

# THE FIGHTING WORKER

## WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Organ of the Revolutionary Workers League of the U. S.

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## Developments Show American Imperialism Plays Major Role in the War

### NEW CLEVELAND TAX LEVY ROBS MASSES TO PAY BANKERS

Cleveland, April 1 — By the narrow margin of 373 votes out of a total of over 92,000 Mayor Burton's real estate levy amendment to the city charter carried in the present city election.

Behind the passage of the 8.2177 mill levy on property is one of the filthiest and most brazen political campaigns in history; one of the rottenest and most hypocritical steals from the pockets of the working class that any city has ever seen. And the man who engineered it is supposed

### Alabama Refuses Parole to Five Scottsboro Boys

On March 8, the Alabama Pardon Board unanimously refused the applications for parole of the five remaining defendants in the world-famous Scottsboro cases. These victims of landlord-capitalist oppression and Stalinist liberal-hyster duplicity are:

Haywood Patterson, sentenced to 75 years.

Clarence Norris, sentenced for life.

Andy Wright, sentenced to 99 years.

Charlie Weems, sentenced to 75 years.

Ozie Powell, sentenced to 20 years.

Still trembling from the shock of the first fairly militant period of struggle for the liberty of these victims, and apparently fearful of renewed efforts, the Board ruled that hereafter any reference to these prisoners as "Scottsboro Defendants" would be inaccurate.

Readers of the Fighting Worker will recall the infamous deal made over two years ago by which four of the "Scottsboro boys" were released in exchange for turning over the other five to the living death of that hell hole known as the Alabama State Penitentiary.

#### OUR ANSWER

Like Pilate, the liberals, the Negro petty bourgeoisie, the Stalinists and their ilk, call for water to wash their hands of the blood of these prisoners, and direct useless appeals to the non-existent "mercy" of the ruling class of Alabama.

The answer of the workers, Negro and white, is dictated by the very expressed fear of the Alabama Pardon Board. We must again raise such a storm of protest that it will shatter the

to be a "liberal" and is in fact—although a Republican—very close and chummy with the New Deal.

A number of months ago, during the shutdown of relief in Cleveland, the FIGHTING WORKER accused Burton of using the misery of the unemployed to force passage of this phony tax. Events have confirmed what we said.

#### CUTS RELIEF

The amendment gives Burton and the city "fathers" the right for the next five years to just about double the tax on the city property owners. This year the increase will be from about twelve and a half million to over twenty-five million dollars. By clever propaganda and lies Burton has made it appear that the increase is necessary for relief.

But in actuality only about \$400,000 of this sum is to go for relief. The fly in the ointment, however, is that Mr. Burton—in the face of new WPA layoffs and unemployment—in his regular budget cut almost 3 million dollars out of relief appropriations.

So that even though the total budget this year will be over 2 million dollars more than last year, and even though an additional tax that will be shifted on to the working class in higher rents, has been levied, the unemployed relief appropriation is really going to be cut by close to 2½ million dollars.

#### PAY THE BANKERS

Tucked away in one of the provisions of the new amendment is a section which gives the wealthy bankers—NOT THE STARVING UNEMPLOYED FOR WHOM THE BILL WAS SUPPOSEDLY PASSED—the first claim on all city money including property taxes.

Passage of the bill really means a great increase in rents for all the workers in Cleveland. It is an out and out passing of the buck of taxation onto the shoulders of the Cleveland workers in order to pay the bankers.

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walls of the Alabama Bastille. No other way is possible. It is high time for a broad united front to militantly fight for the release of our five brothers. But it must be a united front that will exclude such lackeys of the capitalist class or their dupes as pulled off the Liebowitz sell-out. Definite organizational proposals to this end are being worked out and will be carried in a very early issue of the Fighting Worker.

### A PRINTED International News!

With the April issue of INTERNATIONAL NEWS, the International Contact Commission takes a big step forward. The English edition of the magazine will now regularly appear in a printed format of 16 pages, rather than the former mimeographed bulletin.

Contents of the present issue include:

Gold and American Imperialism.

Outline Report on Latest Developments in the Soviet Union.

The Maturing Revolt in India.

Bourgeois Philistinism versus Marxism — Arguments on the Character of the Soviet Union.

The price of the magazine will

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### CONFERENCE CALLED TO AID VIRGINIA AFL AND CIO STRIKERS

Richmond, Va. April 1—A conference of working class organizations is being organized here by left-wing trade union and political elements to aid the striking CIO coal loaders of Hopewell and the striking AFL Luggage Workers of Petersburg. We print below excerpts from the conference call, which is self-explanatory:

TO ALL WORKING CLASS ORGANIZATIONS:

In Petersburg a strike of several hundred workers of the American Hardware Company has been met by the use of the state police, by the threat of tear gas bombs, and, just a few days ago, by a sweeping injunction, combined with the onslaught of the courts against certain strikers for alleged assault and battery at the same time that strikebreakers were freed on similar charges. This strike is conducted by an A. F. of L. union.

