

# LABOR ACTION

For a workers' world — peace and plenty, justice and freedom.

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## United For Negro Boys And Mooney

### Labor Groups in Mass Scottsboro-Mooney Meeting

### S. P. STILL OUT

### Free Mooney Congress in Chicago; March to Washington

NEW YORK— Giving delegates to the Free Mooney Congress in Chicago a send-off and rallying support for the march to Washington to free the Scottsboro boys, a mass meeting of labor forces in the Bronx Coliseum in New York marked the high point in the current move for labor unity in the Mooney-Scottsboro struggle.

Joining on the proposition that "Tom Mooney and the Scottsboro boys are the great symbol of Labor's struggles for justice in the United States today," trade unions, Communist groups, prominent Socialists, the Conference for Progressive Labor Action and "other workers' organizations were present.

On May 8 thousands of Negro and white workers will converge upon Washington to demand the immediate release of the Scottsboro boys and the enactment of legislation for the enforcement of civil liberties guaranteed to the Negro people in the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the constitution. On April 29 and May 1 the United Front Free Mooney Congress will take place in Chicago, while in California, Tom Mooney, brought from prison for the first time since he was framed up sixteen years ago, will be on trial.

The Mooney trial which began on April 26 is on an old indictment growing out of the Preparedness Day Parade on the West Coast. All subsequent investigations have proven Mooney and Warren K. Billings, sentenced in the same frame-up, innocent.

### Official S. P. Refuses to Participate

United Front Committees preparing for the Congress and the march pointed out that while prominent Socialists, including Prof. Robert Morss Lovett, Prof. Reinhold Niebuhr and Franz Daniel had agreed to function on committees, complete unity of labor forces was still lacking since the official Socialist Party had refused to participate.

When the Socialist Party protested that the Mooney Congress was dominated by Communist groups, "The New York Free-Tom-Mooney-Congress-Committee immediately took steps to meet this objection and to perfect an arrangement by which it would be made absolutely clear to everybody that the Congress was a congress of the entire labor movement," the Mooney Committee stated.

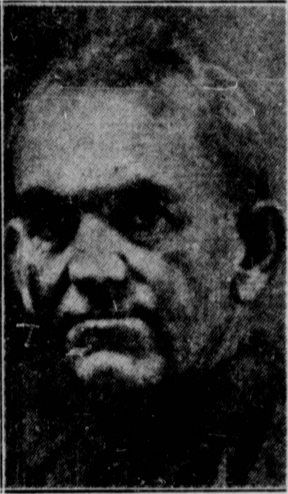
### The Scottsboro Action Committee

Officials of the National Scottsboro Action Committee include Samuel Patterson of the Caribbean Lodge, a Negro fraternal organization, chairman; William Patterson, secretary, International Labor Defense, and A. J. Muste, chairman of the CPLA, vice-chairman. The Mooney Congress Management Committee includes John Dewey, Rodger Baldwin, Lincoln Steffens, C. A. Hathaway, J. Stachel, A. J. Muste and others.

### ROBBING THE WORKERS TO PAY THE SHIRKERS

HARTFORD, CONN.—All minor employees of the Connecticut Electric Service Company and its subsidiary, the Connecticut Light and Power Company, have had their wages cut. Yet the company reports an increase in profits of \$112,990 during 1932 available for dividends. J. Henry Roraback, political boss in Connecticut, is president of the two companies.

### Class War Prisoners



TOM MOONEY



HEYWOOD PATTERSON one of the Scottsboro boys who has been sentenced to death by the State of Alabama on framed evidence.

## Thirty Consumers Versus Edison Co. Hear 'Objections'

### High Profits and Lay-Offs Aired in Rate Hearing Before Public Body

By J. T. GODBER

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Case 7,699 came up for a hearing before the Public Service Commission last week and as a result our conviction that this commission represents the exploiting class, rather than the exploited, has been strengthened.

Case 7,699 happened to be 30 Brooklyn consumers, represented by Jerome Count and Will Maslow of the National Committee on Utilities and Labor, versus the Brooklyn Edison Company, defended by Chauncey B. Garver and a host of lesser lights. Mr. John C. Parker, president of the Brooklyn Edison Company sat right next to Mr. Garver in an advisory capacity. The tremendous responsibility of such a little man representing such a huge corporation caused Mr. Parker to be afflicted with nervousness. Why Mr. Parker should be nervous at a hearing held before such representatives of capitalism as Commissioners Neal R. Brewster and George R. Van Namee, who are just as pompous and as well fed as their names indicate, is beyond us.

### 4,916 Discharged

Using as evidence company reports since 1922, Mr. Count showed that 4,916 employees had been dismissed since 1930, despite the fact that some 33,000,000 feet of overhead lines remain to be put under ground and the company is still able to finance such construction work.

He pointed to an unbroken dividend record of 8 per cent for the last 29 years, the amount paid out in dollars having increased on an average of 60 per cent a year since 1921. During this same period total sales of the company increased only 10 or 15 per cent a year.

During this testimony the hear-

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## F.D. Fails To Make Good; Farmers Act

### May 13 Set For Strike As Milo Reno Says 30 Days Are Up

DES MOINES, IA.— Far from being put to sleep by administration promises and the plea to "wait a month" the farmers of the west are headed for a nation-wide strike.

The Farmers Holiday Association will strike on May 13.

"We've given the administration more than a month to make good, and we're going to have justice," Milo Reno, president of the Holiday organization, declared. Final plans for a "buy, sell and pay nothing" strike will be set going May 3 and 4 at the Holiday convention in Des Moines. Nothing can stop the strike, Reno said, except guaranteed cost of production for all agricultural products.

Organized strength of the farm revolt is sweeping through midwestern states by leaps and bounds. Trade unions will be asked to back the farmers.

APPLETON, WIS.—After waiting 30 days during which strike activities were halted to give Roosevelt a 30-day chance to save the farmers, Wisconsin dairy farmers will strike again May 10.

"This time we'll be prepared," leaders of the Cooperative Milk Pool declare.

Farmers will fight for cost of production and the elimination of organized middlemen who prevent farmers from receiving fair prices.

OKLAHOMA CITY — A letter from Governor "Alfalfa Bill" Murray praising officials who arrested nine farmers on rioting charges after they tried by peaceful means to stop the eviction of an old farmer, and suggesting the arrest of "agitators and orators," including Milo Reno, Ed Pickers and Oscar Ameringer, farm leaders, has roused Oklahoma farmers.

Parading as a "friend of the common people" the governor is being shown up in his true colors as thousands of the letters are being distributed in reprints through the state.

### NEWS FLASHES

SAN FRANCISCO, April 26—The new Mooney trial has been postponed until May 22. Judge thinks demonstrators make too much noise for justice to be heard.

WASHINGTON, April 26 — William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, before the House Labor Committee, opposed a minimum wage provision "for men" in the 30-hour work week bill. Minimum wage for women and minors alright "since they are in a more helpless situation" in dealing with bosses than are men.

SEATTLE (F. P.)—A 12 hour working day has been instituted for employees of the Boeing Airplane Co.

## Do Everybody Good Says 'Poor' Charlie

NEW YORK—Charlie Schwab multi-millionaire chairman of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, who a year ago declared that there were "no rich men any more," pulled another one a few days ago. Speaking at the thirty-fifth annual luncheon of the Pennsylvania Society, of which Secretary of the Treasury William H. Woodin is a member, poor Mr. Schwab declared the depression at an end.

