

Army Builds Men

THE ARMY builds men, say the army recruiting posters.

In Fort Dix which is in New Jersey, there is a nice new barracks with central heating. But the boys who were caught in the draft are shivering in badly heated tents. The army can't get supplies to keep the barracks running. The roads are mudholes and swamps. They're impassable and the army's nice new mechanical gadgets can't get through.

In Fort Shelby which is in Mississippi four thousand boys are in the hospital, down with the flu. Badly heated tents are responsible. A sergeant told a reporter the camp was built in a swamp be-

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cause some bureaucrat in Washington didn't know what he was doing.

AT THE INDIANTOWN Gap cantonment in Pennsylvania, out of 13,500 troops eight hundred boys with minor respiratory ailments have swamped the still uncompleted hospital.

'Here's the reason:

Most of the cases were traced to attempts of commanders to conduct drills in the wet, heavy snows which blanketed the camp last week. Temperatures during the cold wave have averaged 22 degrees, but the location

of the camp has exposed troops to winds 30 miles an hour and stronger which have pounded the frame buildings, lined inside with process board, and heated with anthracite burning stoves.

Army casualty tags now have provisions for KIA and WIA, meaning respectively Killed In Action and Wounded In Action. Maybe the army brass hats should add another provision on the next four millions tags they order: KIT for Killed In Training.

The order could be signed by Generals Stupidity and Inefficiency.

We'll Eat Less Diplomat Tells British

W. AVERELL HARRIMAN, Roosevelt's special representative to England, whose job is to expedite shipments of war material to that country from the United States, told British newspapermen on March 18 that

If it were necessary to reduce our food consumption to let the British have the food they need, the American people would be glad to do it. What does he mean the American people will eat less? It's a hundred to one shot he doesn't mean Roosevelt, Harriman, Rockefeller, Morgan and the Duponts will eat less.

AS FAR as the workers are concerned, there are still 10,000,000 or more unemployed who're having a hard time eating.

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STRIKE FORD NOW!

DETROIT, Feb. 22.—The UAW is currently conducting a drive to organize the River Rouge, Highland Park and Lincoln plants of the Ford Motor Co. Authorization for the drive flows from the resolution adopted by the 1940 St. Louis convention of the UAW-CIO. An outlay of \$100,000, half of it advanced by the UAW and the other half by the CIO itself provided the initial financial base. A staff of organizers working under the direction of Michael Widman, of the United Mine workers, have been on the job since last fall. Leaflets have been distributed at the plant gates, radio time has been used.

workers at River Rouge though somewhat slower at first, are now coming in in droves. On Wednesday, Feb. 21, over 2,000 signed up. Departmental and general membership meetings are being openly held. A rudimentary shop steward structure has been set up, and Thursday, Feb. 20, was button day at the Lincoln plant. There is as yet some of the old fear. But morale is wonderfully high. Strike talk is rife and strike rumors numerous.

FORD workers are ready to go to bat in a show down. They know they can count on the whole working class population of Detroit and nearby cities to support them. If it was

To understand the role of the leadership it is necessary to take into account some of the history of previous attempts to organize Ford.

The present situation is the third assault upon this citadel of the open shop. The first had its beginnings in the Stalinist Auto Workers Union of Trade Union Unity League days in the late twenties and early thirties. When the UAW mushroomed into existence the Stalinists pooled their forces with those of Walter Reuther, President of Local 174. This combination attracted a number of workers and had advanced to the point of having set up department committees within the Rouge plant. Had the drive then succeeded the Unity caucus as the Stalinist-Reuther combination was then called would have controlled the largest single trade union local in the world, and thereby dominated the whole automobile union.

THE MARTIN-FRANKENSTEIN group then known as the Progressive caucus were alive to the danger to their own factional interests then implicit in the situation. As they then dominated the International Executive Board they relieved Reuther of his jurisdiction over the Ford drive and supplanted him with Frankenstein, who put the now well-known stool pigeon, Zygmund Dobrzynski in charge.

There immediately ensued some dark days. Ford agents swarmed into the union. Hundreds of workers were fired within twenty-four hours after joining. Ford men were laid off because their wives had joined the women's auxiliary! Altogether some 3,000 men were discharged. The backbone of the drive was broken.