Just a few miles away in Hopewell, a strike under C. I. O. auspices against the Solvay Process Company has been met with exactly the same tactics on the part of the employers. State police have been used here also. And on March 21 an injunction, if anything more sweeping than the Petersburg one, was issued.

We, representatives of unions, both C. I. O. and A. F. of L., and of political organizations of the working class, call upon all working class organizations to fight this offensive on the part of the employers...

We call upon all working class organizations, C. I. O., A. F. of L.

### Forged or Not, Polish Documents Reveal War Role of U.S. Imperialism

The gentlemen on capitol hill in Washington are having a tough time answering the 16 document expose of Germany which tends to show that Uncle Sam has his finger in the war pie right from the very start—that show in fact that he was the big gun that perked up the backbone of Anglo-French Imperialism and thrust it into the battle.

The alleged papers consist of reports of conversations of the Polish diplomats with Ambassadors Bullitt, Kennedy and others. According to the Hitler regime they were discovered in the Warsaw archives when Germany seized this city.

The papers may very well be forgeries. Bourgeois powers at war—and out of war—have

been known to forge many documents. (For instance the famous "Zinoviev papers" in the 1920's). But if the papers are forgeries they are forgeries based on FACTS, because the line of American Imperialism as laid down in these hews quite close to the truth.

#### AGAINST THE SOVIETS

Bullitt is charged, for instance, with telling the Polish Ambassador that he "hoped" that Germany would invade Russia. American Imperialism has been and continues to be the main organizing force against the October Revolution and the Soviet Union. Mr. Welles trip to Europe recently had this as one of its main points.

Polish Ambassador Potocki on Jan. 12, 1939 is reported to have informed his government that Bullitt was ordered back to Europe to report to France and England that the U. S. is preparing the biggest war budget in history, that America is ready to give them material aid if they will stop their policy of compromising with German aggressions.

This, too, is quite in line with American policy. Because of her great economic strength the U. S. has always been ready to sell war supplies for cash and to oppose any territorial annexations by other imperialist powers. The U. S. has fought for the present political status-quo—AS FAR AS THE OTHER POWERS WERE CONCERNED—while she herself tried to gobble up world markets and gain indirect political control over greater areas.

#### WITH A GRAIN OF SALT

The point about the U. S. giving aid to Britain, however, must be taken with a grain of salt. Uncle Sam's policy may be one of parallel action with Great Britain on certain occasions, but her long term and main line of march is to undermine the British Empire.

Other points of the sensational charges include the point that Bullitt stated that "should war break out we certainly will not participate at the beginning, but we shall finish it".

This too fits in with American policy. The U. S. capitalists are anxious to stay out of the war as long as possible, to trade with all powers, reap the greatest profit, and then at the strategic moment if necessary enter the war and with the aid of its vast resources and enormous gold supply impose the terms of "peace"—in other words strengthen itself during the war, so that at its end (if proletarian revolution does not intervene) the U. S. can steal the lion's share.

unemployed, etc., to elect delegates, one for every fifty members or fraction thereof, to a conference to be held at Room 6, Y. W. C. A. 6 N. 5th St., Richmond, Va., on April 3 (Wednesday) at 8.00 P. M., to cooperate in carrying out the following program:

1. DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE STATE POLICE FROM PETERSBURG AND HOPEWELL.

2. GIVE A L L POSSIBLE EFFECTIVE AID TO SMASHING THE INJUNCTIONS.

3. LAUNCH A CITYWIDE CAMPAIGN (AND EXTEND IT THROUGHOUT THE STATE) TO GIVE TO OUR STRIKING FELLOW WORKERS:

a. Material aid. Money, food, fuel, clothing, etc. direct to the strikers.

b. Legal aid.

c. Fraternal counsel and encouragement.

See to it that your organization is represented at the Conference. Do not let the appeal of our fellow workers go unheard.

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE FOR CONFERENCE TO AID PETERSBURG AND HOPEWELL STRIKES.

In Petersburg the spirit of the rank-and-file of strikers, mostly composed of young workers, is excellent. They are not only demanding the closed shop and the check-off, but also advances in wages, and control by the union over hiring and firing. In

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## BUILDERS of the FUTURE

The House of Representatives has recently added \$50,000,000 to the \$230,000,000 that Roosevelt asked to keep 1227 camps of the CCC going in 1941. The extra money will maintain all 1500 camps now operating. Another addition was made of \$17,450,000 to the Roosevelt request of \$85,000,000 for the National Youth Administration in 1941. It would seem then that the Congressmen want to help relieve the plight of American youth a bit more than budget-slashing Roosevelt!

But that is not the case. These recent additions, if they are finally put through, will only be part and parcel of the war drive of the American bosses and THEIR representatives in Congress. In the case of the CCC, it is well-known that the idea of relief is only secondary to the primary requirements of a base for a MASS army in time of war. The Army-controlled CCC, with its discipline and sometimes outright military training, serves very well as such a base.