From now on, said Charlie, "we are going to have new interests and we are going to work not for wealth alone but for the truly great, aristocratic aim of doing good to our fellow-men."

To those of us who recall the profiteering role which Bethlehem Steel played during the World War making a straight 100 per cent profit on many orders, this declaration of a change of heart on the part of Charlie comes as good news.

But on second thought, perhaps we had better not take Charlie too seriously. We know that Charlie is an emotional fellow and after a good dinner and in the presence of old cronies very often says things which he doesn't remember 5 minutes later. Seeing that he didn't say a thing about the \$38,677,524 paid in bonuses to a few high officials of his company from 1911 to 1931, while the wages of his workers have been slashed time after time, perhaps we had better wait a little while before cheering.

## Pretensions Cast Aside In Indiana

### Elections Suspended As Gov. McNutt Takes State Control

INDIANAPOLIS Ind.—The growing hostility to democracy in this supposedly most democratic of countries is well illustrated by the rise to power of Paul V. McNutt, newly elected governor of this state. Although McNutt has been in office scarcely more than two months, he is virtually dictator today, and the concentration of authority in his hands goes on.

With hardly any opposition, McNutt has suspended all elections in 1933. He has completely revamped the state government, replacing 160 boards and commissions with eight departments of executive control—all under McNutt. Without the necessity of consulting anybody he can hire and fire all State employees.

Militant workers and labor leaders in this one-time Klan ridden state are especially alarmed by the rise to power of McNutt. They do not accuse him of ever having been connected with the Klan but they know that he has been both State commander and national commander of the American Legion and that his closest advisers today are Legionaires.

Rulers like McNutt pretend to practice economy and democracy, points out the "Progressive Miner" in a recent editorial, while in reality they do nothing of the kind. "Suppression of free speech and democratic principles go hand in glove with this sort of rule."

Marxian radicals have always pointed out that real democracy under capitalism is impossible since the machinery of the state, being in the control of the bankers and industrialists, will in all critical situations be used against the interests of the people, the workers, when their interests clash with the interests of the capitalists.

For pointing this out super patriots, defenders of capitalist democracy, have accused radicals of wanting to destroy democracy. To-

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## All Jobless Called To Independence Meet

### California Elects 50 To National Convention

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—The state convention of the Unemployed Co-operative Relief Association of California, representing more than a quarter of a million organized jobless workers, which met in Oakland on April 10-11-12, voted to send 50 delegates to the National Convention of the Unemployed to be held in Columbus, Ohio, on July 3-4.

In addition to the delegates elected by the state organization, the Los Angeles County Council has voted to send delegates and the council of City Units will do likewise. Thus there will be a delegation of at least 50 from the organized unemployed of this state who will come to Columbus to help draw up the new Declaration of Independence of the American workers and farmers.

## United Federation Endorses Jobless Convention in Pa.

### New Leagues Organized For June Meet in Harrisburg

READING, Pa.—Added impetus was given to preparations for the Harrisburg convention of the state's jobless on June 5 and 6, when the newly formed "United Workers Federation" officially endorsed the convention at its Reading gathering on April 23.

While the endorsement cannot absolutely bind the organizations represented, it went a good way toward clearing the road for united action in the June meeting.

At the same time, the organization campaign among the unemployed is gaining strength all over the state. New leagues have sprung up in Lehigh, Northampton Center, Allegheny Philadelphia, Northumberland, Indiana and other counties.

The unemployed organizations have also shown increasing determination in their demands. At Mt. Carmel, in the heart of the anthracite, the Workers Protective League of Northumberland County has just concluded a successful walk-out against working for Talbot relief without being covered by compensation. At the league's suggestion 200 jobless who had been working on a borough improvement project, laid down their tools. In the show-down, the relief authorities were compelled to pay them the regular relief check despite their refusal to work.

### Compensation or No Work

Numerous other unemployed organizations have raised the question of "compensation for accidents or no work." The executive director of the State Emergency Relief Commission, W. B. Rodgers, has ruled that it is not necessary to work if not covered by compensation. Because of this action, it is charged, he has been released from his job, to take effect May 1.

The organizing drive has carried Louis F. Budenz and Cal Bellaver from the southeastern section of the state to the northwestern. The continuation committee and local organizers have become increasingly busy, in the effort to get leagues into every county and into as many borough and cities as possible before the June convention opens. The goal is to have at least 100 leagues represented when the "contain rises" in Harrisburg.

### Convention Endorses June Meet

The United Workers Federation convention which endorsed the unemployed meet, was called together by Socialist Party groups. Two

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### Ohio State League to Feed Worker-Farmer Delegates in National Meet

### COLUMBUS JULY 3-4

### Call Points to Mass Suffering in Midst of Plenty

COLUMBUS, Ohio.—"Place the unemployed of this county in a line 18 inches apart and they will form a solid wall of humanity from Boston to Los Angeles and back," declares the call sent out by the Ohio Unemployed League for a national convention of the jobless which will meet here on July 3-4 to draw up a "New Declaration of Independence for the workers and farmers of America."

"Wives and children would form still other lines," continues the call. "That is the backbone of our nation today. It represents mass suffering from want in the midst of plenty. There is power in that line that can eliminate unemployment. That power lies in organization."

"We unemployed don't need to be told there is still a depression, and we haven't reached that 'corner' yet. We don't need to hear about the craziness of a system which allows our children to go hungry and ragged while the farmers throw away milk and plow under cotton crops. We know too well the abuses and inadequacies of present relief administration."

"And we are doing something about this. All over the country unemployed workers and farmers are waking up, are beginning to think deeply about these problems, and what is more important, are getting together. We have already met a number of times, each time larger and stronger than before. Now the biggest convention of the unemployed movement is ahead of us, and we must begin to prepare for it immediately."

### Ground Work

Readers of LABOR ACTION will recall that the first state convention of the Ohio Unemployed League met in Columbus on February 27. At that convention delegates from 33 counties, representing 76 organizations of the unemployed within the state, voted that a national convention of the unemployed be held in Columbus during the week of July 4.

Preceding the state convention in February, delegate conferences had met at Niles on October 9, 1932 and on November 6. These conferences had set up a temporary organization, and the Columbus convention gave it permanent form, adopted a state constitution, decided on a program and policies, and elected officers for the year.

### Open To All Unemployed

"The League is free from domination by or affiliation with any political group," asserts the literature of the Ohio League. "Membership is open to all unemployed workers, wage earners and dirt farmers, irrespective of race, color, sex, religion, political affiliation or nationality. The organization extends its to every part of the state. Its growth continues through the activities of voluntary organizers from the ranks of the unemployed."

Declaring that pressure upon public officials, makes state organization of the unemployed a necessity, the Ohio League calls upon the unemployed of other states to organize "first as local groups and then into state leagues. Effective state organizations should be set up if possible before the National Convention, and delegates elected to the Convention."

The purpose of the National Convention, says the call, is to formulate a complete program and policy for the reorganization of state leagues, as an essential step in the formation of a national program.

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## Workers, May Day Is Our Day

### STATEMENT

### ISSUED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CPLA

The First of May is the international holiday of Labor. Attempts are made by the enemies of Labor in the U. S. to create the impression that May Day is a "foreign" holiday and that therefore "good American workers" should not take part in it. The fact is that May Day was first made a Labor holiday right here in the United States in 1886 when the American labor movement called upon all workers to demonstrate for the 8 hour day. It is especially appropriate therefore that all American workers should observe May Day this year when 15 million unemployed walk the streets, and we must have an immediate drastic reduction of hours, without reduction in pay, in order to put the unemployed back to work.

