

The Fighting Worker

Workers of
The World
Unite!

Official Organ of The Revolutionary Workers League, U. S.

VOL. 8—No. 5—Whole No. 108

APRIL 15, 1943

Price 5c

Rationing Not Democratic; Part of War Conquest Plan

RATIONING AT HOME IS AID TO EXPLOITATION ABROAD

Perhaps no other question has caused more havoc in the ranks of the working class in the past few months than the question of rationing. Everyone from the Government stooges through the liberals and all the "Left Marxists" groups have all conceded that rationing is the "democratic" answer to the food problem. The Marxists take a different position.

Rationing is an attempt on the part of the capitalist system to solve its anarchy of production. As the Marxists have pointed out in the past many times, capitalist production outstrips its home market to the extent that it must look elsewhere. Hence the antagonisms between the various imperialist powers and hence the phenomena of imperialist wars.

PLENTY OF FOOD—PLOWING UNDER CONTINUES

According to Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, in a recent speech, "Our farmers produced record crops in 1942," and even higher limits have been set for 1943. If it is not due to the fact that U. S. food production is low—why the rationing? The capitalist henchmen counter by stating that we must supply our allies and the armed forces. This, they say, takes more food than we have. The facts however shed a different light.

Dr. T. W. Schultz, head of the department of economics and sociology at Iowa State College told the 24th convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation that "the next big problem facing agriculture is not in the production but in the distribution of food. "...We must build up huge contingents and reserves and right now we should be giving the American consumers 1/3 to 1/4 less food if we are to build up these reserves."

Wickard's figures show that the United States shipped to the allies in 1942, 7.4% of our butter, less than 1% of canned vegetables, 1.7% of our canned fruits and juices, fish frozen and canned 7.1%, and 5% of our total supplies of meat 6% of the total of all food production.

In regard to canned goods the American Institute of Food Distribution reports that canners are holding for the government between 40% and 75% of their entire pack of canned fruits and vegetable, besides the huge stores of other commodities. Add 5 to 10% to each figure for the armed forces and the total average amounts to less than 15%. But has it been forgotten that under the Agricultural Administration Act about 20% of potential food production is still being plowed under.

FOOD AS A WEAPON,

HOME AND ABROAD

Why then has rationing been imposed upon us? It is due to the anarchy of capitalist production, production for the market for profit. Flowing from this are the needs of the capitalist machine to overcome this antagonism by fighting those forces who seek to overthrow it—the proletariat.

The imperialists well realize

that their coming invasion of Europe will be greeted by revolution. Food and the elementary needs of the masses will play a major role in staving off revolution if the Marxists are not successful, precisely for this reason the U.S. government is storing huge quantities of food. Vice-president Wallace, speaking in Panama said that "a tyrant needs no greater alliance than alliance with hunger" and "wherever people are oppressed by hunger, that people is an easy victim to the theft of its liberties." No humanitarianism there.

The hard cold facts are that the country with the most food will be the one with the easiest job to assume control. What should remain uppermost in the minds of the working class is that all this food is being allocated FOR DESTRUCTION ABROAD at the expense and health of the workers at home.

WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION FOR USE IS THE ONLY DEMOCRATIC METHOD OF RATIONING

The needs of American imperialism are reflected in its rationing program at home. Those who support rationing are supporting capitalism, and its program of war and exploitation.

There is only one road for the class who does the producing, that road leads to the overthrow of the capitalist system and the establishment of Worker's Council Governments. There can be no democracy of any kind, be it rationing or any of its counterparts under a system of exploitation of man by man.

"Little Steel" Formula Remains The Big Gun Against The Working Class

The leading papers of the boss class and their War Labor Board have again told us that the "Little Steel" Formula must stand even though the cost of living is above this and going higher every week. Some of the members of the War Labor Board say that if farm prices are raised by Congress they will agree to consider cancelling the "Little Steel" Formula. But

this is mainly a threat against Congress by the Administration rather than a word for labor.

We were told by the forces that mobilize the country for war that "equal" sacrifice is necessary to win the war. Wages, Prices and Profit must be held down, a ceiling must be placed on these economic factors. However, volumes of evidence accumulating daily

prove that wages have been held down while prices and profits continue to go higher. Profits of war goods is decisive, not the profits of some consumers goods and the little non-war industries.

Is it any wonder that the bourgeois-reformers of the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. have gone on record against the Little Steel formula? There is a revolt from below against this betrayal and these fakers are trying to head the band-wagon.

The impact that let loose the struggle against the wage ceiling was the rationing of canned goods that is now being followed by the rationing of meats, fats, butter and cheese. This has hit the working class so hard, and especially the low paid section (that constitute the majority) that their protest cannot go unheeded by the labor agents.

CRISIS IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT

The labor leaders voluntary agreement to the "Little Steel" formula, to wage "stabilization" to ban strikes and increase production for the big corporations was the worst defeat labor had for many years. The war pressure enabled the exploiters and their labor agents to put this across without more than feeble opposition and grumbling. From then until today the crisis in the labor movement has been developing. Under the pressure of "war measures" the rights of labor have been taken away one by one and the standard of living is rapidly declining regardless of what the money wage may be.