Dobrzynski was removed from leadership along with Homer Martin. Frankenstein who had gone about the country predicting dire things for the Ford corporation, retired from the field. And the Ford drive was left in the doubtful hands of a little clique of lightweights headed by Percy Llewellyn.

In the meantime there were significant developments going on in the rest of the field. The factional fight which got under way in April of '37 culminated in the expulsion of Homer Martin. The Cleveland convention of 1939 broke the control of the Stalinists; the present leadership took over. The '40 convention in St. Louis conclusively proved that the present leadership held undisputed sway.

This leadership is unwilling to involve the workers in a strike. An honest leadership would prepare for the most serious, widespread and determined

action. It would call huge demonstrations at the gates of Ford's plants. It would ask the Ford workers to elect a rank-and-file committee to go with it to meet with representatives of the Ford company to negotiate an agreement.

And should Ford then be so foolish as to refuse to grant the workers demands, then the Ford plants should be hermetically sealed until such time as Ford changes his mind.

That is the only way Ford can be organized—by strike action involving hundreds of thousands of workers. Striking Ford would be a struggle of stupendous proportions.

By any leadership assignment would be enormous. But a leadership which discharged its duty could count on the solid support of the workers. They

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FDR Asks Sacrifices; Gives Capital Billions

IN HIS RADIO broadcast on March 15th, in discussing his plan to "lend-lease" \$7,000,000,000 to Britain, China and Greece, Roosevelt called upon capital and labor to make sacrifices in the name of national defense.

All reports indicate that the capitalist class has shown a magnificent attitude toward sacrifice.

The Roosevelt Administration is letting out contracts amounting to billions of dollars. The manufacturers do not have sufficient plant capacity to meet Roosevelt's requests. So Roosevelt dips into the national treasury and foots the bill. He builds and expands plants gratis for the manufacturers who then make huge profits on the contracts which Roosevelt gives them.

Robert L. Mohernay, chief of the government's contract service in the Office of Production Management, addressing a Cleveland armaments conference a few days ago, stated that present military expenditures, which he expects will reach \$30,000,000,000 in nine months, totals \$12,500,000,000. Of this \$1,500,000,000 was given outright to the capitalists to build 302 new plants and \$400,000,000 to expand existing ones.

SACRIFICE is a great thing, say the bosses. But it's not right to make the government do all the sacrificing. The workers have to sacrifice, too.

It was in this spirit of sacrifice that a bill was introduced in Congress the other day to tax workers' wages all over the country 5%. This would net the government \$2,500,000,000.

It's neat. The Roosevelt Administration takes \$2,000,000,000 out of the treasury to give the bosses. The bosses propose that

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Growing Strike Wave Follows Rising Cost of Living

THERE MUST be no unnecessary strikes, said Roosevelt on the radio, in his latest nation wide address, on March 15. Production must be speeded up. Labor must work longer hours.

That is now the government's labor policy.

Four days later he appointed a super-mediation board. This board is supposed to provide additional conciliation machinery which will be called into play when the existing conciliation services of the Department of Labor and the OPM cannot prevent strikes or dispose of them after they have broken out.

These developments took place as the strike wave gathered momentum and gave signs of reaching the 1937 strike peak.

From the first of the year to the middle of March there were over 300 strikes. The National Association of Manufacturers estimates that if the present rate is maintained the number of man-hours of production lost in 1941 will be 82 percent greater than in 1940.

Several hundred thousand workers have been or are involved. Steel, auto, shipbuilding and building trades workers, butchers, hatters, clothing workers, potters, teamsters, metal trades workers, longshoremen, rubber and textile workers, bus drivers, lumbermen, workers in the chemical and aluminum industries, farm equipment workers and many, many others have gone out on strike.

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Nazi, British Governments Doom Millions To Starvation

IN FRANCE, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Spain, and other countries starvation is the lot of tens of millions. Famine threatens. This is the terrible scourge of war.

Chiefly responsible are the German and British governments which try to use the mass hunger of millions as political weapons in their struggle to conquer each other.

The German government strives to turn the anger of the starving against the British government by pinning responsibility on the British blockade of Europe.

The British government tries to turn their anger against Germany which has conquered them. It says, in effect, that if they rise against Hitler they can have food.