The attempt to discredit May Day as a holiday only for "foreigners" and "reds" is another way the bankers and bosses have to create divisions and separations among the workers. Because they know so well that the power of the workers is irresistible if only they stand together, the bosses will resort to any vile means in order to keep the workers apart. Sometimes even workers and labor organizations play into the bosses' hands by refusing to form a United Front in action despite their differences.

On May Day the workers will meet and sing and demonstrate together. That will be a symbol of how they are going to fight and work together in mine, mill, factory, store, office and farm from now on.

On May Day the workers will stand together regardless of their political beliefs and affiliations. Radical or conservative, we are all workers and we are all against the bankers and profiteers.

On May Day the workers will stand together regardless of race, nationality or creed. Foreign-born or native-born, Catholic, Protestant, Jew, we are all workers. Our interests are one.

On May Day the Negro and white workers

will stand together, demanding the immediate safe release of the Scottsboro boys and adoption of laws to enforce the constitutional guarantees for the Negro people in the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution. Division and prejudice between black and white workers is harmful to both and can only help the bosses. By united action they can both improve their conditions.

On May Day the workers of the United States will pledge their interest and solidarity with the workers of all other lands—the workers of Germany where Hitler's Fascism is smashing the trade unions, cooperatives, labor press and all the institutions of the working class; of China, where Japanese imperialists are slaughtering millions of workers, and other lands. The workers of the United States will pledge solidarity also with the workers of Soviet Russia, who have taken control of their own destinies, and are building an economic order based on the good of the masses and not the profits of a few.

On May Day the workers of all lands will unite to protest against the danger of war. Everywhere the bosses, unable to find any other way out of the mess which they themselves have created, are making preparations for war. The lie that war will mean prosperity for the workers is spread around. War will only mean the slaughter of millions of workers. On May Day the workers of all lands will demonstrate against war.

Join in demonstrations on the First of May against wage cuts; against cuts in relief; against the Roosevelt forced labor and the dollar-a-day wage policy; for unemployment insurance; for the 30-hour week without reduction in pay; for the release of Tom Mooney, the Scottsboro boys, the Centralia prisoners, the Kentucky miners and all class-war prisoners; against war, for a workers' world!

# FROM THE FIRING LINE

## Relief Worker Tells of Kidnapping in South

The big relief strike "Holiday" in Highpoint, North Carolina, was covered in the previous issue of LABOR ACTION. The strike involved nearly a third of the population of the city. A labor leader and an unemployed man were kidnapped and beaten. The following letter from a "relief worker" tells the story.

We declared the holiday on Friday, and this is what happened. There are about 11,000 unemployed, a third of the city. One thousand of them were working for government relief projects three days a week at a dollar an 8-hour day. They announced that this would be cut to 80 cents a day and we struck.

Well a conciliator came down from Washington and everything on the side of the Unemployed League and the strikers was orderly, but agents from the Bradley organization, a company union here, and the manufacturers and the police and city officials tried to start a reign of terror. They did everything they could. They threatened to cut workers off from all relief. But this didn't have much effect as the workers were slowly starving to death anyhow. Then they began threatening the leaders. Larry Hogan, who is a representative of the Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers, and L. M. Ritchie, who is secretary of the Central Labor Union and president of Local 1703 of the U.T.W. and W. E. Presswood, president of the unemployed league.

And on Friday night this is what happened: Hogan took Presswood home and as he came back he passed by the Central Labor Hall and he saw that the lights were burning. Six policemen were standing nearby looking at the hall. Hogan left his secretary in his car and went into the hall to see who was there.

His secretary says she watched the policemen, and that they came together a moment and then went off in different directions.

In the hall Hogan found Ritchie

and an unemployed man. They had turned the lights on. Hogan came down and drove off home.

A few minutes later Ritchie and the unemployed man came down, going home. They were held up on the street by gunmen forced into a car, driven six miles from town. They were given a terrible whipping. The thugs used a rubber hose. They evidently thought that Ritchie was Hogan.

They whipped until they were exhausted and then made him drink a bottle of castor oil. He refused to promise not to go back to the Central Labor Hall. Then the men took everything he and the unemployed man had and left them.

A doctor here pronounced Ritchie's condition very serious. As a statement issued by E. C. Morris, president of the High Point Central Labor Union, and Larry Hogan, has put it. "He was already suffering from leakage of the heart and was

half starved for he is among the unemployed project workers. His back from his shoulders to his knees was like a raw beef."

We knew one of the kidnapers, he was recognized by the unemployed man, and we gave the police the car number, but for some days they went about on the streets without being arrested. Some people didn't think they would be arrested. They thought the police were in on it too.

Anyway after a statement was issued calling the police's hand the men were arrested but the trial was put off, and it looks like it will be worn out that way.

The Holiday strike was settled and we have gained. We will now work four days a week, six hours a day, and get \$3.20 a week. Also a white man and a colored man will hereafter represent the unemployed on the Welfare Board which recognizes the league's grievance committee. This is a good start. We have fighting leaders and the unemployed are solidly with them as this Holiday of 11,500 people showed.

## We Must Be Simple and Clear, Says Missourian

What are American workers thinking, what do they want, and how can they be won into a class-conscious movement? How can we build a genuine labor movement in this country, based upon working class principles, and headed in the direction of a workers republic?

Again and again these questions are asked. Letters to LABOR ACTION from workers who have seen promising militant movements rise and die put the question: What sort of organization will it take to do the job?

Clarence Hall of Arno, Missouri, writes to say that simplicity and soundness of purpose are of utmost importance, and that industrial unionism, in view of mass unemployment, is no longer the answer. His letter follows:

Briefly stated, my views are

these: The greatest need is unity led by militancy. Unity cannot serve a great purpose without militant leadership, and militancy is quite unavailing without unity. For further progress, the two are inseparable; and the final result of the two can be none other than a powerful and effective revolutionary labor movement.

As strange as it may seem to many radicals, who take it for granted that their own personal views may be the common views of the masses, I am certain that the American worker does not today understand revolutionary doctrine. Therefore it is the movement that can carry the message of revolution to him that will ultimately lead him.

In this connection, simplicity and soundness of the program offered are of the utmost importance. I have heard it said that "men think and act in terms common to their environment." From all that I have seen I believe that the statement is perfectly sound.

### Failure of Craft Unionism

When there is social or industrial progress, movements either adjust themselves to that progress or they die. Craft unionism failed to take into account the fact that automatic machinery was displacing the tradesman, and that mass production demanded a form of unionism designed to cover the whole of an industry or in other words industrial unionism, and for that lack of foresight a great nucleus of American labor unionism was allowed to disintegrate and vanish into nothing. I am convinced that if the I.W.W. had been supported in its drive to organize the American workers fifteen or twenty years ago, today no capitalist country in the world would have a stronger movement.

But it is now evident to me that

### Thirty Consumers Versus Edison Co.

(Continued from Page 1) ing room was comparatively quiet but as soon as Count began to introduce damaging evidence something happened. Either Mr. Garver or Mr. Parker would object strenuously and the always obliging Public Service Commissioners would reply "Objection sustained, strike from the record."