LEFT PRESSURE DISSIPATED

The rank and file has resented this sell out, but under "left" leaders such as the Norman Thomases, Earl Browders and their like, who have a social-patriotic line as bad as the bourgeois-reformists labor agents, no organized opposition on a large scale was organized. The forces to the left are small and scattered, and most of the strike activity and opposition to the sell-out came from the workers economic needs, that was utilized by the lefts to the best of their ability. The two centrist factions of the Trotskyites, although for opposition and strikes in words, negated this proposed action by their tail-end opportunist policy of Labor Party, and Workers and Farmers (capitalist) Government to say nothing about their false position on defeatism, the Soviet Union, etc.

The left pressure of the masses will increase, is increasing, but unless crystalized into organized opposition it will dissipate or be canalized into such right opposition movements as the Third Party of the Southern Democrats and their Northern reactionary blood-brothers.

The John L. Lewis threat to strike, which is based on a genuine mass opposition and threat of the miners (regardless of Lewis) is a straw in the wind to indicate the trend.

Miners Mean Business Demand Over Due Pay Raise

The "crisis" in the coal industry has been temporarily averted. The Lewis fakedom has agreed to postpone a strike of 450,000 bituminous coal miners "in the interests of the war effort."

The role of Mr. Lewis was to be expected. After all there is not a single coal miners' strike in the last 25 years that John L. didn't sell out. Witness the most recent strike of 20,000 anthracite miners in Pennsylvania, which Lewis refused to support.

But the struggle of the miners doesn't depend entirely on the Lewis machine. Mr. Lewis must react to the pressure of the men in the Local Union, even though he will try to sidetrack that pressure.

At the moment Lewis wants a \$2 a day raise, retention of the basic 35 hour 5 day week, with a 6 day week to be ended after the war, a 2 week vacation period and other demands.

These demands, very moderate in view of the higher cost of living, unfortunately come into conflict with the War Labor Board

policy of granting only 15% increases over and above the wage level of January 1941. In the recent aircraft and packinghouse decisions the WLB made it clear it has no intention at the moment of abrogating this formula.

MINERS STRUGGLE IMPORTANT TO ALL LABOR

Coal therefore becomes the fulcrum of a general labor policy. Victory or defeat for the miners will be a major event in the labor movement and will decide, at least in part, the trend of things to come.

Lewis' demands—even if the Companies grant them—are pitifully meager. The base rate of the miners at present is \$5.08 a day. Compare that with the rates in auto, steel, etc. It is very very low. In fact the new taxes would almost completely wipe out a \$2 raise. The least the miners deserve and should fight for is a \$4 or \$5 a day increase.

The coal miners, furthermore, have long-term major problems. What of the coming postwar unemployment? To forestall the coming crisis the men should demand workers control of hiring, workers inspection of the operators' books, workers control of production quotas and other progressive measures that make for some security.

BUROCRATS SHOUT HARD BUT STALL ACTION

Will the miners get what they want? Will they be able to destroy the reactionary War Labor Board and its little steel formula?

The labor skates are very worried about these militant workers. Every faker in the country is on nerve's edge. Murray and Green are forced to do a little shouting themselves against the WLB wage formula. And Lewis notifies the country that he does not recognize the War Labor Board.

But these actions are only to take the thunder out of the miners' fight. Mr. Lewis still refuses to grant his districts autonomy or to sanction their militant efforts. He is stalling to find the strategic moment for sinking the knife in the miners' back—as he has done on many occasions. The anthracite strike of a few months ago should be a tip-off of what is necessary to make this bigger fight a success.

Mr. Lewis is interested only in political manouvers, not the needs of the miners. No reliance on Lewis and his gang—build rank and file controlled committees like the now dead Tri-District committee. Strike immediately for the demands of the membership. That's the road to success.

B. I. S.—Sanctuary Of Capitalism

BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR BANKERS

In the city of Basle Switzerland there operates one of the most amazing institutions in the world, the Bank for International Settlements.

This BIS is a bank of bankers. Of its 200,000 shares, Germany and its allies control 150,000; London and the First National Bank in New York own most of the rest of the shares. The chairman of this Axis-Controlled bank is an American, Mr. McKitrick.—Who has Government sanction to remain "neutral" in war or peace.

Despite the war the Executive Board of the BIS meets once a year at least. The last official meeting was in June 1942. Its members are truly men above country. Their baggage is never inspected by any government; they may live or travel anywhere as they please. In fact the Japanese representative of the Japanese banking interests lives in London unmolested.

BIS is definitely not small time. Its officers include Herman Funk, the German finance dictator and Montague Norman, head of the Bank of England, as well as many other luminaries.

Capitalists Maintain Class Solidarity

What does BIS do? No one seems to know at present—except that their traveling expenses run into 7 figures. Originally it was organized to collect the debts from Germany in the Young Plan. Later it included Austrian debts too. But since the war—what does it do?

It is significant that Mr. Flandin, French Fascist who supports the Allies, and who represents the Wendel Steel interests of France, held conference with BIS officials on his way to join the Allies in Algiers.

BIS also has cleared gold between nations at war—Britain and Germany, despite the prohibition of the British Government against shipment of gold abroad.

The bankers of the world by mutual agreement stick together, war or no war. Their loyalty is to neither country nor humanity, but simply to the dollar sign. Despite the war the bankers of "enemy" countries still do business with each other. Only the workers are not permitted to show their solidarity with their oppressed brothers all over the world.

(Cont. on page 2 col. 1)

Bourgeois Democracy Runs True To Form In No. Africa

The imperialist war strips Bourgeois-Democracy of its perfidious forms and reveals its true content. The events in North Africa confirm the future role of the United States as a reactionary force in the war to maintain capitalism against the proletarian revolution.