Both sides seek the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse as their allies.

So far the German government is winning this battle.

There is not enough food in Europe to feed the half billion people who inhabit it. If England were in Germany's place it would still be a fact that there is hunger because there is not enough food.

When there is a shortage of bread because crops have been poor, or destroyed by fighting, or left to rot because the men who would have gathered them have been conscripted or taken prisoner or sent fleeing over the land as refugees before an invading army—when there is a shortage of bread NO MATTER WHO OR WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE men and women turn naturally to places where there is bread, seeking relief.

IN THE PRESENT circumstances they turn first of all to the United States. In their mute expectation is the unspoken

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STRIKE WAVE GROWS

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NEW STRIKES are reported daily. A nation wide strike of bituminous coal miners under the leadership of the United Mine Workers of America may result from the current negotiations over a new contract to replace the one which expires March 30. A bitter battle impends in Detroit where the United Auto Workers is organizing Ford's open shop. The mad speed-up in the rapidly expanding aircraft industry is sure to give rise to a whole series of sporadic strikes. The Railroad Brotherhoods are conducting a national strike vote of almost a million workers. Organizing drives in both the CIO and AFL are being pushed. In the present situation they are sure to produce many strikes.

Motor force of the strike wave is the rising cost of living. Says the February issues of the Labor Information Bulletin of the U.S. Dept. of Labor.

Food costs in the United States have been going up since November. By the middle of January they averaged about three percent higher than a year ago.

Meat prices have gone up very sharply in the last two months, and pork products have risen more than any other meat item. The price of pork chops rose about nine percent between December and January and was almost 19 percent higher than at the beginning of 1940.

ANOTHER FACTOR in the increase in workers' food costs was an advance of about nine percent in the price of fresh fruit and vegetables.

While food prices were going up, rents, the second most important item in the workers' budget, also moved higher in a number of areas, particularly where the influx of defense workers has greatly increased the demand for housing. Rent increases were most frequent for dwellings renting for less than \$30 per month.

Said the Chicago Tribune of March 22,

CHICAGO RETAIL FOOD PRICES UP; MARKET STAMPEDED

Advances in food prices in Chicago stores continued this week as retailers saw wholesale commodity markets react violently to effects of the European war. A survey yesterday disclosed groceries had raised their prices on canned fish, canned meats, sugar, coffee, canned fruits, dried fruits, fresh meats, soap, lard, shortening, butter, and eggs.

Food market experts said mark-ups are being made principally in war affected items. They observed that the higher prices for canned fish, canned meats, sugar, and coffee reflect the difficulty importers are experiencing in obtaining these supplies.

CANNED FISH AFFECTED

Quantities of canned fish that formerly came from European

countries have been halted and it is becoming more difficult to bring corned beef and other canned meat products in from South American countries, importers said.

Wholesale prices of sugar have advanced from around \$4.95 a hundred pounds in Chicago to \$4.95 as dealers reported that the usual imports of sugar from Cuba and the Philippines are not forthcoming. Freight rates from the Philippines have soared.

"We have noticed in the last two weeks a tendency to buy ahead, particularly in sugar," the merchandising manager of one of the large chain store systems said last night. "However, buyers have not stampeded as they did in the fall of 1939."

DRASTIC MARKUPS PREDICTED

"Stores have not even scratched the surface yet in raising prices in the opinion of market experts," says the National Independent Grocers' Guide. "These experts contend drastic remarking toward

higher levels will be made in the immediate future. Government buying of food surpluses, together with passage of the lease-lend bill, afford leading purveyors no alternative."

Retailers advanced prices of some of the popular lard substitutes a cent a pound as soap makers purchased vast supplies of cottonseed oil, an important ingredient. Traders participating in the sale of the oil said it more than likely would be used to make glycerine for munitions. The manufacturers notified retailers they were advancing their soap prices.

Lard prices showed a gain of 1/2 cent a pound. Butter climbed 3/4 cent to 1 cent a pound with 92 score butter, or first quality, quoted at 31 cents a pound yesterday at wholesale. Eggs sold 1/2 to 1 1/2 cents a dozen higher with first quality bringing 18 to 18 1/2 cents a dozen. One chain system reported first quality strictly fresh eggs had advanced 2 cents a dozen this week to 29 cents.