"Objections Sustained" Count produced evidence showing that Floyd L. Carlisle, Percy A. Rockefeller, John N. Garber, and James H. Post were directors of both the Brooklyn Edison Company and the National City Bank. The Edison lawyers objected; "objection sustained" replied the dignified commissioners. Count had previously shown that a sale of \$25,000,000 worth of company bonds had netted the National City Company \$1,500,000 and that the public utility had lent \$12,400,000 to affiliates to repay National City loans.

When Count pointed out that in 1932 while employees were being discharged and suffering from wage cuts, salaries to officers of Brooklyn Edison had increased \$40,000 over 1931, Mr. Garver objected and the commissioners, realizing that it would never do to let the public hear of this when a depression was on, sustained the objection, and then they adjourned the hearing until the tenth of May.

## United Labor Action Need, Says Kentuckian

My Old Kentucky Home! Down in Harlan where the coal operators send union men to the penitentiary. Down in the Bluegrass where tenant farmers give half of the tobacco crops to the landlords. They don't have black slaves exclusively down there anymore, they have the modern form of slavery, wage-slavery for blacks and whites. And a lot of them are unemployed. But they are unorganized because "those who could do the organizing are split on the Communist-Socialist question," and nothing is done. This is the opinion of J. E. R. who writes to tell of conditions in the Bluegrass.

Farmers have planted large tobacco crops this year and the prospects are that a year hence they will be much poorer than at present. It's a mystery how tobacco tenants live. They give half of what they produce to the landlord for the rent of the land, and in case they have a dwelling better than a barn they pay from one to three hundred dollars house rent per year.

We have the unemployed and I wish I could paint a bright picture about organization, but I can't. They are apathetic and unorganized, yet however dark the outlook, something must be done. I have agitated among Socialists and Communists for action in Lexington, but the great hindrance is that these people, some of them able to do good organizing work, are split on the Communist-Socialist question, and nothing effective is done. I have worked with both groups. This argument seems to go on forever.

I am thoroughly convinced of the necessity for "labor action" on a united front basis, and will support the CPLA and its publications as best I can. I will be glad to send you news items from time to time. Did you get the dollar I sent for LABOR ACTION?

This might interest you. It was

## New Deal Labor Camps Turned Over To Army



WASHINGTON. — Fears that the 1,250 New Deal labor camps segregating 250,000 jobless young men will be converted into training stations for auxiliary army forces were justified when General Drumm of the general Army staff announced that President Roosevelt had turned the project over to the Army. Drill sergeants, some 3,000 lieutenants and 1,500 captains will boss the works. The administration's decision to break its promise for civilian rule was explained by General Drumm on the ground that the Army was "equipped" to do the job.

Critics say that far-sighted interests may foresee the need for additional drilled forces to put down possible uprisings of unemployed masses. Also, there is the general talk of war. Some say it is a scheme to increase U. S. military strength by a quarter million men.

Full "administration" powers, military discipline, bugle calls, drills, it is pointed out, will help the hardboiled rookie-breakers create a military atmosphere and turn the camps into potential units for regular army duty at home or abroad.

## Sheriff's Thugs Kill Two Miners In Illinois Strike

By GERRY ALLAND

DUQUOIN, Ill. (F. P.) — "Get a doctor; they got me." That was the greeting Henry Arnold, Perry County leader of the Progressive Miners of America, gave his wife when she entered her home near Duquoin. Her husband was slumped over a bed. He had been shot eight times.

In the bathroom Mrs. Arnold found James Attes, another Perry County leader of the P. M. A., dead in a pool of blood. Several shots had gone through his body, and pierced the door. Arnold died several hours after he was shot.

Four deputy sheriffs murdered Attes and Arnold. Howard Rheingans, professional gunman, with three others, invaded the Arnold home without a warrant. Rheingans admitted shooting Attes.

The only other person near at the time of the murders was Arnold's step-daughter, Mrs. Corna Bullock, who came to the door of the Arnold residence when the deputies approached. They brushed her aside, drew their guns and forced their way into the house. No warrant was presented. Frightened Mrs. Bullock ran out into the yard. A few moments later the shots rang out.

### Were Striking Miners

No weapons were found near the murdered miners, but a coroner, dispatched to the home by authorities, instantly rendered a decision of justifiable homicide.

Aronid and Attes were striking miners from the Majestic Peabody mine. The mine had been struck after the Peabody Coal Company

even industrial unionism is not sufficient, alone, to be effective, due to the fact that we are confronted with a permanent unemployment ranging between twelve and fifteen million workers. Unemployed workers have no economic power and without economic power, an industrial union cannot function.

### refused to recognize the Progressive Miners of America.

The morning before their murder they had been to the main business section of Duquoin and had observed brutal attacks of deputies against union members. They returned to Arnold's home to evade danger in the city. The four deputy sheriffs followed them.

Unknown assailants shot into the home of Vernon Miller and Glen Canada the night before the double murder, hitting 14-year-old Laverne Miller in the chest. Later she died in the hospital.

### Night Raids

The attack made against the Miller home was part of a series of night raids, marked by extreme brutality and terrorism. State highway patrolmen joined in numerous attacks against union members in the streets and highways about Duquoin. Miners were arrested after the deputies had murdered Miss Miller. They were held for questioning.

Headquarters and the relief station of the progressive union were ordered closed by acting State Attorney M. K. Grabowski.

Members of the P. M. A. and the Women's Auxiliary braved hail, rain and a heavy wind to picket the United Electric strip mine west of Duquoin. The coal company had decided to abrogate its agreement with the miners after three months of peaceable relations with the P.M.A.

### Picket Line Holds

Approximately 250 Progressives picketed the mine peacefully without disturbance. Sheriff Albert Davis, who had given the miners the right of free speech, free assembly and the right to picket, changed his mind after conferring with Vice President Melville of the United Electric Company, and issued an ultimatum to the pickets that they would have to disperse within three minutes.

The pickets held their ground and refused to be intimidated. Deputy Sheriff Rheingans came into prominence again by shooting the first tear gas bomb among a group of women pickets but the wind was too strong for the tear gas to have any effect. The lines held firm.

## Pittsburgh League Demands \$750,000 For Shoes, Clothes

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—At a hearing before the city council the Unemployed Citizens' League of Allegheny County demanded an appropriation of \$750,000 for clothing and shoes for the unemployed.

Before a crowd of unemployed who packed the council chamber and corridors of the city-county building, officers of the League described the naked condition of the workers on relief, 68,000 or more families. For months no clothing or shoes have been provided by the relief agencies. The League pointed out that funds were available from state and federal sources to provide 90 cents per week per person for food only, and insisted that it was the city fathers' duty and responsibility to supply the needy families with clothing. Last November voters in the city endorsed a \$3,000,000 bond issue for direct relief. League spokesmen demanded that \$150,000 of this be appropriated immediately for shoes and \$600,000 for clothing.

Harry Little, president of the council, promised the U.C.L. that \$500,000 would be appropriated immediately and turned over to the relief agencies. He further promised the unemployed that a contract for \$35,000 would be let immediately for shoes.

### Attack Corporation Relief

An attack on United States Steel and Jones and Laughlin Steel corporation relief was made. The officers of the League demanded that the city council investigate the corporation relief system and compel the steel trust to either pay the unemployed an adequate amount in relief or turn them over to public agencies.