As a surprise move on the part of American imperialism it invades North Africa. Admiral Darlan arch-reactionary and Fascist is allowed to continue his rule as a "temporary expedient." Pressure from the Liberals and the "Left" forces the government to rid itself of Darlan. He is "murdered." Giraud, another pro-Vichy conservative, whose reputation is "not quite as bad" is installed in Darlan's place, amid a wave of propaganda on the part of the U.S. exploiter's press to paint him as a liberal French General, out to save the French people for democracy. Giraud, however, continued to maintain his relationship with Vichy and continued to enforce its laws until the middle of March. As events move to the left in France he is forced, in order to maintain his position as a leader for French "democracy," to abolish some of these decrees and to oust some of his pro-Vichy Fascist aides.

Fascist Puppets Preferred

Let us go back a few months. Peyroutin, a Fascist in his own right with an old record of Fascistic rule, is recalled from South America by Robert Murphy, charge d'affaires of the American imperialists' in Africa, to rule Algeria.

Of course Nogues, whose record shows collaboration with the Germans even before Vichy took power, is allowed to continue his rule in Tunisia.

The recent exposure of American materials being sent to Franco is only a continuation of this policy.

The record is not one of "temporary expedients" but it shows a consistent policy on the part of American imperialism. It establishes a precedent for appeasement with any fascist who will play the game right.

The records of Petain and Laval were well known by American im-

perialism when it sent Admiral Leahy to work with them yesterday. The record of Giraud, Darlan, Nogues, Peyroutin, and Franco are well known by it today. The Liberals need not caution the White House.

Bourgeois Democracy at Work

American imperialism knows full well what the threat of the Proletarian Revolution means in Europe, Africa or Asia. The Four Freedoms, the Atlantic Charter etc., are so many words to dupe the workers, but in action it is support of Petain, Laval, and Darlan yesterday, and Giraud, Nogues, Peyroutin, and Franco today. It is support of the Counter-revolutionary forces.

America's role in Spain, France, and North Africa is only a prelude to the counter-revolutionary role she will play in Europe.

Support of Bourgeois-Democracy at home can only pave the way for Fascism and its maintenance abroad, (and at home). The only road for the world working class is to fight the system of exploitation at home no matter what form it takes.

BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY PAVES THE WAY FOR FASCISM. FIGHT FASCISM BY FIGHTING CAPITALISM.

International News

Theoretical Organ of The International Contact Commission:

APRIL ISSUE

The Economic Development of

The Soviet Union;

Notes on Dialectics;

The Indian Revolution.

Subscription \$1.00 a Year

Hillman Workers' Struggle 2 Years For Own Union

Chicago.—What kind of a victory workers can win through the National Labor Relations Board or the War Labor Board, was indicated in the signing of a contract for the seven large Hillman chain stores in Chicago last month.

The Hillman grocery clerks had removed from their Union, Local 1248 AFL, a member of the Capone racketeers, close to two years ago. Since then they were forced out on strike for seven weeks to gain recognition and better wage conditions.

The picket line was beaten in October 1941 and the struggle of these 1,100 clerks now members of the CIO developed into a Labor Board case that dragged on for a full year. Despite the defeated strike the grocery clerks in the whole city, including Hillman's, gained wage boosts of \$3, \$5 and in some cases as much as \$11. The big grocery chains, fearful that a bonafide Union under the militant leadership of Local 329, CIO would be a constant threat to their subsistent wage levels, granted these increases to undermine the new Local. The AFL leadership in Chicago obligingly organized "new" AFL Locals and signed back-door agreements covering these wage boosts already negotiated by the CIO Local.

Year's Delay By Labor Board Aided Company

After 12 months the Labor Board finally got around to handling the case of the Hillman clerks. A young law student assigned to the matter investigated it long and legalistically. By that time the ranks of the strikers who still remained out when the picket line was called off dwindled from 275 to 21. The rest were working at better jobs or were in the army.

Finally the Company agreed to a settlement that rehired the 20 odd strikers still unemployed, granted them \$10,000 in back pay, and consented to a Labor Board election. Much to the surprise of everyone Local 329 CIO beat the AFL Union, which had had a closed shop for 16 months, by a vote of about three to two.

The workers now faced the Company in as weak a stage as possible. They had already received more than the 15% provided for in the War Labor Board Little Steel formula. They were nowhere near strong enough to threaten another strike. Turnover of employees was more than 100 percent per year and was growing monthly. Furthermore reaction and cuts in real wages were sweeping the whole labor movement.

The upshot of nine long weeks of negotiations was thus only a partial victory. The employees gained a Union shop, grievance machinery for the first time, and seniority rights, wage increases of approximately \$2.50 for two-thirds of the employees, a military bonus clause and a few other concessions.

It was not the Labor Board which was responsible for these partial gains. The local utilized the bourgeois board, but only by a firm policy and steadfast struggle for the workers' ends was it possible to force through some concessions.

Mailing "Rights" Don't Hold For Workers' Press

The revoking of the second class mailing rights of the Cannon Trotskyites, in the government action against the "MILITANT" is another blow at the whole labor movement. Although we oppose the political line of this centrist group we are whole-heartedly for their elementary rights to advocate and spread their ideas through the mails and wherever they please. We will do all possible to help them fight this suppression by the war dictatorship.

When we realize how the imperialists and their government are "cracking down" on left forces we must be prepared for what they will attempt tomorrow. And in this respect it is well to look at the past to get a correct picture of the present.