To these figures must be added the greater amounts taken out of the workers' income by direct taxes. Taxes on amusements have been increased and the income tax now affects everyone making over \$800 a year. The prospect is for an increase in this kind of taxation.

Roosevelt may call for sacrifices until Doomsday. As long as workers who are feeling the pinch as a result of the rising cost of living, see Roosevelt's government handing out hundreds of millions of dollars to owners of industry to build and expand their plants, and as long as they see the corporations piling up bigger and bigger dividends, they aren't likely to accept the decline in their standard of living without taking strike action to stop it.

FROM THE standpoint of capitalist interests the strike wave is a great nuisance. It comes at a time when profits are piling up under the golden shower pouring out of Washington as Roosevelt pushes the defense program full speed ahead. From the standpoint of the government it is a disorganizing factor in the drive to whip production into line as preparations are rushed for the United States entry into the war.

The capitalists have been quick to make use of the fact that strikes interfere with the defense program. The press has featured that angle in almost every report. Knudsen, head of OPM, advanced a plan to declare a strike unauthorized unless 60% of the workers in the affected plant voted for it in a secret ballot; after the vote the OPM would investigate and file a report in ten days; no strike would be allowed until 30 days after the report was filed, making a total delay of 40 days. Any union failing to comply with this procedure would lose its collective bargaining rights under the Wagner Labor Act. Hillman, co-head of OPM, and chief of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, supported Knudsen's proposal. The Administration gave it a cold shoulder and it appears to have been dropped.

DIE-HARD, reactionary Representative Hoffman of Michigan introduced a bill in the House on March 17 providing, according to the Chicago Tribune, that whenever production of arms

F. D. R. Deceives U.S. on War

THE UNITED STATES must become the arsenal of democracy, said President Roosevelt in his radio address on March 15. Britain, Greece and China have asked for aid and they will get it, he said. He defined the policy of the government of the United States as all-out aid to the democracies. And he followed this up by asking Congress to appropriate \$7,000,000,000 on top of all the other billions already appropriated, for this aid. The House of Representatives has already voted for it by a big majority, six to one, and it is expected that the Senate will follow suit by a smaller, but large majority.

Now whatever one wants to say about Britain and China, there can't be any argument about the political system in Greece. The government of Greece is an open, undisguised dictatorship. Before the present fighting started, the policy of the government was a harsh oppression of labor. Strikes were either forbidden outright or crushed by ruthless use of police and troops.

The revolutionary movement was mercilessly repressed. To be a revolutionist meant risking brutal torture, and death. Even criticism of the government in the press was suppressed.

Of course, since the present fighting began the dictatorship has been intensified.

DURING THE LAST WAR Greece was a monarchy. It was on the winning side. After the war Greece became a re-

public. In the early thirties the monarchy was restored and an open dictatorship was imposed on the country.

In this war Greece is once more an ally of Britain. If Britain should win again would Greece become a democratic country? What reason is there to anticipate that? Britain refuses to define its war aims and say what kind of peace it will impose on Europe. The United States government must win but it does not

peace must be made. Italy weak parliamentary system under a monarchy. It was on the winning side. It was the ally of Britain and the United States. After the war Italy became the first country in the world to go fascist.

Now these are very significant facts. They show that the democratic system of government as worked out in the United States and England is not the issue in the war at all.

Greece is not fighting for democracy and neither is England. Both are allies against Italian and German imperialism. The stake is the defense of British imperialism and the territorial integrity of Greece. The latter is subordinated to the former. If England wins the political, economic and territorial set-up in Greece will be decided by England. If England loses it will be decided by Germany.

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market line the justice department shall hold within 48 hours an election at which the employees would vote by secret ballot on the question of returning to work, leaving the pending disputes to further negotiation. If the majority of the employees did not favor continuing the strike the bill provides that the FBI would certify this fact to the commanding officer of the army in the district and the army would take all necessary measures to enable employees to work. Anyone interfering could be imprisoned for as much as one year or fined \$1,000.

In Georgia the legislature passed an act to prevent labor unions from demanding "fees" from workers on national defense projects. This refers to dues.