As in the former case, the NYA too is taking on more and more military significance. Its rolls have been turned over to the war department and an intensive campaign is going on within the NYA to train youth as aviators. Thus the money spent to "relieve" American youth will soon be instrumental in relieving these same youth of their lives! Once again "youth will be served" — as cannon fodder!

"Earn While You Learn", thus read the recruiting posters of the U. S. military machine. The average pay of a private in the U. S. Army is \$21 per month, for the marine it is \$17—\$21 per month, and the sailor gets \$28 per month, the same as the fellow in the CCC. These are the huge sums allotted for the privilege of killing and dying for Morgan and his ilk. And at the speed that the American bosses are hurtling this country into war, these youth will not be collecting even that amount very long. A more appropriate slogan would be: "Join the Army Now! We'll get you later anyhow!"

America's locked-out generation of five million unemployed youth will be glad to learn that while they starve, the U. S. Government is expending one and one-half billions of dollars for the military machine this year only, an amount that could buy 378,000 new homes.

Today, it costs upwards of \$70,000,000 to build a single battleship. A solitary broadside in target practice may run as high as \$25,000. And Roosevelt is building a navy second to none! Some newspapers are even campaigning for a navy double that of England! — costs more than \$300,000 merely to build one experimental bomber. All in all, eighteen cents out of every government dollar is being spent on the war machine. The capitalists call this progress.

## POLISH DOCUMENTS

(Continued from page 1)

The documents have a number of weak points. For instance Potocki is reported to have cabled to the Polish foreign office that Jews were using Roosevelt. This is obviously a Nazi addition.

But whether the documents are genuine or not, it is evident that German Imperialism as well as all other powers, on the one hand, and the Marxists, on the other, realize clearly that AMERICAN IMPERIALISM IS THE MAIN DRIVING FORCE FOR WAR!

# What Kind of Victory Did The Soviets Win in Finland?

What is the nature of the Soviet victory in Finland? How far-reaching is it?

In the 1st World War German Imperialism won one great victory after another. And yet these very victories, won at a tremendous cost, undermined its social, economic, and political structure and caused its defeat.

During the Stalinist fourth period, when Stalinism was supporting bourgeois democracy, it won many "victories" in the political arena — it forced unity with the Socialists in France, Spain and elsewhere. It gained seats of prominence in bourgeois parliaments, etc. But these very victories, because they lulled the masses into support of capitalism, laid the base for all sorts of smashing restrictions against the Stalinites and other political organizations.

The same can be said of the victory in Finland. The Soviet Union and Stalinism have gained a temporary respite. Invasion by the imperialists in the Arctic area has been made much more difficult and has been set back to a future date on the calendar. The Workers State is better prepared, in a MILITARY sense, as a result of the victory, to check assaults in Asia and in the Balkans.

## "VICTORY" LEADS TO ULTIMATE DEFEAT

But in the most real sense this victory brings the ultimate defeat of the Soviet Union, the smashing of the Workers State, miles closer. For even though it momentarily strengthened the U. S. S. R. it strengthened German Imperialism even more and now Germany will make greater inroads in undermining the Soviet Union.

The concept that Stalinism or the U. S. S. R. is imperialist is 100% false. Imperialism is based on a certain type of economy — capitalist economy dominated by finance capital. That does not exist in Russia. But Stalinism in the Soviet Union most assuredly has bolstered up, has put props under world imperialism.

When, through the Finnish-Soviet peace, Germany is able to extend its control over Scandinavia and the Balkans, this strengthens imperialism and capitalism; it weakens the working class; it makes certain that imperialist war will be prolonged and bloody; it makes much easier the oppression of the German working class by the Nazi butchers.

## «The Land We Live In»

If your belly is becoming glued to your backbone because there is nothing in your stomach to keep it separated, you can take consolation in the fact that there are now 65,329,000 pounds of turkey in cold storage in the U. S. Speaking of relief in this grand and glorious land we live in, where every man has an equal chance with every other man (to land in the soup-line) here are some figures to make you pound your chest:

In Mississippi, where the bosses have "special" books (if any) for Negro school children, the average MONTHLY relief is \$2.75 per family, or about 9 cents a day. In the more "aristocratic" Arkansas, where to mention the

name of Darwin or "evolution" (to say nothing of Marx or "Communism") is to draw a \$300 fine and a year in jail, the lucky workers get an average of \$4.50 per month — if they are lucky enough to get anything.

### CHEAPER THAN BURIAL

In Jersey City, stronghold of Boss (I-am-the-law) Hague, a relief official obtained an appropriation of \$450,000 by showing in a well-prepared statistical chart that it was cheaper to feed em than it was to bury em.

In one city, all who are able to walk, drag, hobble, or crawl to the relief station are by that fact counted as "employable" and turned away. Mere physical ability to apply for relief is in itself a "disqualifying" clause.

