's wife): working for the Red Aid.

BONNET'S wife: also working for the Red Aid.

JOSE REBULL'S wife: secretary of the Red Aid.

PASQUAL: of the J.C.I.

CLAU: of the J.C.I.

TRAVE: of the Executive Committee of the P.O.U.M. Pioneers.

COMMANDER UTGES: com-

missar of the liquidated Lenin Division of the P.O.U.M.

AGUSTIN MARTIN: secretary of the Commercial Cooperatives of Lerida.

MARIANO AGUAS: from Lerida.

OLTRA PICO: Central Committee of the P.O.U.M.

JOSE RODES: Executive Committee of the P.O.U.M.

AGUILAR: Provincial Committee of Lerida.

JUAN FARRE: provincial secretary of Lerida—arrested or disappeared.

INDIGESTA: provincial secretary of Gerona and member of the Central Committee of Catalonia.

PILAR SANTIAGO: widow of recently assassinated Hervas and one of the best-known women agitators and orators.

VALLES: of the Executive Committee of Lerida; president of the Federation of Cooperatives of Segria (Lerida).

All the comrades were active militants. The women, besides their political work, had the "inglorious" tasks of standing hours on end in the long food lines to buy food for the prisoners; they cooked and sewed and washed their clothes when they could get soap—

## P.O.U.M. Youth Appeals

(We publish below a letter from the Iberian Communist Youth (J.C.I.) of the P.O.U.M. to the Youth Section of the I.C.L.L.—Editor.)

WE have just received the \$50 your organization sent for our comrades in Spain will feel encouraged and better able to carry on, knowing that your organization is spreading among the American youth the ideals for which their brothers are being murdered and imprisoned in "Republican" Spain.

In our previous letter, we told you about the tragic conditions in which our comrades are obliged to live and to carry on their political work. Worse news has been received since then. The secret headquarters of the Red Aid of the P.O.U.M. were raided by the G.P.U.; every one present was arrested and all the stores of food, clothing, tobacco, etc., for the

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## Labor and Student Youth Unite Against War

By EDWARD CARROLL

OUT of the Washington Congress of the Keep America Out of War Committee, there emerged, as a section of the parent organization, a youthful and determined force whose clearly avowed purpose it is to fight the war-mongers of every stripe, from the State Department propagandists down to the "radical" jingoes of the Daily Worker.

Convinced that "the roots of fascism are to be found in a nationalistic profit economy" and that "this struggle against war is simultaneously the only real struggle against fascism," the three hundred delegates representing thousands of young people in national and local organizations all over the country unanimously agreed upon an eight-point program covering both national and international aspects of the anti-war youth movement.

Expansion Along Labor Lines

It was plainly understood, then, that the program of the Y.C.A.W. depended upon this important factor of labor composition if it was to realize the fruits of the correctness and strength of its program. Hence extension of the Y.C.A.W. into the trade unions especially, and elsewhere, of course, is among the chief tasks of the organization.

That much of the work of the Y.C.A.W., aside from organizing new areas in the youth field, must consist in undoing the evil influences of Stalinism thru its "innocent" organizations (A.S.U., American Youth Congress, League for Peace and Democracy, etc.), becomes apparent when the program of the Youth Committee is contrasted with that of the "left-wing" jingoes. Comparing the new program of the Y.C.A.W. and the corresponding positions of the Stalinists, we find the following:

1. The Oxford Pledge remains for the Y.C.A.W. an "integral part of the strike program" and "a demonstration of our future action in the event of war." The Stalinists have repudiated the Oxford Pledge and substituted the more respectable and legalized "peace

(Continued on Page 6)

It was clear to all that the time was ripe for a national structure based upon the already-existing affiliations. At the initial meetings

of the Commission on Organization and the general youth session, there was emphatic recognition and agreement concerning the need for a dominant trade-union youth representation within the general organization. Minnie Lurye, chairman of Local 22, I. L. G. W. U., who was elected a member of the National Action Committee, and vice-chairman of the Y.C.A.W., made it clear on both occasions that it was futile to conceive of an anti-war movement in which labor did not play the major role. Kermit Johnson, young auto worker from Flint, Mich., also spoke along the same lines at the first youth session.

Wide Support

Enthusiastic representations to this congress of the Youth Committee Against War came from a wide variety of organizations. From the trade unions, to mention a few, came delegates from the textile (T.W.O.C.), fur, auto, ladies garment, and other unions; the Y.F.S.L. and the I.C.L.L. Youth Section sent delegates; and large representations came from numerous peace, religious and student organizations (Student Peace Service, F. O. R., National Council of Methodist Youth, Christian Student Movement, etc.). That these could wholeheartedly agree upon the advanced and militant program which came out the congress shows that strong foundations the youth anti-war movement has.