## United Federation Endorses Jobless Convention in Pa.

(Continued from Page 1) hundred delegates attended, approximately 125 of which were S.P. branches and affiliates, 30 from trade unions and other bodies and 45 from unemployed leagues. The convention decided to form a statewide organization, to promote "united non-partisan political and industrial action" by the "producing classes." This action will have to be referred back to the bodies represented.

Objection was raised to the idea of a separate convention of the jobless by trade union officials and several Socialist Party representatives. But the unemployed organizations insisted that they would hold their convention and the move was accordingly endorsed. Elmer Cope, as chairman of the jobless continuation committee, took the lead in voicing the views of the unemployed groups not under the domination of any political party. In this attitude he was supported by Robert Collum, Socialist, of the Pottsville Unemployed Union and chairman of the Convention Committee on Unemployment.

Michael Demchak, John Covelleski, Joseph Dempski, Joseph Leschinsky, J. Blaney, Robert Leberman and other unemployed league delegates likewise took the floor in favor of an unemployed convention, by, for and of the jobless.

### Chicago Asked to Postpone Convention

The Reading convention requested the provisional Federation of Unemployed Workers Organizations to postpone its proposed Chicago convention, in order that it might join with the Ohio Unemployed League in a monster national gathering to be worked out by both groups.

And thus the march toward a united, non-partisan body of unemployed continues in Pennsylvania, particularly significant because it is linked up with a crusade for wider and wider organization.

### IN NEW YORK

#### DINNER

A "Tell a Story" Dinner at the CPLA Hall on Saturday, May 13th, 7 P. M., 50 cents. "My Red Letter Day in the Labor Movement" will be briefly told by everyone present. In the evening, dancing and refreshments. Make your reservations.

#### FREE LECTURES

"Communist Parties and groups in the United States; theories and practice," will be the subject of a lecture by J. B. S. Hardman at 128 E. 16th street on Friday, May 5, at 8 P. M.

Ludwig Lore will speak Friday, May 19, on "The International Labor Movement."

The lectures will be followed by discussions and are open to the public.

#### CLASSES

Public Speaking classes are being conducted by Walter Edwin Peck on Tuesday at 8:30 P. M. at CPLA Hall, 128 East 16th Street. Admission 25 cents.

**May Day Greetings**

to

**LABOR ACTION**

from

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FOREIGN NOTES

By CHARLES LAGNER

Germany

The organ of the SPG in Frankfurt on the Main, the Volksstimme, has filed a declaration of bankruptcy...

United Political Party of Labor Chief Need in America Today

THE very name Continental Congress carries your thoughts back to an earlier period in the history of the American people...

CPLA Message to "Continental Congress."

ped; federal relief to the unemployed in large amounts must be immediately voted; a ten billion dollar public works program must be instituted...

The suffering in this country today is more severe and widespread, the crisis is more profound and dangerous. There is corresponding greater need for Action—swift, revolutionary and intelligent Action.

At least 15 million workers are unemployed. As many more get such meager pay that they are unable to support themselves...

The formulation of a program on paper is at this moment, however, relatively unimportant. It may even be a futile thing. Another conference at which many speeches are made and a polite committee holds a conference with the President...

Action, Not Words

Need of the Hour On many, if not all of the steps that must be taken to meet this situation, the delegates to this Congress are probably agreed.

Inflation Won't Help Workers Thinks Editor of Labor Journal

By JUSTUS EBERT (Editor, Amalgamated Lithographers Journal)

AL SMITH calls inflation, "A shot in the arm." Dean Madden of the N. Y. University, declares "it's a grand and glorious debacle"...

strike and fight like hell to get it. The supposition that inflation will work in "the traditional manner" thereby improving conditions among the unemployed...

Italy

Italian agricultural boards and factory owners were instructed by the government whenever possible to order agricultural and industrial machinery from Germany.

Australia

The elections in West Australia gave a clear majority to the Labor Party, which will now constitute the government.

Soviet Union

The Control Commission of the Comintern has appointed a commission to investigate the activities of Thaelman in the CUG. To be investigated are: the political work of the CPG, the application of funds received and the building of Communist defense organizations.

Where Will It End?

THIS inflation—the U. S. inflation will be a "controlled inflation." It was forced on the Roosevelt administration, so friendly newspapers state.

Workers Must Fight

THIS means, if it means anything, that inflation will primarily benefit business, especially big business with its better finances. This was the case in Germany where the first victims of inflation after the workers were the small tradesmen, the minor professional men, in brief the lower middle class.

action. Nothing will be done until they do achieve unity and power. Action is the need of the hour.

Organize a Fighting Force

Someone, in commenting upon Fascism which has achieved such awful successes in recent years, has recently said: "Since the Fascists propose to seize power, they begin by organizing a fighting force."

Unity Is Essential

5. The events of recent years have conclusively and tragically demonstrated that where workers and dirt farmers are divided, where the labor movement is torn with divisions, it is impossible to stay the advance of Fascism.

We Must Build a Farmer-Labor Party

6. An adequate "fighting force" of the workers and farmers of the nation implies the building of a political organization.

Organizing the Unorganized

2. The great mass of workers, especially in such basic industries as public utilities, steel, automobiles, textiles, soft coal, electrical equipment, oil, are unorganized.

Unemployed Organizations

3. Throughout all sections of the country it has been demonstrated that the fact that millions of workers (in some industries over 80 per cent) are unemployed, need not prevent organization.

4. For years the farmers tried

then? Wherein will be the profit, the benefit, to labor? We may secure more markets at more sacrifices than ever before!

However, let us accept inflation at its best, as a means of increasing the amount of purchasing power and employment; as a prosperity reviver, in brief, as such a device it is, as has been well stated elsewhere, "merely a superficial attack on the ills of a capitalist world."

lobbying and other so-called "political" activities in the attempt to stay the forces which were plunging them into misery. The result was that their conditions became steadily and rapidly worse.

Capitalist Wreckers Against Worker Builders

"This trial is a class battle," the prosecutor Vishinsky declared in summing up the evidence. "It is a trial of wreckers trying to deal a blow to our most important industrial branch—electricity."

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Pretensions Cast Aside In Indiana

(Continued from Page 1) day they point to Soviet Russia as an example and tell us that in this country where the workers actually rule there is no democracy.

The Minority and the Majority

We suspect, however, that the defenders of political democracy never meant this. For the one thing that these critics of Soviet Russia dwell on with the greatest vehemence is the treatment of the Kulaks and other exploiters by this workers' government.

Putting Capitalists on Their Feet

Fifteen million workers today are jobless, thousands of them slowly starving. What is the government doing about the interests of these workers?

All Jobless Meet

(Continued from Page 1) "The Convention will write a New Declaration of Independence for workers and farmers."

Delegates to Be Fed

Preceding the National meet the Ohio Unemployed League, which will be host for the Convention, will hold a second state convention on July 1-2, to which national delegates are invited for "observation and cooperation."

Spies Sentenced In USSR As England Bares Teeth

LONDON, ENG. (Special)—War clouds threatening to engulf the world were thrown on the international horizon by the ruling class of England when five English engineers, charged with plotting against the Russian government, were tried and sentenced in a Soviet court that openly admitted itself to be prejudiced in favor of the workers.

The sensational trial, involving six engineers from England, heads of the Metropolitan-Vickers Company, and 11 Russians, disclosed spying, sabotage, bribery and a plot to paralyze the great power station serving factories and powerful wireless stations in the Kremlin.