In another city blind people who can see a bright moving object more than a foot (13

In return for the peace in Finland as well as the grab in Poland Stalinism has done yeoman's work in checking the revolutionary developments in those areas. At the time of the Polish invasion facts were scarce. Now it is generally admitted that hundreds of thousands of peasants seized the land, workers struck against the bourgeois Polish regime — a revolutionary ferment brought in by the socialist-conscious Red Army men swept the area. There can be little doubt that the same was true in Finland. But in each instance Stalinism put a halter on this ferment, even though it was forced to permit the expropriation of the large landowners and the capitalists. It stopped the revolutions from spreading.

### AID COUNTER-REVOLUTION

Furthermore in places like Germany and Italy today Stalinism is openly aiding the imperialist masters. Stalinist stool-pigeons point out militants to the Gestapo in Germany. One thousand revolutionists were recently handed over by the German Gestapo to the Russian GPU. Stalinism supports the German "peace" offensive, an offensive to strengthen German Imperialism AGAINST the working class.

These developments (and many others) are accumulating, giving power and courage to the counter-revolutionary elements within and outside of Russia. The inevitable result will be in the near future (when the bourgeois "friends" of the Soviet Union like Corliss Lamont and others, least expect it) a revolutionary culmination — the attempted counter-revolution against the October property relations.

The R. W. L. predicted in 1936 that the policy of Stalinism would bring catastrophe and force the bureaucracy to try to make a rapprochement with Hitler. (See the November 1936 issue of the "FOURTH INTERNATIONAL").

We can now state with certainty that the "peace" alliance of Hitler and Stalinism will lead to the smashing of Stalinism itself before the imperialist war ends. The struggle between the workers and counter-revolution in Russia becomes more imminent each day by victories based on the interests of Stalinism, which subordinates the Soviet Union to German Imperialism.

DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION DESPITE AND AGAINST STALINISM!

## Civil Liberties — If Any

Now for a rapid survey of some of the civil liberties enjoyed equally by natives, naturalized citizens, and the stranger within our gates.

Thirty-four pickets arrested at a Home Relief Bureau in West 116 Street, New York, for picketing and demanding relief. 13 pickets sent to jail in the Bronx at another Home Relief Bureau. Six others sent to jail for picketing another Bronx bureau. In White Plains "welfare officials arranged today to demand a pauper's oath of relief recipients each time checks are distributed."

Workers on the four WPA arts projects are now included in the rule requiring WPA property custodians, teachers, and other employees having contact with children, to be fingerprinted.

Police rode into pickets and bystanders alike in front of the French Consulate in Radio City. The pickets were protesting the expulsion of Spanish refugees from France. In the fracas a passerby named Gaston, a descendant of Henry Ward Beecher, was rough-housed and insolently spoken to by the police. He is bringing a case against them as a public service. He contends that we are living under a civil, not a military government.

It may be so, although Secretary of the Navy Edison has ruled that civilians "unwilling to sign an oath to support and defend the nation's Constitution would be held ineligible for employment by the navy." The headline on this item is "Navy Bars Pacifists in Civilian Posts." And the President signed an order for masters of all vessels passing through the Panama Canal to confiscate cameras during the passage.

### KLAN AND BIG BUSINESS

The Klan in Atlanta started innocently enough on March 2 by riding out in full regalia distributing handbills calling for Congress to outlaw the Communist Party in the U. S. "and all other un-American organizations." But by March 11 they had tortured and murdered a barber named Ike Gaston because he had ignored their demands that he cease getting drunk.

"The Klan had become almost defunct when in the Autumn of 1937 the textile and steel organizing committees of the CIO began a drive in the Southeast. Placards proclaiming that CIO is communism — the Klan rides again" were posted throughout the districts. Now the Klan finds time heavy on its hands and admittedly busies itself with young couples in the moonlight, heavy drinkers, and others of whom it disapproves."

## A Printed International News!

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still remain 5 cents and subscription rates still fifty cents a year anywhere in the world.

The RWL asks all sympathizers of the Contact Commission in the U. S. to contribute as liberally as possible to the continued publication of INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

## JUST OUT

## International News

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Bulletin on the Russian Question

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## MR. ROOSEVELT FOLLOWS MR. WILSON TO THE RHINE

Is Franklin D. Roosevelt preparing to issue a "new edition" of Wilson's "Fourteen Points"? The trip of Sumner Welles to Europe; Mr. Hull's declaration to all the neutrals that the world must be rebuilt on the basis of "free trade" and the "open door"; the trips by Myron Taylor to the Vatican; Mr. Roosevelt's condemnation of "dictatorships" and "aggression" — all indicate that American Imperialism is very likely to issue an abstract declaration to cloak its own imperialist ECONOMIC AGGRESSION.

Very likely such a declaration would be far more realistic than Wilson's "Points". If Mr. Roosevelt's past is indicative of what he intends to make clear, then it would seem that the "Fourteen Points" of the New Deal will include:

1 — A veiled but strong point against proletarian revolution — under such formulas as "law and order", against "dictatorships", etc.

2 — A forthright declaration for the elimination of trade barriers for the American dollar. Eliminate high tariffs, quota, and other restrictions and Uncle Sam can sweep the earth into the clutches of the Almighty Dollar.