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WORKERS AGE

Organ of the National Council, Independent Communist Labor League. 151 West 33rd St., New York City. Published every Saturday by the Workers Age Publishers...

Vol. 7 June 18, 1938 No. 25

DANGER AHEAD!

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S repeated references to the need for studying British labor law as a model for American labor legislation, should serve as a warning signal to the labor movement of this country...

We need waste no words discussing this or that piece of British labor law, for that is not the point. All this business of "studying" British precedent is simply for camouflage and moral effect...

Today, these long-standing tendencies of Administration policy are greatly reinforced by two very important factors. In the first place, the coming war dictatorship casts its shadow before it; war preparations, which are absorbing so much of the Administration's time and attention...

All signs indicate that the new campaign to force governmental regulation upon the unions will begin with a drive to "amend" or "modify" the Wagner Act so as to undermine whatever effectiveness it has in protecting labor's rights of self-organization and collective bargaining...

The danger is great—doubly great because it comes from the New Deal Administration which labor has supported with such unthinking loyalty in the past. It is a threat hanging over C.I.O. and A.F. of L. alike and it is a threat against which both C.I.O. and A.F. of L. should unite before it is too late.

Roosevelt and Hague

THE flagrant denial of ordinary civil liberties in New Jersey has already become a national scandal of the first order. It is not simply that the right of free speech is being openly violated by the regularly constituted authorities in Jersey City; such things have occurred time without number in the industrial communities of this country whenever labor has tried to raise its voice in protest...

What is particularly outrageous in the New Jersey situation is that this shameful assault upon civil liberty is being publicly sponsored and directed by Mayor Hague, an outstanding Democratic leader, vice-chairman of the Democratic National Committee—while President Roosevelt looks the other way, remarking lightly that it is all merely a "local"

"Yankee Communism"

The Liberals View the "Party Line"

(We reprint below an editorial that appeared in the June 4 issue of the Nation. It represents the attitude of the most pro-Stalin section of liberal opinion toward the incredible political antics in which the Communist Party has been engaging recently in its frantic effort to divest itself overnight of everything implied in the word communism.)

We have not a word to add to the Nation's brilliant comment on "Yankee communism." Its point of view as to the relations that ought to exist between revolutionary socialists and liberals is one which we share completely; indeed, it is the viewpoint we have been urging for several years as against the shabby Popular Frontist trickery of the Stalinists.

When a journal such as the Nation, which sees eye to eye with the Communist Party on so many questions of domestic and foreign policy, can speak out in the manner of this editorial, it should become clear even to the Stalinists that unctuous hypocrisy and shameless double-dealing are hardly the way to "win" the liberals.—Ed.)

THERE is nothing halfway about the communists. For years, they entertained a crushing and well-argued scorn of "bourgeois democracy" and all its works, but now, seized by the sudden conviction that "the great majority of our people," as Earl Browder puts it, "are not ready to support a socialist reorganization of America," the party's ardor has been transferred in all its intensity to "American democratic institutions."

Its tenth national convention has just adopted an amended constitution under which the party substitutes "affiliation to the Communist International" for its status as a "section" of that organization; demands citizenship or a declared intention of acquiring citizenship if possible as a prerequisite of membership; decries expulsion for "advocates of terrorism and violence as a method of party procedure"; and directs all the party's power against "any clique, group, circle, faction, or party, which conspires or acts to subvert, undermine, weaken or overthrow any or all institutions of American democracy whereby the majority of the American people have obtained power to determine their own destiny in any degree."

On the face of things American liberals, who for years have taunted the party with its lack of democracy, its monolithic structure, its ultimate reliance on force, and its blind obedience to Moscow, should rejoice at this accretion to their ranks, but if it gives them the feeling of being embraced by a bear, they are hardly to be wondered at. They might first of all view with some suspicion the violence of the conversion. It would be one thing for the communists to say frankly to the progressive and labor forces of the country: "We want a socialist America; you don't. We differ fundamentally from you about a lot of things, and your idea of democracy is certainly not ours, but if fascism comes we'll all strew in the same pot, so we propose to work along with you on particular issues where the combination can block the fascist advance. And, in the meantime, we intend to go on trying to convince you that socialism is the only way out." That would have been easy to understand and refreshingly honest. But in fact the Marxist internationalists, airily shoving their socialism into a vague future, have emerged as the

matter! In his fireside talks, the President never fails to express his fervent enthusiasm for freedom and democracy and his burning indignation at their abridgement or destruction abroad. A little more of this enthusiasm, a little more of this indignation, somewhat closer to home, would surely come in handy at the present time.