Y. Vishinsky, the Russian prosecutor, admitting the working class character of the court, summed up the case against the defendants in a seven hour speech while in England the MacDonald government and the capitalist press whipped up war hysteria against Russia that resulted in an embargo on Russian goods.

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Pointing to the difference between courts prejudiced in favor of capitalist ruling classes and Soviet courts where the prejudice is in favor of the workers, in connection with the testimony of Russian defendants that they had sabotaged on Soviet industry and joined the plot of the Britons who bribed them with sums in paper and gold rubles, he continued:

"Our ideas of bribes are different from those in foreign countries, where the theft of bread is a crime and the theft of a railroad is rewarded with the title of Senator."

In English courts the defendants would know very well what to expect as spies, he said, and directed attention to that country's treatment of the Meerut prisoners in India who have been kept by the British in prison four years without trial.

"Unfair Trial" Shout Murderers of Indian Workers

Meanwhile in England the capitalist government, harrassed by 6 million unemployed workers, raised a military hue and cry against the "unfair trial."

"This so-called trial is a stench in the nostrils of the world," said the Daily Mail, and added, "The British public will never tolerate this."

British officials hurried to the King's palace. The capitalist newspapers, after the confession of the chief engineer Thornton, redoubled their cry for vengeance.

They halted trade relations with Germany and at the same time they deplored the atrocities of the Fascist regime. Plainly the British industrialists and politicians, embarrassed by MacDonald's confession, were redoubling their efforts to make a showing of righteous anger.

British I. L. P. With Russian Workers

"We will make it perfectly clear that if there is war we stand openly with Russia against our own government," Fenner Brockway, chairman of the I.L.P. declared.

"We know we will not be alone and we will do our utmost to get a united working class movement which will resist that threat of war and make the situation the occasion not only to bring down our own government but to break down the system of capitalism for which it stands."

Half an hour after news reached England that five of the British engineers had been sentenced, Thornton to 3 years in prison, MacDonald 2 years, and three others expelled from Russia "within 3 days and not to return within 5 years," one being acquitted, while 10 Russians got sentences ranging up to 10 years, it was evident that retaliatory measures would be immediately taken by the British government. A trade embargo on 80 per cent of Russian goods was hastened through Parliament.

In Russia the sensational reverberations from the long trial were overshadowed by news that 17 million more acres of farm land had been planted than at this time last spring, and that the outlook for a bumper crop to the workers' government this year in Russia was bright.

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# LABOR ACTION

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Under Direction of the National Executive Committee of CPLA

Volume I. No. 3. Monday, May 1, 1933

## THE MEANING OF THE UNITED FRONT

THE Conference for Progressive Labor Action, as is shown elsewhere in this issue, has been trying in recent weeks to bring about a united front in regard to certain matters, such as the freeing of Tom Mooney and the Scottsboro boys, resistance to wage cuts and protest against Fascism. We have tried to bring all kinds of labor elements—conservative unions, progressive ones, Socialists, Communists, I. W. W.'s, Anarchists and others together in such activities.

Does this mean that we have merged with some or all of these organizations? It does not. Does this mean that we agree on all matters with them? It does not. Does it mean that we will not continue to fight some of their policies and tactics as we have done in the past? It does not. It is precisely because there are different organizations and tendencies in the labor movement that we have the problem of the united front. If we were already all one, there would be nobody to be united with anybody else.

Some day we must forget all our big differences. We must have a great united fighting labor movement. If we remain divided we will be licked.

In the meantime there are things on which we can unite. If a wage-cut is put into effect in a factory all the workers, regardless of their politics or religion, feel it. Why then should they not unite, regardless of their politics and religion, in fighting it? If relief is cut down it affects the stomachs of the unemployed and their families, regardless of their politics, race, color or religion. Why then should they not fight unitedly against it?

Mooney after sixteen years remains in prison, simply because he dared to try to organize the employes of the traction trust in San Francisco into a union. There cannot possibly be any difference of opinion among workers as to whether or not he should be immediately freed. Therefore a united front for the release of Mooney is in order.

The Conference for Progressive Labor Action will continue, therefore, to call upon all elements in the labor movement, regardless of past and present differences, to join in all concrete activities on which agreement is possible. The capitalists laugh at us all and turn their backs upon us on any issue where we are divided. They never fail to listen when the workers speak with a united voice.

## BILL GREEN ATTACKS SOVIET RUSSIA

UNDER the auspices of the American Legion a few nights ago William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, addressed a mass meeting called "to arouse public sentiment against recognition of Soviet Russia by the United States."

Speaking from the same platform with Hamilton Fish, of red-baiting fame, Green argued that since the government and social philosophy of Soviet Russia are different from and opposed to our form of government we therefore cannot recognize her.

Such an argument coming from any person above the intellectual level of a member of the D. A. R. would seem strange enough, but coming from the head of what purports to be a labor movement, it sounds almost unbelievable. Surely Mr. Green knows that the government of the United States has diplomatic relations with such countries as Germany, Italy and Japan. Or does Mr. Green consider the social philosophies of the labor hating governments of Hitler and Mussolini similar to that of the United States?

Mr. Green has been making quite a noise recently about unemployment. Not so long ago he even threatened that he and his organization would do something drastic unless the government and big business remedied matters immediately. Of course he really hasn't done anything, nor has the government or big business. Still he did admit that there are entirely too many workers without jobs.

Well, Mr. Green, there is only one country in the world today in which there is no unemployment. There is only one country where the standard of living of the workers is rising. That country is Soviet Russia. These are facts acknowledged by the most reliable of authorities.

Admitted that Soviet Russia is different from and opposed to any form of government under which millions of workers and their children starve while the warehouses are stuffed with food, and are made to go without proper shelter and clothing while houses stand unoccupied and the doors of factories are locked. In Soviet Russia labor actually has a voice in the government. The workers own and operate the industries for their own good rather than for the profit of a few irresponsible rich men.

If you were truly a representative of labor as you pretend to be, Mr. Green, you would be applauding this. You would be speaking for recognition of Soviet Russia and defending this workers' republic against her enemies, which in the final count are the enemies of labor. But in place of that you seem to think it your duty to defend capitalism. You sound more like the representative of the bosses than you do of the workers.

## FARMERS ON THE MARCH AGAIN

WE extend our greetings and best wishes to the National Farmers' Holiday Movement which has called a nation-wide strike of farmers for May 18 if by that time adequate farm relief measures have not been put into effect. The industrial workers have long known the power of the strike, of the united refusal to produce unless the masters grant satisfactory terms. The farmer will get results too by direct action. Best of all, the farmers and workers now understand each other better and can work together against the bankers and politicians.

In Congress the Roosevelt farm program still drags along. We were going to get a "new deal" overnight. Defenders of the administration are now saying: "You can't expect everything in two months." Pretty soon they will be saying: "You can't expect too much in two years."

The administration farm program aims to cut the principal and interest of mortgages on farms. It still remains to be seen whether the reduction will be enough to amount to anything to the mass of the farmers. It also aims to raise the prices of farm products by one or several devices which the president is authorized to use. Everybody agrees that the farmer should get a lot more for his products. If, however, the prices of farm products are raised and the industrial workers cannot buy these products because their wages are kept down, no benefit will come to the farmer. Food products will still be a drag on the market, everybody will still starve in the midst of plenty.