3 — Veiled formulas against the British colonial system, on the one hand; and against the German "closed economy", on the other. Whether the U. S. becomes involved in the military conflict through parallel action on the side of England or not, she will continue the work of undermining the British Empire.

## PROFITS ARE THICKER THAN BLOOD

Despite the war which is now "raging" in Europe, the French and German imperialists continue to carry on a lively trade with each other in iron ore, coke and machinery.

While workers are being asked to cheerfully spill their blood for "God and Fatherland" the bosses of the "belligerents" have been reaping a golden harvest of profit by inter-imperialist exchange of goods.

The "slot" for this traffic is dummy corporations set up in "neutral" countries. Hence to the little insignificant town of Athus, Belgium, which has nothing to recommend it except that it borders on the frontiers of three countries — Belgium, Luxemburg, and France — come thousands of tons of war supplies every day. To this little city (not much more than a wide place in the road) come daily 2,000 carloads of coke FROM GERMANY, while from the opposite direction flows its metallurgical mate, iron ore, FROM FRANCE.

Luxembourg is one of the "neutrals". But the owners of its huge iron mines and blast furnaces are French capitalists — the Arbed-Hadir Corporations. However since all the iron ore and the blast furnaces are useless without coke, the coke is cheerfully supplied (for a profit) by German capitalists. From this "neutral" vantage point the French capitalists are seeing that Germany is being paid for her coke with cannon and other implements of war.

Or take the Banque International, the financial colossus which does the financing for the Arbed-Hadir corporations. On its board of directors are to be found 3 FRENCH capitalists and 3 GERMAN. French journalists have noted the "strange" fact that none of the munition factories along the Franco-German borders have been bombarded though they are easy targets.

Blood may be thicker than water, but for our good capitalists profits are thicker than both.

## DAN TOBIN, THE TROTSKYITES, AND LABOR UNITY

In spite of the fact that they led the 1934 Minneapolis Truck strike and therefore ought to know Dan Tobin, head of the AFL Teamsters union, better than anybody else, the Trotskyist opportunists are conducting a campaign of covering up for this reactionary that should, if the workers pay heed to it, convert him into a first class national "hero" within a very short time. Let us hope the workers won't be fooled.

Asserting in their February 17 issue of the "Socialist Appeal" that Tobin has come "a long way since the 1934 San Francisco Convention" (when Tobin denounced militant workers as "rabble and riff raff") the Trotskyists go on to say:

"Tobin's call to arms (AFL-CIO "Unity") is an attack primarily on the reactionary clique that runs the AFL Executive Council . . . Tobin envisages a united labor organization stronger and more aggressive than the federation of the past."

The Trotskyists do not understand and do not want to understand that Tobin's "unity" maneuvers have nothing to do with unity of the workers against the bosses. The lessons of Local 574 — which was suspended by the same Tobin — prove that conclusively. Tobin has no more changed his spots than Lewis, Green or any of the other fakers.

Tobin is a labor lieutenant of capitalism in the ranks of the working class. His "unity" maneuver is one of uniting the fakers against the rank and file. Such "unity" would be a trump card for the bosses in harnessing the workers to the imperialist war machine.

Hence Tobin's "unity" proposition is not essentially different — the Trotskyists notwithstanding — from that of Roosevelt. Both have the same end in view.

The "Appeal" continues:

"Roosevelt is not interested in a united labor movement because of solicitude for the welfare of the American working class. His interest arises solely out of his war program".

And Tobin? "Tobin remains an ardent New Dealer" (that is a labor henchman of Roosevelt's war program — Editor's note) "but he is above all the president of an important labor union and that is why (?) his unity aims are so different from those of Roosevelt".

Not a word in this article about organizing left wing groups in the reactionary reformist unions to demand a greater measure of workers democracy through rank and file control, and to convert the unions into militant class organizations to fight for the class interests of the workers instead of mere "go-betweens" between the sell-out fakers and the bosses! Only that Tobin is an "aggressive" labor "leader", and that Lewis will not subordinate the "freedom" of the CIO to the AFL Council.

Again as always, the Trotskyites are against the Roosevelt War Deal in words, but support his war-preparing henchmen in their nefarious DEEDS!

For a single Federation of Labor with a class struggle policy, rank and file control, and industrial form of organization — that is the demand of the revolutionists!

## NEW CLEVELAND TAX LEVY ROBS MASSES TO PAY BANKERS

(Continued from page 1)

The struggle against this out and out robbery was conducted by the petty-bourgeois organizations of home-owners and the Stalinites, who gave a petty bourgeois line for defending the poor property owners. The only real working class opposition to the amendment was carried through by the Revolutionary Workers League and the militant Association of Unemployed on Direct and Work Relief.

### BURTON HASN'T WON YET

In thousands of leaflets the Association pointed out the robber content of the bill and its dire effects on the working class: the rise in rents, cuts of relief, elimination of the democratic right of the people in Cleveland to vote on taxes and many other such provisions.

The tax question is an auxiliary

problem of the workers struggle. The workers own no property, no real estate and carry on their struggle on this field as an auxiliary fight in relation to the struggle at the point of production, the factories, mines, mills, etc.