The press is full of many more such proposals emanating from various sources

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Man Bites Dog:

BOSS LIKES UNIONS;

Reason:

LEADERS BREAK STRIKES

Here is what one exploiter says about the leaders of the unions with which his company has had contractual relations for twenty years.

He says they are good for the company.

The exploiter's name is John F. Cuneo. His company is the Cuneo Press, Inc. and is located in Chicago. Cuneo Press claims to be the largest private printing plant in the world.

Says Cuneo in a recent pamphlet called, *Many Years' Experience With Unions*.

OUR LABOR peace has been broken by two strikers since 1919, neither one very serious. Both came from poor judgment within the locals. One ended because international union officials convinced the men they were violating their contract with us; the other because, failing to convince the membership, the officials supplied skilled men from other locals to do the work the contract called for.

The men go on strike. The union officials try to convince the men to go back

to work. The men don't convince easy. The officials supply skilled men from other locals. In other words the union officials organized strikebreaking for Mr. Cuneo and his printing company.

But that aint all.

WHEN THE UNION asks a raise, we tell them frankly what we can afford. Suppose they demand a fifteen-cents-an-hour raise. If our figures show that any such raise would put us out of competition for business, we say so and show the figures. But if we can stand two cents an hour, we show them why and make the offer. Therefore we make no concession. We have never been forced out of line with our industry, nor have we ever had a work stoppage because of any wage disagreement.

Guess why? Cuneo doesn't say, but it's easy. The union officials who supply strikebreakers act as union cops to force the rank and file to accept the decision of the company on wages. There may be some bargaining back and forth. The company has to give some concessions to let

the union officials show the rank and file that they are getting "something" from the company for the men. Otherwise there might be a revolt by the rank and file and the nice arrangement between Cuneo and the union officials would be spoiled. That's what the two-cents-an-hour raise is for. These union officials are handy people for Cuneo to have around.

OUR UNION contracts all provide that we are bound to confine our employment to union men only as long as the union can supply all our needs for skilled men. This puts the unions on their mettle to recruit good journeymen, or train apprentices. It means that, in general, when we ask union headquarters to send over John Jones, if he can be had, because he is a good producer and we like him, he generally arrives as requested. He always keeps in touch with the union, where he might fail to keep in touch with a former employer. We should have to deadhead a lot of Joneses through slack times at low production but full wages if it were not for the unions,

to be sure of having these good men when we might need them again. Swell arrangement for the company. Somehow we got the idea that unions were organized to fight layoffs, to spread work. But the union officials who do business with Cuneo have different ideas from what Mr. Cuneo says. They run the union as a sort of specialized employment service for Cuneo, so the company can economize on its payroll. Nice goin'—for the company and the union officials.

It's a swell pamphlet, all right. If you want a copy to show your fellow unionist write to the Detroit Typographical Union No. 18.

Cuneo wrote it for *Forbes Magazine*. The officials of Detroit Typo. 18 must have thought so much of it they got "special permission" to reprint and circulate it—at the expense of the union, of course.

And **WITHOUT ONE WORD OF DENIAL OR CRITICISM OF ANYTHING THAT CUNEO SAID**.

What lice these union officials are! High time the rank and file started to delouse their unions.

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idea that the enormous wealth of this country should be used to succour the victims of the war.

The Nazis' own position will be improved if the problem of feeding their victims will be at least partially and temporarily solved by food from the United States.

By encouraging their victims to look to the United States they shrewdly place the American and British governments in a different position. The British government cannot afford to allow the Nazis to improve their political position on the European continent. But neither can it afford to antagonize millions of starving people whom it hopes to win over as allies if and when it becomes strong enough to invade the continent.

The American government has announced its intention of sending food to Britain which is beginning to feel the pinch of hunger as German warfare on British shipping takes its terrible toll of ships, men and food. How can this government expect to turn the conquered peoples of Europe against their conquerors if it refuses to persuade the British government to permit food to reach the starving?

Nazis, British Doom Millions To Starvation

PRESS REPORTS show that the headache of the Anglo-American axis over this question is growing. The French demand food and threaten to use force to convoy it through the British blockade. In Spain there is resentment against the British government.