R. W. L. Right Suppressed Years Ago

The Revolutionary Workers League confronted the situation the MILITANT confronts years ago, at the time we organized and

throughout our eight years of existence the right to mail our publications through second class mail has been refused. We are not the only ones who suffered from this regulation. Practically all of the small left wing revolutionary publications were unable to obtain this second class advantage, just like ALL of the labor political parties are denied voting rights in the majority of states.

In this whole period we had to use third class mailing disadvantages and the Express Company. Now the MILITANT will be forced to use these methods of disadvantage too. The financial burden of third class mail in comparison to second class rights would bankrupt and drive out of business any large paper in the country in short order.

Fight for the rights of all left wing publications to obtain the second class mailing advantages that are given to the exploiters press.

Faithless France Extolled And Revived—As Masses Move

CORPSE OF 3rd REPUBLIC GETS U.S. TRANSFUSION

The latest events in North Africa in regard to Giraud's repealing of the Vichy laws, and the recent negotiations between him and De Gaulle for unity, reflects two things. First, it reflects the move toward a surface solution of the Anglo-American antagonism. Second, it reflects the growing shift to the Left of the French workers and peasants.

The new laws restore the Government of North Africa (and France also, when and if the Anglo-American imperialists succeed in retaking that territory) to its pre-war status i.e. the Third Republic. What the capitalist press leaves out is the fact that it was this same Third Republic, that same rotten French-Bourgeois-Democracy which opened the gates of France to the Fascists. This is what is being restored with the aid of the Allied imperialists.

The new laws also are opening the way for a union between the

forces of Giraud and De Gaulle. It is very clear that in any such union of the two factions, Giraud, the representative of the American imperialists will take the leadership.

England must depend on the economic and military might of the United States; hence her allowance of American leadership in North Africa. Moreover England hopes this will be sufficient appeasement to the U.S. so she can grab the major part of post war Europe without strong competition.

French Masses Forced Concessions

It is very significant however, that the Vichy laws were annulled in a period when the leftward movement of the French masses has, to date, reached its highest point. The Allied imperialists are well aware of this development. To the degree that the masses move to the left to that degree

(Cont. on page 4 col. 4)

Profits Cause Inflation As Workers' Wages Decrease

(Continued from page 1)

STATE LAWS CANNOT OVERTHROW ECONOMIC LAWS

The increased rationing will increase this opposition. Instead of a 15% rise in the cost of living (above the "Little Steel Formula") as some will admit, the rise in the cost of living of the most important daily items of the workers is an average of 50% with some items running up to 100% and 200%. The "economists" of the exploiters have the nerve and insolence to claim that if wages are increased inflation will be intensified. This is turning the problem upside down. It is the gigantic waste and destruction and withdrawal of commodities (stored in warehouses to be used against the proletarian revolutions) that is the real cause of the present increasing inflation.

But for sake of argument let us meet these fakers with their own crooked card game. They say, if wages are increased it will cause prices to go up. But did not these wise men agree and the government place a ceiling on

PRICES as well as wages when labor gave up its rights through its capitalist agents? Thanks to the work of these agents real wages have DECLINED while the government could not control prices. If these wise men have such power over capitalist economic laws let them HOLD DOWN THE PROFITS! But in reality the increase in prices and profits and the decrease in real wages was the result of the economic laws. The capitalist government and their labor agents in our ranks just helped make this as painless and with as few class upheavals as possible. That is ALL the state LAWS can do to the economic laws of the capitalist mode of production. They cannot CONTROL THESE ECONOMIC LAWS under capitalism.

It is up to the workers in the trade unions to regain their elementary rights. Above all their right to strike. Without this weapon no effective resistance against a lower standard of living can be had.

It's A Great System!

CAPITALISM TRIPS OVER ITS CONTRADICTIONS

The State of Texas alone could produce enough food to feed not only the United States, but the whole world.

Yet we are being treated to the greatest shortage of food in the history of the country.

Lend-Lease Administrator, Ed Stettinius (of J. P. Morgan and Co.), reports that only 6% of the nation's food supply is being shipped abroad.

The AAA scheme of the New Deal has reduced farm acreage and production many times that amount. Why isn't it possible, now that war is here, to put the reduced acreage back into cultivation and have a full larder?

The anarchy of capitalism—even in their war "planning"—stagger the imagination. The agrarian capitalists of the big bonanza farms have been paying very low wages year in and year out. Now that the higher wages in war factories is attracting farm labor away into the cities, these farm capitalists are raising holy

hell and demanding that the Government step in and protect their low wage system.

Profits Determine Amount Of Production.

Congress, of course, is very obliging. They are now offering draft deferments to people who will work on the farms at the low scab wages of the Imperial Valley and Southern Plantation capitalists and the other big farmers.

But the drift of farm labor way from the farms continues, despite the "plan" and the "planners" in Washington. It must be so, because if they took the only step that would prevent farm labor from leaving the farms—if they equalized wages throughout the country to the higher levels paid under the best Union contracts—if they did that they would be committing treason to their own capitalist interests.

So long as we keep the profit system with its inequalities planning is impossible. The only "plan" that capitalist society can institute is one based on force, one that divides only the poverty instead of sharing the wealth.

THE FIGHTING WORKER

REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE, U. S.
(Affiliated to the Provisional International Contact
Commission for a New Communist (4th) International)

Subscription \$1.00 per year

Published monthly by
DEMOS PRESS
708 N. Clark Street, Chicago, Ill.

PLEASE NOTE. There is no connection between Demos Press and the Social Science Institute located at the same address.