One aspect of real estate taxes is the steady shift of the burden from the large holdings to the small holdings and home owners. This hits the lower middle class, and increases the rents of the workers.

Price increases, sales tax, higher rents, etc., must be combated as robbery of the workers in addition to their exploitation at the point of production. And when the politicians use this tax maneuver for the bankers and as a smokescreen for cutting the unemployed relief the workers must lead in the struggle and point out the class road to follow.

The victory of the bill is a big

## VIRGINIA CONFERENCE AIDS STRIKERS

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spite of the injunction the rank-and-file spontaneously organizes demonstrations against the scabs at the factory exits at quitting time. And the police have not dared to break them up. Production is at a very low ebb. At the close of the day, a single truck, instead of the usual railroad cars, rolls up to the factory doors and takes away twenty five or thirty suitcases.

In Hopewell over six hundred workers are out and the work is, so far, completely tied-up. Again, the spirit of the rank-and-file, of whom almost half are Negro workers, is excellent.

Certain pitfalls, however, must be avoided if the strikes are to be won. No worker can rely on either state or Federal "conciliators" to do anything other than attempt to hoodwink them back into the factories. Nor can reliance be had on the friendliness of judges with lawyers. This was strikingly shown in Petersburg when the union leadership tried to rely upon the friendliness of Judge Wilson for Attorney Bohannon. Instead of calling for a jury and dramatizing the real class issues when certain strikers were tried for "assault and battery" reliance was had on the judge alone.

The result was that not only were the strikers fined, but for exactly the same "act" they were again fined for contempt. The next incorrect step was in paying the fines instead of again appealing the cases and raising a storm of protest. We can not depend upon corporation lawyers made judges by boss politicians to protect our interests. Only the mass power of the strikers, supported by the rest of the working class can get us anywhere.

### FIGHT THE INJUNCTION

The same thing is true of the injunctions. The strikers of Petersburg and Hopewell are learning by experience that the way to break an injunction is on the picket line.

In its next issue the Fighting Worker will carry later news both of the strikes and the Richmond Conference. In the meantime, it urges all working class organizations to materially assist the strikers and also to send telegrams of protest to Gov. James H. Price, State Capital Building, Richmond, Va., demanding the immediate withdrawal of the state police from Petersburg and Hopewell and to the judges of the Corporation Court of Petersburg and the Circuit Court of Prince George County demanding the immediate rescinding of the injunctions.

Let there be such a roar of protest that, when the workers fight the injunction on the picket line, the judicial lackeys of American Hardware and Solvay will be compelled to tear up their own boss-dictated papers.

set-back for the Cleveland unemployed. But as in the past the real fight lies in the direct struggle over relief. The Cleveland unemployed, under the guidance of the Association, have on many occasions in the past forced Mayor Burton and his cronies to "change their mind" and grant them raises in relief. Despite Mr. Burton's present robber amendment the unemployed will continue to expose him and fight ever more vigorously for adequate relief standards.

## The Main Enemy Is At Home

## La Salle St. Groups Sure to be only Victors In Illinois Primaries

Chicago, April 4 — "There are nine letters in Roosevelt's name and there are nine good Roosevelt men on the state ticket." This gem uttered by Louis Lewis, running for nomination as Lt. Governor on the regular Democratic ticket, adequately sums up the weighty issues in which the candidates are campaigning.

April 9 is primary election day, and a number of Chicagoans at least as large as the number of registered voters will be out to help choose the new boss tools. The Illinois "inferential" primaries are especially significant as straws in the wind because this state is the best of any size in which the New Deal goes on trial.

The truly amazing battle-cry of the Kelly machine, "Roosevelt and Humanity," clearly shows that the gang is again trying to ride Roosevelt's skirts. The "humanity" of this bunch can best be seen in practice in Chicago, where the administration is now looking away at the very bones. An earlier example of that same humanity is the way Kelly's blue-uniformed henchmen killed 11 Republic Steel strikers three years ago Memorial Day.

Books could be written on the corruption of the machine in Chicago, but we have space here for only a summary.

### THE CORRUPT MACHINE

The nominal head of the machine, Ed Kelly, is a protégé of the vicious reactionary Col. McCormick owner of the Chicago Tribune. Mr. McCormick it might be pointed out is a rock-bound Republican; but that didn't stop him from using good old Ed on the Democratic ticket.

When elected Mayor the only thing Kelly had to recommend him was that he was indicted for defrauding the Sanitary District of 5 million dollars, while chief engineer. The Kelly alliance with gangdom was so smelly that even the Democratic national committee in 1934 refused to accept a large donation from him "because of its donor."

In the last year about 13,000 cases of gambling have been dismissed by machine judges — an indication of who supports the machine.

As we go to press recent developments throw new light on the alliance of the machine with capital: 1) Federal Judge Igoe reveals that absolutely no progress toward transit unification has been made. The management for the industry, long in the hands of A. A. Sprague as receiver, and the city's attorneys, as personified by Barney Hodges, have lied to the masses for years on the status of unification. Last February, when the companies wanted to pay interest on bonds outstanding, they told the court that great progress had been made and unification was around the corner. On this basis funds were released for the payments.