The labor movement, after all the support it has given to the Administration in the past, certainly owes it to itself to demand in no uncertain terms that President Roosevelt take instant action to see that the ordinary constitutional guarantees are enforced in the domain of Mayor Hague, his colleague in Democratic party leadership.

When a journal such as the Nation, which sees eye to eye with the Communist Party on so many questions of domestic and foreign policy, can speak out in the manner of this editorial, it should become clear even to the Stalinists that unctuous hypocrisy and shameless double-dealing are hardly the way to "win" the liberals.—Ed.)

only true, red-white-and-blue Americans, with Earl Browder and William Z. Foster as spiritual descendants of Jefferson and Lincoln, communism as the flowering spirit of '76, and Yankee Doodle about to supplant the "International." They "extend the hand of brotherly cooperation" to "the great majority of Catholics" and rejoice in "fighting shoulder to shoulder with them for the same economic and social aims."

It would be presumptuous for us to pass on the motivations of the party in its present approach, but because that approach involves the cooperation of all progressive forces, it is not amiss to comment on the strategy involved. It is first a foolish strategy because it is too clumsy to be taken seriously and too devious to be practised wholeheartedly. The party's protestations that it has always been in the main stream of the American democratic tradition have an ex-post-facto odor; the Roosevelts, La Guardiias, and even the sacred Farmer-Laborites, might well ask with the poet: "Perhaps it was right to dissemble your love, but why did you kick me downstairs?"

But whether the party is believed or succeeds only in appearing slightly ridiculous is after all its own lookout. What concerns us far more is the danger of its infecting the labor and progressive groups, to which it appeals in the name of democracy, with its doctrinaire vendettas. Here is the paradox of the party's position is most glaringly apparent, for despite its earnest efforts to convince the public that it is American and democratic to the core, it has the ignorance of American political mores to decree in its new constitution that "no party member shall have personal or political relationship with Trotskyites, Lovestonites, or other known enemies of the party and the working class."

Since it is for the party to say who is and who is not an "enemy of the working class," this clause gives a political group an intolerable control over the most personal affairs of its members. If that is all right with the communists, it is all right with us, but as for the American tradition, we might remind Browder that this is a country in which even a du Pont may marry a Roosevelt. Politically, this constitutional stricture indicates that whenever a communist joins a trade union or a popular-front group of any sort, his first effort must be to bring about the expulsion of all Trotskyites, Lovestonites, isolationists, and other foes of the Communist Party's particular brand of democracy.

This may be traditional communist procedure, but shorn of the genuine and profound revolutionary objective which once was used to justify it, it can only add to what is already an oversupply of political bigotry on the left.

AMERICA'S BEST LABOR PAPER—SUBSCRIBE!

By Lambda

WORLD TODAY

Discontent Growing Among French Workers; Stalinist Treason

London, May 25, 1938.

DISCONTENT is growing among the French workers under pressure of mounting unemployment, the rise in living costs, high taxes and the systematic destruction of the achievements of the great June strikes by the Daladier government.

At their Vichy convention, the post-office workers overruled their Stalinist leadership and, by a vote of 519 to 424, passed a resolution demanding wage increases and a sliding scale and attacking the so-called "pause" in social legislation as well as efforts to limit the right to strike. They also voiced their opposition to the policy of supporting the financial interests of the bourgeoisie and appealed to the C.G.T. "to carry out the task which the People's Front parties proved to be unable to accomplish and demand the immediate realization of the program of social reform." In case such effort should remain ineffective, the C.G.T. must, they said, "reclaim the right of independent action."

Many workers are leaving the C.G.T. At present, the membership has fallen to about two million.

The socialist deputy Paul Rivet recently wrote in L'Oeuvre, the Radical-Socialist paper, that many members of the S.P. vigorously object to the "weak and even treacherous policy of their representatives and refuse to follow them."

Even supporters of the C.P. have, in letters to the editors of Humanite, expressed their dissatisfaction with the party line.

M. Thorez, the "leader" of the C.P., answered in a series of articles in Humanite, which make it clear that the Stalinist leadership has no intentions whatever of halting its march towards the "national front"—out of fear of "isolation" . . . from the big bourgeoisie!

As a counter-manoeuvre, Thorez issued the slogan of the election of the People's Front committees from below, in the factories and localities, and the summoning of a People's Front congress. He carefully explained, however, that the C.P. would not insist on such a plan against the will of the other People's Front parties. The fraudulent character of the whole manoeuvre is obvious.

To build up a broad united-front movement of the masses is possible only by breaking with the People's Front and mobilizing the workers and the middle classes against the policy of the government.