Editorials

May Day, Day of International Workers Solidarity

The next issue of the Fighting Workers will contain in full the May Day Manifesto of the Revolutionary Workers League but lest any worker forget that May Day exists despite the rampages of imperialism and the reformist trend of most worker's organizations we reprint here three paragraphs of last year's manifesto:

"Our call to the workers and oppressed masses on this May Day is a call to fight against the imperialist war. Our call is a call to stop the blood-bath, to bring PEACE to the world, to stop the exploiters' redivision and plunder of the earth.

"This imperialist war is the REAL SOCIAL SABOTAGE confronting mankind. Those who participate in or give aid to either side of the imperialist war are the real enemies of the people. They are the destructive element that must be "controlled" by society before they wreck what progress has been accomplished.

"The war to conquer Europe is only a prelude for the more gigantic struggle to control Asia. It will not be Germany or England that will end this war thru a military victory. **THE ONLY WAY THIS WORLD WAR WILL END IS BY THE WORKERS PUTTING AN END TO IT.** Only a social revolution can stop the war. Only a working class victory will bring PEACE without indemnities."

Workers interested in participating in May Day activities should contact the RWL members in their locality, or write to the Demos Press office for more information. The working class must align its forces. May Day is the day.

Capitalist Forces Call The Roll

NEW PARTIES IN THE HOME ARENA

Sam Jones, Governor of Louisiana, is proposing the organization of a new third capitalist party in opposition to both the Republicans and Democrats. A meeting of Southern reactionary Democrats has already met to "explore" the matter.

At the same time two other significant events on the American scene give a clew to class relations in America. The first is the so-called "drive for a Fourth Term" for Franklin Roosevelt. Although Mr. Roosevelt's intentions on that score seem to be known to no one, very likely he himself has not yet decided—nevertheless Mr. Roosevelt undoubtedly intends to keep a tight hold on the next administration whether he himself serves or whether one of his understudies is pushed into the White House.

The second event is the invasion of Pennsylvania and Ohio by the American Labor Party of New York. Dean Alfange, former Gubernatorial candidate of the ALP, is actively organizing new sections of the ALP in other areas.

ALL CONTENDERS AGREE TO PRESERVE CAPITALISM

Summed up, this picture indicates that a crystallization of forces both to the right and to the left of the New Deal is rapidly taking place. The rights are trying to build a third capitalist Party based on the disillusioned middle class, with the South as its stronghold and with a vicious anti-labor bias. The "left"—i.e. the labor fakers and their Socialist, Stalinist, Trotskyist allies—are attempting to build a "left" capitalist Party of reform.

The New Deal is caught between the two forces. What happens in the next elections as far as Mr. Roosevelt is concerned to one extent depends on how the struggle of the two contending Third Party forces develops, on the one hand, and on his ability to maneuver between the two, on the other.

At the moment the "rights" are on the march. In Kansas a bill has just been passed practically outlawing the labor movement through government control and checks. The passage of anti-Fourth Term bills in various Legislatures, the pending anti-Labor bills in Congress, the speeches of Rickenbacker and their support in the press, all testify to the strength of reaction. The phleg-

matic and do-nothing attitude of the social-patriotic labor-fakers just plays into the hands of people like Jones and his supporters.

Despite themselves, however, the labor skates may have to bestir themselves. The masses in the Unions are boiling—in a still unorganized fashion unfortunately—because of the Little Steel formula, because of the uselessness of the War Labor Board, because of the piling up of grievances, etc. The Miners may be out on strike before these words are printed. Such a fire would even singe the pants of rock-bound skates like Bill Green or Phil Murray, and place Lewis in a position of capitulation.

A "peculiar" aspect of the present stage in class relations in America is that the main section of American capital—the Morgan, Mellon, Dupont, Rockefeller and other groups—seem to be supporting the "left" New Deal against the Rights. People like Wallace and Willkie still hold the national spotlight as the mouthpieces for big business. Wall Street has learned to understand that before the open reactionaries can be put into power the bite of mass resentment must be taken out by demagogues like Wallace and Willkie.

LABOR PARTY DOES NOT SERVE LABOR'S INTERESTS

The Labor Party is just grist in the mill of the Capitalist plans to impose a right-wing dictatorship on the American People. Like the New Deal its only purpose will be to dull the edge of labor's rapier, of its independent class action. Full support to a Labor Party in America, to a party of reform of capitalism and composed of the agents of capital within Labor's ranks—support to such a Party merely throws sand in the eyes of the working class and hastens the day of Fascism in America.

The answer to the right wing as well as the New Deal is independent working class action and the building of a new REVOLUTIONARY MARXIAN Party.

The American Plan Of How To Spread The Post War Poverty

CAPITALISM PLANS MORE OF LESS

The new Roosevelt panacea, just like all the old ones, is a shoddy substitute. "Protection from the cradle to the Grave" does not mean, as many gullible people believe, a sharing of the wealth, nor does it encompass security of any kind from birth to death. On the contrary it deals with only one aspect of "security"—during unemployment only and can serve only to SPREAD THE POVERTY.

Last year workers in the United States received 482 million dollars in unemployment compensation and old age benefits. But the Social Security Board collected a total of 2¼ billions in taxes for that purpose. Five percent tax on the total national payroll netted this sum. The employers naturally made this tax back in the form of higher prices and deductions from wages.