The only hope for either farmers or workers is to stand together against the bankers and profiteers. The need of the hour for both is Action.

## CAPITALISM

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS  
By H. A. H.

### "OUR FREE AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS"

Fourteen thousand high school pupils in Chicago walked out of their classrooms on strike a few weeks ago. They were protesting the delay in the payment of their teachers' salaries.

In a few weeks the "Century of Progress" fair will open in Chicago. Millions of dollars are being spent on preparation for it. Yet 14,000 Chicago school teachers have not received any salaries for almost a year.

We hear a great deal today from certain loud-talking individuals about the necessity for protecting and preserving "our free and democratic American institutions." From the "subversive doctrines" of "foreign agitators." Socialism and communism, they tell us, are opposed to freedom and democracy, and would destroy our institutions.

Well, one of "our free institutions" that has been most advertised is our public school system. Every child in the United States, we have been taught to believe had a chance to get an education. What about this institution today?

According to the American Federation of Teachers, 40 per cent of the nation's school population is unable to attend classes today because classes are not being held. The average yearly wage of teachers in the United States has dropped 50 per cent in two years and now ranges around \$650 per annum. In Alabama, where 200,000 children are being deprived of schooling, white teachers in white schools are getting as low as \$10 a month. Apparently one of our institutions is being very effectively destroyed without the aid of "foreign agitators." But if not by them, by whom then—could it be by the American bankers and industrialists?

However, let us investigate this business of "subversive doctrines" a little further since the subject is being brought up so much by the self-appointed defenders of "our free and democratic" institutions. By "subversive doctrines" they mean, as a rule communism and socialism. Well, there is a pretty large country today in which these are the ruling doctrines. For more than fifteen years now communism has been in power in Russia. What has happened?

If we are to believe the reports brought back from that country by dozens of American educators and writers the "free and democratic institutions" of that country are becoming more numerous all the time. As a matter of fact some of these returning visitors contend that Soviet Russia is the only country in the world today in which there are any really "free and democratic" institutions.

Making a report before the annual conference of the American Economic Association held in Cleveland in December 1930, Professor Susan M. Kingsbury pointed out that there is practically no adult in the Soviet Union who does not study something or does not attend some school or other. Five years ago only 15 per cent of Russia's population could read and write, said Professor John F. Gillette of the University of Wisconsin speaking before the Milwaukee Rotary Club a few days ago. "Today only 15 per cent are illiterate."

Thus in America the richest and most powerful nation on earth, millions of children are being deprived of the right to an education, while in Russia—only a short time ago one of the most backward of countries—the workers have taken control of the government and now practically every child and adult have an opportunity to an education. At least one of the "free and democratic" institutions about which Americans have been boasting has not been destroyed by the "subversive doctrines" of communism.

Perhaps if we are really interested in "free and democratic" institutions it's about time that we began questioning the "subversive doctrines" of capitalism.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

CPLAers and sympathizers are reminded that there is a constant demand in the office for volunteer clerical work whether skilled or unskilled. Even a few hours work will be greatly appreciated.

# I Didn't Like That

The Autobiography of An American

A. ROBERT BOSWORTH of Indiana told the story of his life the other day to some students at a labor college. He thought they "might be interested." They were. He thought his autobiography had a moral. Maybe it did. Here is how it went:—

I'm not a very polished speaker but maybe I can tell what happened to me so you can understand it.

I was born. I'm sure of that anyway. It was about 38 years ago.

When I was ten years old, I was left an orphan. I didn't like that. They put me in some kind of home and there they made me do odd jobs around a farm. I didn't care so much for that either.

Then they put me out to work for a farmer. There I learned something about farming, which was probably good for me. But I left voluntarily. That is, it was voluntary so far as I was concerned. I mean I ran away. I guess I didn't like it there so well.

Then I worked on a couple of other farms. I picked up quite a lot of dope about machinery though, and so the next thing I went to work in a machine shop and became a machinist.

I joined the union once, but somebody ran away with the money.

I didn't like the machinist trade so much. I thought I could better myself, so I learned to be a tool and die-maker. That paid pretty good.

I forgot to tell you I got married. I guess I liked that pretty well. Anyway, I seemed to be married for good. I have three kids.

### On Top o' the World

Then an uncle of mine put me in his will for \$25,000. After that he did a noble deed by going to California and letting himself fall out of a window and break his neck.

When I got that money, I liked it. I was sure that I was sitting on top of the world for good. America sure was God's own country.

I took a trip to California, but I didn't fall out of any window. When I got back home I built a

house. Then I thought that one wasn't good enough and started to build a bigger one.

About that time the Big Boom ended and the Big Bust-Up happened along. It was a bust-up for me all right. None of the stocks in which I had invested my obliging uncle's money was worth anything any more.

I sold the first house to keep up the payments on the second one I started building.

Then I lost my job. I went to look for another like I'd always done. But there didn't seem to be no more jobs in God's country.

We had a couple hundred dollars saved. But you know how fast money goes when nothing's coming in. And of course one of the kids got sick, so we had a doctor's bill. Things were getting so I didn't like 'em again.

### Loses House

When we had nothing left to eat, I went to the poor commissioners. There was quite a few ahead of me. They made me give up the house altogether before we could get any food or clothes.

Besides, the sons o' guns played politics and wouldn't give some of us jobs on relief work in our turn. So I went around to some of the boys and said, "Boys, we got to stick together on this and have the jobs passed around fair." That's how the Carter Township Unemployed League came to be organized. They said I had to be the chairman, and I didn't care so much for that, but they said, "Well, you told us we had to stick together."

Pretty soon some Communists came down our way and asked us to join 'em in a big demonstration in the city. It sounded like a good idea, but we thought we better look into it a little, so we sent a committee to the city. We met the Communists and said we'd like to meet with their members, but they said they had to keep their members secret until time for the demonstration. I didn't like that so

much, so we decided not to join 'em.

Still I thought we needed to know more about where we were heading and if there were any other unemployed organizations nearby, so when some CPLA organizers came around they sounded pretty sensible and looked like good fighters. That's how we come to start a state organization of the unemployed.

About that time we had a rumpus in Carter Township. They tried to cut the pay on relief work below what the state law requires. We went on strike and got the right pay back all right.

Now here the other day they put a big guy from one of the steel mills in charge of relief around our way and he had the commissioners put in some efficiency and cut down on the rations. We didn't like that, so we went down to kick about it.

### Meets The Law

As I was bawling out the commissioners, a strong-arm fellow who does the dirty work for some local politicians socked me in the jaw. I took a swing at him. Then one of our women got him around the neck and nearly choked the life out of him before they pried him loose.

I had him arrested, but the mayor of the township found him not guilty of breach of peace. They must have got to the mayor.

Next thing I know they serve me and five others of us with an injunction. The injunction restrains us from "interfering with the distribution of relief by asking for more relief than the commissioners can give."

The hearing on whether the injunction is to be permanent comes up in a few days. We're in for a fight, I guess, and I must say I like this pretty well.

That's about all I have to say. They say there ought to be a moral to a story. The moral to this one seems to be that I didn't get the right kind of education; cause I don't know yet why things happened to me the way they did. Education—in labor action. That's what I didn't get.