(The following paragraphs are from the May 21, 1938 issue of Independent News, a Spanish news bulletin published in Paris.—Editor.)

THE campaign of calumny conducted by the Stalinists against the P.O.U.M., accusing the militant members of this party of being agents of fascism, can no longer be ignored by any one.

But the campaign is one thing—and the facts are another. The truth is that up to now every piece of evidence has proven false and the notorious "documents" which were going to convict the P.O.U.M.ists have been exposed as forgeries, falsified in every respect. It has been impossible for them to confront a single revolutionist with an iota of proof that he had ever had, in the past or at present, any relationship whatsoever with fascists.

However, there are certain Stalinist organizations—the C.P., the P.S.U.C. and the J.S.U. (United Socialist Youth)—in which traitors, spies and agents of fascism have really been uncovered. Some fascists penetrated as high as the general staff of the army thru the medium of these organizations. And such facts as that the general staff of the Karl Marx Division passing entirely over to the enemy, prove to what extremes the counter-revolutionary attitude of the Stalinists can lead them!

An especially flagrant case of treason took place recently. On November 14, 1937, at Pins des Valles, Jaime Casademont was named General Secretary of the Barcelona Committee of the Stalinist J.S.U. and member of the Executive Committee of Catalonia. This election was his reward for the bloody campaign he conducted against the J.C.I. (Iberian Communist Youth) and the P.O.U.M. After his election, Casademont felt himself obligated to multiply his insults against the members of these organizations.

In the entire Stalinist press, Casademont's pictures were published and he himself called "the

(Continued on Page 5)

BOOKS

LABOR STUFF, by members of the Labor Journalism Class, Dressmakers Union Local 22, I.L.G.W.U. Published by the Educational Department of Local 22, New York, 1938.

OUT of the classes conducted in Local 22 has emerged a program of workers education that has stirred the entire labor movement of America. And, just as this union has shown the way in so many other aspects of educational and cultural work of and by union members, so once again, with this publication, a note is struck in union journalism that will not soon be forgotten.

"Labor Stuff" is what they have called these twenty-five pages of mimeographed "stuff," and the title is characteristic of the contents. In the few short pieces that comprise the pamphlet, there is contained a well-balanced journalistic expression of the life of the dressmakers union and its educational department. Poetry and prose, news reporting and fiction, satire and humor, interview and exposition—all this is found in the first issue. Although the issue fittingly revolves around the union and its activities, it is no more repetitious in content than in form. Articles cover such a variety of subjects, as the work of the Union Defenders Committee, an interview with Manager Zimmerman, and the sensations of the dressmaker in the factory as "spring, anciently new, eternally green, comes to the city, like peace after war."

Labor journalism in the ordinary sense of the term is not new in America. Hundreds of newspapers and magazines are published by unions in almost every industry. What is new here is an effort by union members, trained in journalism only by the union itself, to capture in writing the spirit and problems of their organization and present them to the membership. It is for this reason that, in his introductory remarks, Lewis Corey, educational director of the union, is able to say: "All thru the writing pulses that spirit of union consciousness, union understanding and union loyalty which is the creative promise of greater things to come."

No doubt, as the class progresses, it will itself see the shortcomings of this first effort. It is my belief that the contents are too exclusively concerned with the dressmakers union to the exclusion of general questions which agitate labor and therefore Local 22 as well. A better balance could have been reached had there been at least one article on war, or the Labor Party, or the C.I.O.—an article that would have related the subject to the dressmakers and their organization.

Perhaps, after a period of experimentation, it will be found that such a poem as "Spring," which I consider the highlight of creative writing in the booklet, has been presented in a medium which limits its audience to so few that it impedes the purpose of writing for workers. But these are matters, whether of omission or commission, on which the class itself must decide. Its capabilities in passing on such problems, perfecting its work and setting an example for progressive unions everywhere to follow, are proven by "Labor Stuff." E.S.

French S.P. Split As Blum Expels the Left Socialists

The French Socialist Party was split wide open last week at its congress at Royan thru the action of the dominant right-wing group, headed by Leon Blum, in forcing thru a resolution for continued support to the reactionary Daladier regime, having previously expelled a big section of the Revolutionary Left tendency because of its opposition to this policy of capitulation.

The clash came first over the issue of seating the delegates of the Seine (Paris) Federation, the biggest party organization, of which Marceau Pivert is secretary. The Seine Federation had been arbitrarily "dissolved" some weeks before by the Blum clique as punishment for its militancy during the recent governmental crisis. When representatives of the federation appeared at the Royan congress demanding to be seated, with the right of appeal against the action of the Blum leadership, the congress decided, by 4,284 to 3,002, to bar them. Immediately thereafter

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with so many left-wing delegates ousted, the congress adopted the resolution of support to the Daladier regime.