The new "cradle to the grave" security will, according to Arthur J. Altmeyer, chairman of the Social Security Board, raise the levy on payrolls to at least 10% or 12%, in other words more than double. That section of the working class which is employed will thus have 10% of its pay (in addition to other taxes) of which only a small part will be used for another section of the working class that is the unemployed or those unable to care for themselves. The rest will be kept by the exploiter's State.

WORKING CLASS CAN EXPECT SUB STANDARD RELIEF AFTER THE WAR

According to the Roosevelt proposal the new "security" will bring greater unemployed benefits for 26 full weeks; it will involve more workers; it will cover crippled and disabled workers as well as elderly people.

How effective can such a plan be, however? The sum estimated by Altmeyer, an Administration spokesman, needed for the "new security" is somewhere around five billion dollars. This will include not only the new compensations for the working class but "relief for business" in the form of government subsidies and "partnership projects." Let us assume, however, that all the five billions went to the working class. Let us assume, also, very conservatively, that the number of unemployed in the U. S. alone after the war will be only 10 million people. The five billion dollar security program would thus mean approximately \$9.50 a week per person, a figure tremendously below even the meagerest subsistence level.

Dr. Fishbein, as spokesman for American Medical Association, points out plainly the plan does NOT include socialized or even free medical care or hospitalization.

Mr. Roosevelt's plan is based on two things:

First, the recognition of a long term widespread depression as soon as war production stops and the need to take the edge off worker's opposition both after the war and to dull the blade TODAY, before it gets out of hand.

Second, a belief in the complete victory of American Imperialism not only against the Axis, but its allies; and with it the smashing of the proletarian revolution.

SECURITY FOR MASSES POSSIBLE ONLY UNDER SOCIALIST SOCIETY

Giving the workers small concessions Roosevelt feels is still possible, despite the enormous debts of the Imperialist regime, simply because America hopes to conquer the world and exploit the colonial of Latin America, Asia, Africa and the people of Europe on a scale unthought of before.

What Mr. Roosevelt is evidently overlooking is the fact that the colonial masses and Europe will not react very favorable to their being milked dry for the benefits of Wall Street and some petty and meaningless bribes to the American masses. More than that, their needs and resentment will no doubt force the working class to take the form of the revolution as the only road to real security.

Who Will Get The Booty?

MR. EDEN MAKES A TRIP REAL WAR AIMS KEPT A "SECRET"

What did Mr. Eden and Mr. Roosevelt talk about? The recent conferences between the British foreign minister and the American President are shrouded in deep secrecy, but it is not difficult to guess what happened.

At Casablanca Roosevelt and Churchill, together with their general staffs, discussed in detail the invasion of Europe and other military steps. Obviously Mr. Eden was sent here to polish off the political loose threads in this military strategy.

Questions that need answering include such matters as the following. If the Allies invade Italy, whose army shall police the country, after it is taken over? Which puppets shall be put into the helms of government as the "Free Italian" government? How will the economic resources of the country be divided? And finally, what steps will be taken against the proletarian revolution?

These and other major political questions need immediate answering. Obviously they could not be brought out before the public because that would be letting the cat out of the bag, that would be informing the universe of the IMPERIALISTIC ambitions and subterfuges of both nations. So, Mr. Eden's trip becomes merely a question mark, a big secret.

DIVIDING THE SPOILS STILL A BIG BONE OF CONTENTION

It is clear, however, from what leaked out in the press, that the envoy of London's financiers insisted on British control of the European continent. Did America accede to that position? It is very doubtful. But even if there was a verbal compromise we will yet see in Europe (as there no doubt already is beginning to exist in parts of Tunisia) some violent conflict between the "Allies" as to who shall control newly conquered territory. We will probably see the same contemptuous spirit and fighting between the soldiers of both countries as exist between the Germans and Italians, or between the Japanese and Germans in Southeast Asia.

After all, under imperialism, an alliance of two nations is not an alliance of friends, but an alliance of two nationalistic ENEMIES who temporarily have less to fear from each other than they do from the opposing side.

An interesting angle to the Eden-Roosevelt conferences is the attempts of both powers to use the Soviet Union as a counterweight against each other. The press claims that Eden demanded "joint" control of Europe by Russia and Britain. Obviously this was an attempt to freeze the United States out of this lucrative field of investment and profit.

Did it succeed? Very doubtful. We have only to look at the Stalinist cringing before Admiral Standley to see that the Soviet Bureaucracy is terrified at the idea of offending Wall Street.

U. S. LEND-LEASE EFFECTIVE POLITICAL WHIP

Standley's statement that the Soviet Union is not publicizing the "great" amount of lend-lease to the Red Army was an attempt by right wing sections of American capitalism to "put the heat" on Russia, to curtail lend-lease. The fact is, however, the lend-lease aid to the only army that is really locked in battle with the Nazi hordes, has been pitiable—only 18% of the total of all lend-lease. Britain, has received three times that amount, although as yet it is only engaged in relatively minor skirmishes.

Instead of pointing out the meagerness of the aid, Stalinism slobbered all over itself with a cringing apology. The Russian press and radio suddenly changed its tune and praised the good gentlemen of Wall Street all over the place.

Evidently, on Stalin's nationalistic policy the Red Star must remain a weak tassel to either the lion's tail or Uncle Sam's beard.

In the last analysis history is written in terms of:

- 1—Economic strength, rather than diplomatic verbiage, and
- 2—The class struggle.

Roosevelt and Eden may have spoken and agreed or disagreed; but the final verdict will be written by other forces.