# The Devil You Say

By TESS HUFF

## "The New Deal Is a Darling"

Dear Franklin:  
Well, Franklin, I think you are a nice honest man. You will do all you can to save us from collapse. And I must say you have made a remarkably showy start. It was clever of you to haul out the hoary old dame, Miss Reform, who saw her best days 40 years ago, and dress her up as a New Deal.

I bet you and your Brain Trust had a lot of fun fixing the old lady up to look like new. Reminds me of the way cigarette companies put beautiful young ladies on their signs to make you want to smoke their cigarettes.

But it's a good stunt, and people seem to like it. When the 4-year parade is over and people have soremouth or lockjaw from saying "The New Deal is a Darling" the workers will still be wage-slaves and a few Morgans and Rockefellers will still be their rulers. That's all I'm afraid of, aren't you?

Well, F. D., when you come to New York I want to take you to the Penny Restaurant on 34th street and Third avenue where you can get a big bowl of cracked wheat for a penny. Going up Third avenue you can certainly see a lot of funny things. There are some faded old signs hung in windows which say "Keep Smiling."

I remember everybody had petrified smiles on their faces 4 years ago when the stock market crashed and some of them haven't been able to get a sober expression on their faces ever since.

Do you remember? In the good old day of Prosperity, when there were only 3 million men out of work. Keep Smiling was the national slogan. It was easier to smile than it was to think, so everybody went about smiling sweetly while the preachers, politicians, pep lecturers, school superintendents, insurance salesmen and business men generally lined their pockets and clapped hands and the Big Insiders proceeded to Clean Up.

But now the profit-system is raining blows upon the masses and smiling is hard work. So you are working out new slogans to change the national expression. As the depression smiles wears off it is to be replaced by an expression of Faith.

If third avenue can be taken as an indication of what the Faith Campaign has already accomplished, it won't be long until the national atmosphere will be filled with shining white halos and every face will be tilted upward in petrified expressions of Hope.

There must be 10 thousand signs which say "Happy Days are Here Again" and a blue million which say "Have Faith with Roosevelt." And you'll be glad to hear, they are clicking. Today as I was going to the Penny Restaurant I met a man who was reading them. He was skipping and singing "Happy Days are Here Again."

I could no longer doubt that the New Deal has accomplished something.  
But this was not all, Mr. President. The man had hardly passed when an old woman came by humming "Ta ta, ta ta, ta ta." A little girl ran under the "L" singing "Mister, won't you give me a penny?" and a young man with a slightly less than 4 per cent baritone had his arms about a mail box taking time about with "Smile, damn you, smile," and "Happy Days are Beer Again."

You will be proud to learn that I said to him:  
"Young man, you are drunk. But I see Faith in your eyes. You have been reading the signs. They will do you good, and I don't mean to be sarcastic."

"However," I says to him, "you may be one of the 6 million workers in this country who will be permanent beggars, even if all the factories start up. What shall we do with these 6 millions, starve them to death or kill them in a war? We either get rid of these surplus workers and keep the profit-system dolled up with some new slogans, or we get angry and organize and take the rule from the Big Insiders and have a genuine democratic republic of workers of the masses, and start the factories, and save ourselves..."

"Quit it!" the man pleaded. "Please, please, let's give Roosevelt a chance."  
A dumb expression of Faith popped out on his face and he asked me for a nickel. I turned three somersaults and skipped down the street.

## Woll, A. F. of L. Enter Tobacco Business

NEW YORK.—Smokers who pay less than 15 cents a pack for cigarettes are going to hear from Matthew Woll and the American Federation of Labor.

It seems that tobacco shops are not making enough money, because smokers are buying cigarettes in chain stores at 10 cents a pack, so Woll has pledged himself and the Federation to help the Independent Retail Tobacconists Association boost prices.

The news that the American Federation of Labor, representing organized labor, would also represent retailers against consumers was made public after Woll had addressed a meeting of the Tobacconists Association where a committee which had been "negotiating with the A.F. of L. for 8 months" announced that it had worked out a plan to hire an organizer and increase its membership. The implication was that Woll, as a well-known leader and vice-president of the A.F. of L., would be the organizer.

## Scab Coal Bosses Unite For Action

NEW YORK.—The "first objective" of Appalachian Coals, Inc., a union of 137 non-union coal companies who blacklist union miners, will be "improved working conditions" according to Mining Notes for April, published by the Labor Research Association.

"This does not mean that there will be any increase in wages," declared R. E. Howe, executive officer of the coal trust. "It is the hope of the companies that the miners will be able to work a full week or as near that as is possible."

Representing 73 per cent of the mining industry in eight fields, including Kanawha, Logan, Williamson, Big Sandy, Elkhorn, Hazard, Harlan, Southwest Virginia and Southern Appalachian, Appalachian Coals, Inc., will have the power to push down wages and push up prices, according to the labor statement, which adds:

"This organization is a new challenge to all mine workers to stand together, to build their own union, to resist wage cuts and to demand wage increases."

## "Religion, The Flag and Little Children"

DURHAM, N. C.—A Holiness preacher and a Durham lawyer beat the Unemployed League to the court house last night and announced that a new unemployed organization had been formed, based upon "Religion, the Flag, and Little Children."

When the actual League arrived to hold a meeting it found the preacher and the lawyer holding forth. The lawyer was attacking the 30-hour week and the preacher was preaching a sermon.

They wanted a God-fearing, child-loving, flag waving jobless organization in the good town of Durham!

A worker stuck his head in at the door and summed it up. "After city and relief officials have failed every other way to wreck us, this is what they're doing. But we'll show them."

Opening up the recorder's courtroom the League began singing "So'ldarity Forever" and almost 400 people came in, about 30 going to hear the sermon.

# Labor Action Must Continue

LABOR ACTION cannot continue unless enough money comes in to pay the printer. The situation is serious. Unless CPLA branches, members in the field, unemployed leagues and sympathetic militants make intense effort to get every possible sub and every possible penny for LABOR ACTION between now and the next issue, LABOR ACTION will be held up at the printers as things look now until the money is raised.

To give you some idea of the sort of work that must immediately be carried out on an increasing scale to raise funds—

In New York the CPLA branch gave a LABOR ACTION supper and raised \$20, arranged a Marx meeting that netted \$7 and a dance that brought in \$5. Branch members sell LABOR ACTION at anti-Fascist meetings, Scottsboro meetings, Mooney meetings, Anti-Edison meetings and outside union halls.

In Newark the CPLA branch voted that each member give one evening a week to selling LABOR ACTION.

In Allentown, Pa., K. N. Gehris of the Unemployed League has been elected LABOR ACTION agent, and he orders 100 copies each issue.

In Springfield, Mass., Mrs. Fanny Calder handles a bundle order, and sends subs in regularly.

In Ohio the Unemployed Leagues order large bundles.

In some localities the workers are penniless, and they want LABOR ACTION, and it is given to them free. As a consequence the money that comes in from sales and subs falls short of paying the printer's bill by more than \$100 each issue.

The need for funds is desperate. The people who are energetically supporting LABOR ACTION have made it possible to continue until now. But now help is needed.

LABOR ACTION is the only paper published in America that carries on the fight for genuine unity of all labor forces and a mass labor party of workers and dirt farmers. It must go on!

(1) Get contributors, no matter how small, pennies, nickles, dimes, (2) get subscriptions, (3) order bundles and sell them, (4) raise money by affairs.

RUSH ALL MONEY WITHOUT DELAY TO LABOR ACTION, 128 E. 16th St. New York City