The Revolutionary Left delegates, those seated as well as those unseated, thereupon withdrew and announced their intention of forming a new "Workers-Peasants Socialist Party" and calling a congress for July 16 at Paris.

The Revolutionary Left tendency, in addition to dominating the key Paris district, has wide support among the socialist organizations throughout the country. Despite inaccurate descriptions in the press, the Pivert tendency is not at all Trotskyist; on the contrary, its political relations with Trotskyism are hostile on both sides. In its general attitude and policies, the French Revolutionary Left is closely associated with the International Conference held recently at Paris, at which the I.L.P., the P.O.U.M., and the American I.C.L.L. were represented.

New Attack On U.A.W.

(Continued from Page 1) reason: the proposed group-insurance plan which this special meeting was called to consider is a matter of fundamental importance to the entire C.I.O. and we think it better to go over the matter in close consultation with the C.I.O. leaders in Washington.

From recent events, it has become clear that Richard T. Frankenstein has been working under cover as an agent of the Communist Party for some time and that he has now decided to come out into the open. This is obvious from his statement as published in the Detroit Free Press of June 11, in which he declares that "the real objective of the group (i.e., the Frankenstein-Stalinist combination—Editor) is the extermination of the Lovestonites . . . This is no more than an echo of the slogan "Drive Lovestonites out of the labor movement" issued by the Communist Party some time ago and recently embodied in its new constitution. "We're fighting Reds," Frankenstein assured the Detroit paper, thus laying bare the reactionary, Red-baiting character of the Stalinist factional drive in the U.A.W. and giving the lie to all their talk of "unity."

The Communist Party is now engaged in a desperate effort to hold together its crumbling forces in the C.I.O. As these lines are being written, they are under heavy fire in the oil-workers union, where Harvey Fremming, the union president, has been forced to take up a fight against their factionalism and disruption. In the face of this situation, the Stalinites are resorting to tactics of union-wrecking without precedent in the labor movement.

What is really behind the Stalinist policy in the U.A.W. and other unions, can be seen from the following sensational development. A month ago, the International Executive Board of the U.A.W. adopted unanimously a 20-point program presented by Homer Martin, one point of which included support of the LaFollette-Ludlow war-referendum amendment. All four of the Stalinists on the Board voted in favor. The unanimous endorsement of this program constituted, of course, a unanimous vote of confidence in the Martin administration. Last week, the Central Committee of the American Communist Party received code instructions from Moscow severely reprimanding it for having supported the Martin program and ordering it to resume the war against the

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News of the AGE

HE DOESN'T LIKE US! Worcester, Mass.

Messers. Know-It-All: I have been receiving your weekly Workers Age for the past nine or ten months. How I have been able to tolerate it this long can only be due to inertia.

Yes, I have read them all, each time hoping that I might find some example of truth and right reason. I have not the patience, nor do I feel like devoting the time to a comprehensive declaration of my criticism. All I am going to say is please do not send me any more copies of the Workers Age. Cancel the balance of my subscription. It requires much less time and energy to listen to calumny and falsehoods and short-sighted reasoning than it does to read about it.

Cancel the subscription. G. A. D.

Well, well! But after all, that's only one man's opinion. What do you think? \*

A WORD ABOUT THOSE WHO LIKE US

WE are plainly told in the letter above that we are no damned good because we are against the People's Front. We plead guilty because we are for a united workers front.

Many letters reach us attesting to the fact that workers thoroughly understand the difference between the two "fronts" and support our views with enthusiasm. Some of these letters you have read. We will publish more.

However, there is no more eloquent expression of what workers think of us than the constant, almost daily requests for back numbers of the Workers Age. These requests are not merely limited to recent issues but are also for articles written way back by Herberg, Lovestone, Wolfe, Lambda, Fraser and others. They recognize the value of our prophetic warnings of 1932 and 1933, when the German working class met its most disastrous defeat. They eagerly seek every article written on Spain. They realize our sound analysis of past events and they note with anxiety our warning: "It is NOT YET too late for the French working class to ward off fascism." With eyes focused on the French scene, workers in all parts of the country, in many parts of the world, are looking more and more to the Workers Age for understanding, guidance, and leadership.