"Land Of The Free"

The new 1 cent postage stamp proclaims "Freedom of speech and religion, from want and fear" as the basic tenets of life in this country and as the model upon which the rest of the world will be reconstituted when and if the allies win. Beneath the goo and the glue this is what we find:

WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNDER THE LAW

There are more than 1,000 discriminatory laws against women still in force....

The National Child Labor Committee reports that nearly 3 million children are employed and that in 34 States children may still legally leave school to go to work at the age of 14 or 15 years, that illegal child labor has been on the increase since the war. In Savannah, Georgia, seafood companies are agitating to permit Negro children to work peeling shrimp on the claim that the acids involved have a bad effect on the skin of white persons....

THE NEGRO MINORITY

In Dallas, Texas, white school teachers receive \$1,206 salary, for the same work the Negro teachers receive \$810.

The "West Adams Heights Improvement Association" of Los Angeles held a meeting to oust Negro residents from the exclusive "Sugar Hill" residential area this week....

A young colored girl, student at George Washington High School, Brooklyn, N.Y., was dragged into the Independent Subway men's lavatory and severely beaten by a special subway cop, for no reason at all....

In Chicago, where adequate housing is a major problem, and the restricted covenant still enforced, (one of the original signers being George McKibben, defeated candidate for Mayor on the Republican ticket) the Roseland YMCA was used for a meeting to try and rally the neighborhood against opening the new housing project in that area to Negroes.... In Los Angeles the District Attorney refused a permit for a conference to discuss the Sleepy Lagoon case, involving 17 Mexican youths on trial for alleged murder and gangsterism. The D. A. threatened Unitarian Church officials that their tax exempt privileges would be withdrawn if they permitted the meeting in the church hall....

"...race prejudice continues in the army, principally from men of Southern origin. Australians said.... 'We were told by white American soldiers that all Negroes are cannibals, illiterates, savages, and that they will rape our women, we were told that all Negroes were ragged and diseased'...." from an editorial in the Harvard Crimson.

A Texas farmer and his daughter hitched a Negro employee to a plow, beat him until he bled and kept him in involuntary slavery. At the same time an indictment has been entered against Donald Castle of Mississippi who compelled Rosy Wyse, a Negro "by threats, intimidation, whippings and beatings to work and labor involuntarily and against his will" for Castle....

The Fortune Magazine held a survey in February which pointed out that of 9,000 industries polled 3/4ths of the war industry plants still refuse to hire Negroes.

FREE SPEECH

During the recent Chicago election campaign former Municipal Judge Casey found himself literally talking to himself as portions of his radio talk were cut off the air, especially those juicy tidbits which dealt with the tieup between the Kelly administration and the underworld....

Servicemen are forbidden to keep diaries in combat areas, and in many posts not even at home camps....

Station WMCA's newsbroadcaster lost a sponsor because in dealing with the New York elections he said they "were a rebuke to Farley and the Christian Front"....

Huge meetings and radio programs have been organized by the National Association of Manufacturers so that Rickenbacker (himself an officer of an airplane corporation) could spread his poisonous semi-fascist propaganda. The National Maritime Union, adopted a resolution correctly analyzing Rickenbacker's speeches as "designed and calculated to create the widest possible disruption and disunity in the labor movement, driving a wedge between our union brothers and sisters in the armed forces and the civilian war workers at home."

In Oklahoma a University teacher was threatened with indictment for having Tolstoi's novel "War and Peace".... in 1940 the same state raided without warrant and arrested 12 men and 5 women for having books with "dangerous thoughts" like Marx's Capital....

Don Iddon, American correspondent for London dailies charged that "The American censorship is preventing the British people from getting a complete picture of America at war.... censorship is tough and hard and very stringent, it is much stricter than the British Censorship...."

Censorship is not permitting the whole truth to be cabled."

FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND WANT

In Bear Creek, Montana, 72 miners were trapped and killed by an explosion in one of Montana's largest coal mines.... Coal mine in Pittston, Pennsylvania, caved in damaging workers homes and making other houses unfit for occupancy, despite the danger of escaping gas most of the homes were still occupied.... more cave ins are expected.

Michigan department of labor reports that accidents involving women have jumped 82% in six months in manufacturing plants....

The labor division of OCD points out that "every week industrial accidents kill an average of 425 American workers, cripple or blind 2,200 others, incapacitate more than 45,000 and lose for industry and the nation 6,000,000 man-days of essential production. Comprehensive safety programs will reduce these losses."

A report from the U. S. Public Health Service states that 9/10th of American youth, from low income families are in need of medical or dental treatment. 1/3 of this group is unfitted and handicapped by health defects in the work they do. Many of these people are suffering from the results of the depression....

FREEDOM GALORE FOR PROFITEERS

Officers and employees of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel corporation acknowledged that tests had been faked on steel produced to fill war orders. They justified it on the grounds that their motive was "patriotism." Chairman of the investigating committee, Truman considered the practice "just plain crookedness and cheating on the government" but comments that "one of the employees might be held criminally liable"....

The House naval committee approved a work-or-fight principle, blamed war plant employees for laying off work to such an extent that "we are not doing a good enough job to win the war".... A South Chicago worker took a day off and got drunk, the Judge declared: "Well, I see that you don't care to work for the benefit of the armed forces. Perhaps you prefer to work for the city." The worker was fined \$100 and sent to the notorious Bridewell prison to work it out at \$2 a day.