Meanwhile PWA work on the new subway is rushing ahead at full speed to make sure that too much has been done for the federal government to withdraw support. The PWA grant was made on the basis of unification by April 1, but the deadline is past, and representatives of the companies and the city both state that no steps toward unification have been accomplished.

### TWEEDELEDEUM TO TWEEDELEDEE

No better picture of the functioning of the machine can be seen than the iron grip on the ward organizations, the real keystone of the apparatus.

The wards have an absolute command over all city, Park District, Sanitary District, etc., employes. One small example: All municipal employes found notices two weeks ago informing them that there was a meeting they were to attend. The notice consisted of a ticket with stub. The employe was required to attend the pep-meeting, and turn in his ticket, with name, etc., filled out. In exchange he received a stub stamped with the ward committeeman's name, and this stub he had to turn in to his superior at work the next day.

None were exempted: Civil service, "temporary" appointees, all had to attend. Were it not for the "loyal" teachers, clerks, police, and other beneficiaries of the machine, there would be no

enthusiasm whatever for perpetuation of these fakers in power.

The Republican Party presents a more complicated picture. There is no real significance to the competition for places on the primary: each faction is altruistically running because only its side can save the ticket from the New Deal. The only platform the Greens and Churches have to hang on to is the cry for less spending. What they mean of course is less spending for the unemployed, social security, etc., and more for the boss class.

The Republicans are absolutely silent on the question of foreign policy. Whether this indicates a temporary united front of the American bosses remains to be seen.

It is of no importance for us to predict who will be the winner on either ticket. On both tickets, however, the guaranteed winner is capital, and the worker, as always, is sure to be the loser. Only when the workers learn to organize independently, not for the sake of voting for a Labor Party, but for the task of taking the means of production from the bosses and smashing the boss state and replacing it with a WORKERS' DEMOCRACY, can they make any real gains.

## ST. LOUIS SALES TAX GOES TO BANKERS WHILE JOBLESS STARVE

St. Louis — This city obtains yearly by taxes which come directly from the pockets of the workers, the grand sum of \$5,700,000. The money comes from three sources, as follows:

Two cents per package cigarette tax — \$900,000.

Toll from the "free" bridge, about \$150,000 a month, or \$1,800,000 a year.

The 2% Missouri sales tax, of which St. Louis' "part" is \$3,000,000 per annum.

We were given to believe originally that the revenue from these sources was ALL to go to relief.

However application for a restraining order by a group of small merchants to keep the city from collecting the cigarette tax has smoked Barney Dyckmann, the Mayor, into the open.

It now comes out that this tax which the people accepted only on the implication that it was to go for relief, is used instead entirely for "balancing the budget".

### THE PLAZA RACKET

What does this mean? It means that the City is using the money filched from the pockets of the workers whenever they buy cigarettes, to pay interest and principal on the City's bonded indebtedness: that is to the bankers from whom this money was borrowed.

But maybe this money was originally borrowed to give relief to the needy, you ask. Guess again! The money was borrowed to further the progress of the Riverfront Plaza, a scheme whereby the Dyckmann Real Estate Co. (the Mayor's own company) and other concerns will reap profits of from half to a million bucks each.

It is all very simple. The City borrows the money from the banks (at 6% interest!) and issues bonds. The money from the cigarette tax is collected from the slaves to pay the bankers. The money borrowed from the banks is used to buy up the old dilapidated buildings on the river front at fabulous prices, to raze and make room for the proposed plaza. The money kicks back into the pockets of Dyckmann and his real estate friends, since they own the property.

So everybody is happy. The banks got theirs. So did Barney. Property values bordering on the plaza are increased. There is nobody left now only the workers and they don't count — except to foot the bill.

The Stalinist fakers in the Workers Alliance are remaining silent on these and all other issues. The one thing that is needed here to fight back the anti-smoke law and the "budget-balancing" frauds is solid organization of the St. Louis workers.

## Pa. Mine Owners Invent a New Swindle

Philadelphia — Whoever said there's nothing new under the sun obviously didn't know of the brazen gall of some of our "philanthropic" employers. Here's one for the books.

The town of Vintondale, Pennsylvania, has a population of 1750 people, 500 of whom work for Vinton Collieries, the only employers in the town, which owns not only the mines but the stores as well. The good company owes these 500 workers \$60,000 in back pay. It refuses to go into bankruptcy, and it refuses to pay the back wages. It just asks the men to go back to work without any assurance that they will be paid.

When the workers refused to fall into this snare and asked that the company permit them to look over the books of Vinton Collieries, the company just shut down the grocery and clothing stores and refused to give the men any food or clothing on the back pay, even though they had done so previously.

### NO PAY — NO FOOD

The following payroll was to be on March 28th, and the union (United Mine Workers) was informed that the company will not meet it. In fact the miners were asked to forego the \$60,000 until profits are large enough so they can afford to pay them off. The company claims that the mine has been running at a loss for the last 9 years.