In a sense, there are really no back numbers of the Workers Age. Every issue is an historical document. Those of our readers who had the forethought to collect the bound volumes of the Age have an invaluable source of contemporary Marxist material. Last year's (1937) is especially rich in this material. The year 1937 was the year of the Spanish civil war, the year of the Russian purges (read: assassinations), the year of the C.I.O. Some copies of these bound volumes are still available at \$1.75. Order them from our Literature Department and hope that you are not too late. \*

Progress Of The New Subscription Drive

ALMOST 150 subscriptions have come in the first week of the Drive. The New York knitgood workers are taking the lead. This is significant because they are taking the brunt of the terrific open-shop offensive of the bosses. These workers realize that the struggle for a better world can only mean a struggle for a workers world.

This is a beginning—but only a beginning. To go over the top with our program of bringing the Age to 3,000 new readers, we must speed up our beginning and continue it right thru with increasing

Court Backs Scab Verdict

Lansing, Mich. The Michigan Supreme Court upheld the conviction of Lester Washburn, U.A.W. regional director, who had been tried for interference with "the right to work" of a strikebreaker during the Capital City Wrecking Company strike last June.

Tried under a vague 1931 statute, Washburn contended that the law was both unconstitutional and unenforceable. In the decision rendered, Justice Chandler insisted that: "Our statute makes no distinction between the representative of the labor union or an individual. The right of labor to strike is, of course, not affected by the statute under consideration. Yet its terms are sufficiently broad to prevent individual interference with the right to work as well as organized effort."

Broad this statute certainly is and the interpretation of the State Supreme Court is equally generous where the employers interests are concerned. The statute and the court ruling can be used to obstruct every form of picketing—regardless of the statement relative to the right to strike—because to some extent every form of picketing tends to interfere with strike-breaking and scabbing.

Director Washburn must now pay a \$100 fine and costs of \$150 or serve ninety days in the Ingham County Jail.

The State Supreme Court decision brought the following comment from Alan Strachan, secretary of Labor's Non-Partisan League of Michigan:

"The decision contains dangerous implications and unquestionably threatens the right of picketing. It is particularly significant to labor now because the Michigan Bar Association is working for an amendment that State Supreme Court justices be appointed rather than elected, a right the people have possessed since 1850.

"Under an elective system the voters can express their disapproval of decisions of this nature. If the backward movement to appoint them succeeds, then the people will have no recourse when justices hand down decisions which weaken the democratic rights of the common people."

The World Today

(Continued from Page 4) most illustrious guide" of the young Catalanian workers.

But, suddenly, the Stalinist press stopped speaking of this "illustrious guide," of this "beloved leader" of all the Catalanian youth. Not a single article about him appeared in the press. No longer were heard his bloody speeches, his shameful attacks on the P.O.U.M. and the J.C.I.

What had taken place? Oh, practically nothing! They had merely discovered that Jaime Casademont had belonged to a fascist organization right up to the July days of 1936! Had not Carrillo one day declared that in the J.S.U. all "young fascists of good faith" could find their place! And Casademont had simply been one of them. He had so well learned his lesson of struggle against the revolutionists of the P.O.U.M. that he had earned the honor of being promoted to the category of "beloved leader!"

vigor and energy until we really do go over the top. We appeal to every reader of the Age for help. Get in touch with the Age Drive Committee and you will see how easy it is for you to do your bit.

ON WITH THE BIG DRIVE. R. MACKLIN

## Weinstock is Out of Race

Louis Weinstock, Stalinist secretary-treasurer of the Brotherhood of Painters, District Council 9, was eliminated last week as a candidate to succeed himself as the leader of the 12,000 union painters in Manhattan and the Bronx.

Weinstock was defeated when his local union, No. 848, meeting at the Yorkville Labor Temple, named Louis J. Stevens as its choice. The local gave Stevens 449 votes and Weinstock 389.

Election rules of the painters district council provide that a candidate must be named by his own local. Three other candidates are in the field. They are Generoso Pellechio, William Haupt and Morris Gainer.

Weinstock said today that his group would support Gainer. The others are considering concentrating on Stevens. Polling will take place on June 25.

## "Purging" the Footnotes

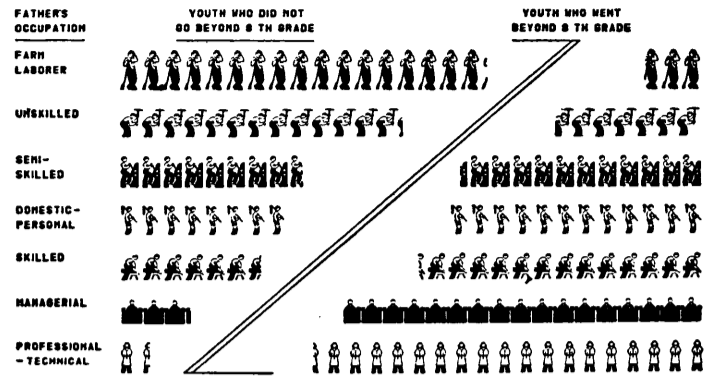
IN the prefatory editorial note to Vol. IX of Lenin's Selected Works, just issued in the English edition, we find the following remarkable statement:

"The explanatory notes given in the preceding volumes of Selected Works were translated from the above-mentioned Russian edition (of 1933). Developments during the past few years, however, imperatively call for a thoro revision of these notes and the M.E.L. Institute is now engaged in revising them for publication in Russian. This work of revision is taking longer than was anticipated, however; and to wait until it is completed would delay the publication of the remaining volumes of the English edition. The publishers, therefore, believe that they are acting in the English readers interest in deciding—by agreement with the M.E.L. Institute—to omit

the explanatory notes from the remaining volumes."

Was there ever a more humiliating confession of moral and ideological bankruptcy? Under the arbitrary regime of Stalinist reaction, the history of the Russian revolution is being rewritten and falsified at such a rate that the explanatory notes to the 1933 Russian edition are already under the ban. Furthermore, so bewildered are the Stalinist pen-prostitutes who compile the notes at the bloody whirligig of the Stalinist purge—a hero and leader today, a fascist and spy tomorrow—that they have taken prudence for the better part of valor and decided not to write any explanatory notes at all, to leave the text bare—but safe! What a fitting symbol for Stalinism—the abdication of all knowledge and reason, of thought itself, in the dread shadow of Yezhov's G.P.U.

### RELATION OF FATHERS' OCCUPATIONS TO THE AMOUNT OF EDUCATION THEIR CHILDREN RECEIVED



Education beyond the eighth grade is determined largely by the father's income level. A doctor's son is shown to have six times the chances of a farm laborer's son.

What is a caste system? It is a system in which an individual's opportunities for education, personal achievement and social recognition depend not so much upon his own character and abilities as upon his birth and social position. There is nothing more repugnant to real democracy than a caste system!

Look at the above chart, taken from the June 10 issue of Life.\* It shows that, in this country, higher education (beyond the eighth grade) is determined largely by the father's income level and social position. It shows that an executive's son has about two-and-a-half times the chances of going beyond the eighth grade at school that an unskilled-worker's son has—that a professional man's son has about six times the chances of a farm laborer's son. Neither intelligence nor character counts as much as father's income!

Here we have a caste system in full flower—in this land of "democracy," "equality" and "freedom of opportunity."

\* The survey was made in 1935 by the American Youth Commission of the American Council on Education for the state of Maryland, which was taken as typical of the country as a whole.

## Youth Against War

(Continued from Page 3)  
meetings" for the strike against war.

2. Armed forces in China, etc. The Y.C.A.W. denounces the use of U. S. armed forces to protect American investments, demands their withdrawal and opposes the whole colonial system. The Stalinists insist upon the maintenance of American armed forces in China to resist Japanese aggression; they shout frantically about Japanese threats to "our" Philippines and other Pacific possessions as well as to the "sunny shores of California."

3. "Collective security" is condemned by the Y.C.A.W. as a deceptive variation of "the power politics which meant war in 1914 and means the same today." The Stalinists are the most violent advocates of the "collective action" of France, Great Britain, the U.S. A. and other "great democracies" in the interests of "peace."

4. Referendum on war. The Youth Committee, recognizing that "democratic decision concerning war is no absolute panacea," nevertheless favors such a referendum because "it will serve as a real obstacle in the path of the warmakers." The Stalinists viciously attack this democratic proposal as an "aid to fascism."

5. Super-navy, M-day plans, etc. The Y.C.A.W. unreservedly rejects the super-navy program and the preparations for a war dictatorship; it calls for a "struggle for the abolition of the R.O.T.C." The Stalinists are ready to accept the rearmament program; they tone down their opposition to the Roosevelt war-regimentation plans; and they invite officers of the R.O.T.C. to address their "peace" meetings!

6. Fascism. The Y.C.A.W. program clearly states: "Peace cannot be secured in an economy based on exploitation." Wars are a result of such "nationalist profit economics." Hence, the fundamental struggle against war (and fascism) lies in the struggle for economic security, jobs for the unemployed, homes and education, instead of battle-ships, etc. The Stalinists rally to the defense of "democratic" capitalism as a bulwark against fascism.

7. Isolationism. The Y.C.A.W. takes its stand upon internationalism as opposed to "isolation" in the following words: "We propose the independent action of the world labor movement together with all groups who oppose war, across national lines in common opposition to war and militarism." The Stalinists attack all opposed to the "collective-security" fraud as either "fascists" or "isolationists" or both. They advocate alliances

along purely imperialistic lines—the "peace-loving" imperialisms against the "aggressor" imperialisms.