Two trade associations, two auction companies and their subsidiaries were accused of monopolizing fresh fruits and vegetables shipped in N.Y. "to the extent that they could and did increase the cost of the produce as they saw fit".... The A&P food chains have long been monopolizing food and food products to "the extent of injuring and destroying food manufacturers, processors, canners, and depressing prices paid to growers...."

The Western Smelting and Refining company of Omaha has a hoarded stock of 600,000 pounds of needed copper cable and other scrap metals tucked safely away in a warehouse....

Profits of the Aviation corp of NY nearly doubled for last year, totaling \$4,723,894.... Privately owned merchant ships carrying war materials received from lend-lease funds profits for single trips ranging as high as 7 times the book (exaggerated) value of the vessel.... Congress members are substantiating charges that Admiral Land "all organizers should be shot at sunrise" thru the maritime commission, is benefitting large shipping companies at the expenses of the nation's taxpayers.

An OPA study reveals that landlord's net incomes were 14% higher under rent control than for either of the preceding two years.

Office of Price Administration report states that "corporate profits in 1942, even after taxes, were approximately twice what they were in 1939.... in mining and manufacturing, profits have increased most markedly by over 300% above the levels of 1939— but both in trade and services increases of 200% have occurred... profits in the field of distribution as in the field of production are higher than ever before in our history...."

WORKERS!

Your Best Investment today is in the Marxian Analysis of current events and political theory.

Subscribe to "The Fighting Worker" and the "International News" NOW! \$1.00 a year for both. Write to Demos Press, 708 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill.

"Impartial" Committees Keep Score and Bosses Always Win

The "Little Steel" formula which holds down the workers standard of living exposes the War Labor Board for what it really is.

They talk of equality of sacrifice, of no rise in price, profits or wages; yet prices and profits go up while wages go down.

The cost of living is going up. Every time a big manufacturer comes before the government boards and says that his cost of production is "below" the retail price of commodities—up goes the price. But not so with labor. In the major number of cases from the Packing House workers down to the Chicago transport workers the War Board says no.

As for profits, it is true that the small concerns and especially the non-war plants are being driven to the wall. But this is the policy of the Wall Street Financiers who dominate the big industries. Their profits are rolling in while hundreds of thousands of small concerns are on the verge of bankruptcy, or forced out of business already.

Imperialists Wary Of French Workers

(Continued from page 2) will they attempt to use "Left-Democratic" form to lull the masses into their trap. Giraud's move is a step in that direction. It is an indication of future developments in Europe.

There can be no road for the working class of France or the exploited masses of North Africa except the road of the Proletarian Revolution and the subsequent elimination of capitalism in all its forms.

The Wage Freezing Decree

As we go to press President Roosevelt has decreed that wages and prices are to be virtually frozen, with former exceptions to be eliminated. The full significance of this act can not yet be estimated, but a number of points are clear:

1—Labor has receive its most deadly blow. Just at the point where wages are 15% to 50% behind prices, Roosevelt "freezes" them. Since 1941 prices have gone up officially by 24%, but actually by 45% and 50%, in some cases much higher. Roosevelt's order now limits all increases in pay to no more than 15%, the same old "Little Steel" starvation formula.

2—The apathy of labor was seldom more manifest. Despite the large growth of trade unions these last two years the union movement is at very low ebb as a result of the sell-out of the Murray-Green-Lewis-Browder leadership.

3—Prices have not under O.P.A. and will not be permitted by the ruling class of profiteers to become frozen, despite all the pious prayers of Phil Murray. Manufacturers are apparently "freezing" prices but in reality are deteriorating quality, changing brand names, or "adding something new" to disguise increases in price.

"Impartial" Committees Screen Capitalist Interests

History has always proven that a committee of business, labor and the "public" is a committee of the exploiters, because the "public" representative is always on major decisions with the business interests. So too with the decisions of the War Labor Board. It is a committee with a majority AGAINST THE WORKERS AND THE SMALL FARMERS.

The latest trick they have trotted out is where the employer agrees to a small increase in pay. The union and the employer sign and send to the War Labor Board documents to that effect. But in most cases the War Labor Board even turns down these raises "by agreement."

What is really behind this? The government takes the burden of condemnation off the shoulders of the employers. The backward worker sees the employer as one who wants to give a raise BUT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ALLOW IT BECAUSE OF WAR. And we must all sacrifice to fight "Fascism!"

The War Labor Board has saved the face for the employer, and side-tracked the resentment against him. The bosses who are in reality themselves the government shift the blame to "the administration." In this way they present themselves as good fellows to their employees while behind their backs they push through anti-labor legislation. It is a clever division of labor to beat down the standard of living of the American working class.

The Black Market is bound to grow if more restrictions are placed on prices and rationing. The gangsters again help the bosses keep their profits rolling in one way or another.

4.—The decree practically eliminates all safety valves of working class protest. The previous hope of many workers that they might still get raises under the "stabilization" plan is gone. Spontaneous strikes are now bound to increase. How far they go will, of course, depend on the leadership that grows out of the rank and file movement that must, in order to live even on the old law standards, act, and act in an organized purposeful way.

Workers' Council Government Can Solve Workers' Problems

The working class, especially those in the Trade Unions can look only to themselves to solve their problems. There can be no dependency on the sell-out pie-card artists—their "wages" are satisfactory. It is up to the militant rank and file unionists to build a strong Shop Steward movement that will fight to the end for the right of workers to live as human beings.

But real equality and security—economic, political and social can exist under just one form of government—A Workers' Council Government, where production will be planned for use not for profits.