Last reports are that the company, which controls the power plant, has shut down all power in Vintondale and there is no light. Suffering from lack of food and fuel is intense. A school teacher reports that he found one family which had only a cup of sugar and one cup of coffee in the house.

The union is scheduled to have a meeting with the company of-

## Transport Workers Ready to Strike

### N.Y. Mayor LaGuardia Continues Strike-Breaking Role

New York, April 1 — Officials of the New York TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION have met with Mayor LaGuardia to determine if the city would honor the present contracts which the union has with the I. R. T. and B. M. T. when the city takes over these transportation systems May 1st.

LaGuardia was willing to accept the existing contracts but refused to allow the Closed Shop. He also refused to grant the union the right to strike. They would be allowed to petition or sue in the courts — but you can't strike against the government.

After getting nowhere the Mayor passed the buck to the Board of Transportation, washing his hands of the whole affair. He did however make some recommendations:

1 — That the Board accept the present contracts.

2 — That the closed shop and several other points (rights) be taken away by the courts.

Before the conferences with the Board the T. W. U. called in Sidney Hillman and John L. Lewis of the CIO to help in the Negotiations. The Board of Transportation swore in George Kiegan, president and general manager of the I. R. R. — thus gaining a man experienced in fighting the organization of the subway workers. The valuable addition was a foretaste as to what role the reactionary board would play in the negotiations. This was the first time in its entire history that the Board of Transportation has consented to negotiate with a union.

### STILL OPPOSE CLOSED SHOP

In the first conference of the Board with the representatives of the T. W. U., both the Board and the Union accepted the Mayor's recommendations as a basis for reaching an agreement. The Board would honor the existing contracts of I. R. T. and B. M. T., but the closed shop was out, as well as several other points which they held inconsistent with the law.

However, the union officials wanted the contracts as they were. The difference narrowed to the point where the city administration wanted the union to go to court to prove the legality of the closed shop; and where the union wanted the city to accept the full contract but to go to court if they wanted anything changed.

The union officials finally called off the negotiations. Their role in these conferences was a betrayal of the transport workers. Their fight was conducted on a strictly parliamentary basis. In the conferences they refused to raise the question of the right to strike, wage increases (to meet the rising cost of living caused by the war), better working conditions, etc.

Their role was to collaborate with, not to struggle against a reactionary city administration.

Now that negotiations have stopped and they can no longer collaborate with the City tools of Wall Street, they recall the strike vote of the subway workers and propose, according to reports, a demonstration (walkout) to show that the workers are behind them. But they use these threats only as pressure on LaGuardia to re-

officials before any further action is planned. But the Vinton Collieries Corp. is still insisting: "Work for nothing or starve".

sume negotiations so that they can collaborate.

### LABOR PARTY SMOKE-SCREEN

Labor Party members of the City Council elected by the votes of the Transport and other workers in the city have nothing to say about LaGuardia's strike-breaking role. There is not a word of censure against what is going on. By their silence they signify approval of the administration's conduct in its fight against the Transport workers.

Furthermore some of the Labor Partyites, notably Mr. Ninfa, are seeking to becloud the issue. They now raise the issue of the five cent fare. In the N. Y. Assembly the 5 cent fare has come up countless times in the past 15 years. Intelligent N. Y. workers recognize the present introduction of the issue as a tool in the hands of demagogues to get the mind of the N. Y. workers from the big strike issue and strike-breaking role.

The five cent fare is important, but it is not the main issue at the present time. The PRESENT issue is the closed shop and right to strike of the Transport workers.

The Transport Workers must not be led astray by the policies of their leaders. A demonstration is needed now and a strike when the city takes over the transit lines. The strike must involve the workers on the Independent subway, the elevated and all surface lines: AND ABOVE ALL MUST BE CONDUCTED BY A RANK AND FILE ELECTED STRIKE COMMITTEE.

FOR A UNITED STRIKE AGAINST THE REACTIONARY ADMINISTRATION — that must be the demand of the progressives.

## Begin Unity Talks With Revolt Group

Negotiations between the Revolt Group and the R. W. L. with the aim of unifying the two groups into one organization, began on March 29th at the League headquarters.

The first meeting merely dealt with agenda and procedure. On a motion by the R. W. L. the negotiation committees formally accepted the 14 Points of the International Contact Commission as the basis for negotiations and then proceeded to list for discussion other points of differences.

In a long statement the Revolt comrades reiterated what they had said in their press about the need for unity in face of the war danger. The R. W. L. added a two sentence statement to the effect that unity must be achieved on a rounded Marxian program; otherwise it can only lead to either further splits or opportunist errors.

The main political obstacle in the negotiations so far seems to be over the Russian question. It would be fatal for the League to unite with any group which favored the defeat of the Red Army and the Soviet Union in a war against a "small capitalist" or any other country that is an imperialist puppet.

The next negotiation session will take up this point. Details of the meeting will be published in the next FIGHTING WORKER.