### Limitations Of The Program

The essential soundness of this program, the clarity of its directives and the unanimity and militant spirit in which it was adopted, show that there is yet time to organize the real anti-war forces. Already, substantial forces have rallied to the stand of the Youth Committee.

As revolutionary Marxists, we recognize the shortcomings as readily as we perceive the sound features of this program. Its failure to take a definitive stand for lifting the embargo against Loyalist Spain, for example, constitutes a weakness in the program. Our comrades, active participants in all of the deliberations of the commissions, took part in the formulation of the program; wherever possible, we tried to expand its scope and, in some cases, we succeeded.

One thing can be confidently said: If the program as such is correctly carried out in the course of the coming year, it is to be expected that, as a result of the experiences of the organization, the program will be improved and strengthened. The immediate task is that of building the organization in every corner of the country, and especially among the trade-union youth who must form the core of any youth anti-war movement.

(Another article on the youth movement against war will appear in an early issue.—Editor.)

## Jay Lovestone In Boston Meet

Boston, Mass.

Two hundred workers representing a very good cross section of the trade-union and political movement of Boston turned out to hear Jay Lovestone speak on the recent events in Austria. The workers present followed with rapt attention Lovestone's striking analysis of what happened in Central Europe, and several times they responded with enthusiastic applause to the speaker's stirring description of the heroic efforts of the Austrian workers to force their government to give them arms to fight back Hitler's fascists. Approximately \$50 was contributed by the audience to help the underground labor movement in what was once Austria.

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## P.O.U.M. Youth Appeal

(Continued from Page 3)  
in short, they tried to make the lives of the prisoners less miserable.

But the most shameful cases are those of two youthful J.C.I. militants: Ferrer, a 15-year old girl, was arrested for reading the illegal Batalla in the street and condemned to six years imprisonment; Zayuelas, a 17-year old

boy, was condemned to twelve years in jail because the police found three numbers of the illegal Batalla in his house.

At the front, Figuerola and Aranyo, both of the J.C.I., have been assassinated.

An eye-witness relates that Figuerola received an order from his Stalinist chiefs to present himself at the headquarters of his branch. Upon his arrival, he was put in an automobile and whisked away, and has never been heard of since.

These are the sort of things that the "democratic" Azanas, Negrins, and Alvarez del Vayos allow, support, and abet in "Republican" Spain.

We beseech you to make these terrible facts known to the youth of America. It is your duty and your responsibility. For the defense of the social revolution and for the immediate victory of the Loyalist forces in Spain, these murders and persecutions must stop. Protest today to the Spanish Ambassador in Washington. Get all liberal organizations and individuals to protest in the same way, not only to the Ambassador but to Prime Minister Negrin. Send cables, letters, postal cards, group protests, lists of signatures, everything and anything, but send them immediately.

Will you write us and tell us what you have been able to do and will you send us copies of cables, messages and letters sent to the Ambassador and to Spain? This will greatly encourage our persecuted comrades and it is the least that we can do for them.

We rely on your revolutionary convictions and on your fraternal solidarity not to abandon our comrades in Spain. MARTINI

## Tom Lewis Dies

From A. Pita, recording secretary, and A. Valicenti, chairman, of the Triboro Club (1st A. D.), Astoria, L. I., of the American Labor Party, we have received information of the death of Thomas John Lewis on June 2, 1938, at the age of 73. He was a veteran of the labor movement, active in the A.L.P.

### NEUTRALIZING NEUTRALITY

(The following paragraphs are taken from Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen's "Washington Merry-Go-Round" column of June 2, 1938.—Editor.)

THE State Department doesn't like to admit it, but the real fact is that the Neutrality Act has been quietly neutralized in regard to every situation except Spain. It has not been applied to China and Japan. And, if any loophole can be figured out, it will not be applied to Europe.

Originally the career boys were not worried about Europe. Mr. Hull knew that under the Neutrality Act, France and Great Britain could buy raw materials here, to be processed in their own factories, and that was all France and Britain wanted.

Walter Runciman, head of the British Board of Trade, arranged all this when he was over here last year. He made it quite clear not only that Britain would require these raw materials, but that if they were not forthcoming, she in turn, would withhold two raw materials all-essential to the United States—rubber and tin.

Now, however, the situation has changed. British and French factories have not been able to keep pace with the German in the rearmament race, and they already contemplate buying airplanes over here. Should war break, they would need much more. Sale of manufactured munitions, however, is barred in wartime. And that is one of the big reasons for the increased desire to revise neutrality.