In Belgium during the last war the peasants used to shake their fists against the planes of both sides as they roared overhead to dump loads of bombs on opposing sides both of which were on Belgian soil. It may be assumed, although it is not reported, that no matter what the victims of Nazi conquest may feel about their conquerors—and we assume they hate them—resentment against the British starvation blockade is growing.

The British government has given no public sign that it intends to change its policy. It seems bent on going right ahead to starve half a billion people into submission to its will. At least this is the conclusion that must be drawn from the press reports.

One of these quoted Professor Noel Hall, British minister to the United States "in charge of economic warfare work in the British Embassy," who is to leave soon for the United States, as saying that his job was,

to obtain American collaboration in maintaining the right form of pressure on Europe.

The Chicago Tribune reporter, Larry Rue, went on

It is a great humanitarian mission, he (Hall) added, because it seeks to advance an alternative that would make unnecessary the killing of young man power on the battlefield.

IN VIEW of the fact that this policy involves starvation for hundreds of millions of people in which young men as well as old men and women and children will perish by the hundreds of thousands, if it is successful;

And, in view of the fact, that the British government is dispatching hundreds of thousands of young men to the battlefields of Africa, and is preparing to engage the the Germans in the Balkans;

And is doing its best to retaliate for German bombings of British cities by bombing German cities, it is no exaggeration to say the Professor Hall is a plain unvarnished hypocrite.

And that he faithfully and truly personifies the hypocrisy of the British government.

And that the British government, like the German government, is a cynical enemy of the welfare of toiling and oppressed people everywhere.

STRIKE FORD NOW!

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know that a strike and a bitter struggle are necessary and they are ready.

BUT THE leadership evidently has a different policy. When he spoke here on February 16, Phillip Murray, President of the CIO sounded the keynote of the leadership's policy. According to Murray the Ford problem is mainly a question of making Ford, whom he calls a law violator, into a law abiding American citizen. The plan of the leadership is to put the heat on Ford, threaten strike action, win a NLRB election and win a contract without a strike.

It is afraid of a strike. It is afraid that the gigantic struggle that will result when stubborn Henry Ford pits his strength against the bitter determination of the workers to plant the union's banner firmly in Ford's plants. It is afraid that the

concerned there won't be any fight. They don't want anything except to bargain till hell freezes over and collect dues.

Yet we may still see a strike at Ford's. Or we may be witnesses to the unique spectacle of Ford workers riding "pussy-foot Widman" and his coterie of "organizers" out of town on a rail. These workers have organized for a definite purpose, a purpose wholly at variance with that of the leadership.

THEY HAVE taken serious risks. Some 7,000 of them have lost their jobs in the various attempts upon the citadel on the Rouge. They are nursing grievances of long standing and of a serious character. And in addition, they certainly expect tangible gains for the future. They want to fight it out.

At the Rouge there is going on a constant but subdued campaign of guerrilla warfare.

Between service men and workers. Sporadically. Arbitrary lay-offs and transfers are countered with work stoppages. The latest of these took place yesterday and involved 3,000 men in the rolling mill.

In all these instances the company has been forced to deal with stewards and impromptu committees, and these sorties have met with great success. At a stormy session just two days after 400 of the Lincoln militants had been laid off without regard to seniority, a motion to strike was almost passed.

It was defeated only because the militants are inexperienced in parliamentary procedure and because a substantial number of Lincoln men, tho eager for action, still look to the leadership for leadership. With such a spirit abroad Bennett and Widman may not be able to get away with giving the Ford workers just "nothing." Pressure from the ranks may still force a test of strength at Ford's. And in that case the UAW-CIO leadership will be forced to assume the responsibility for it.

THE LEADERSHIP is not prepared to strike. It has not as yet set up a strike committee. Asked why, it replied that it would be "provocative." Mr. Bennett hesitates not in the least to be "provocative." That is another question.

About the sole preparation the Widman crowd has made for serious action is to ask the UAW locals for about 200 or more militants to be paid \$40 a week by the locals from which they came. These are to officer flying squadrons of ten to 15 Ford workers who may have to brave the murderous thuggery of the Ford Service Department.

The intent of the bureaucracy is quite clear. These 200 men plus the money for their salaries is all that is expected of the rest of the UAW locals. They do not intend to involve the auto workers in GM and Chrysler. The great bulk of the membership will stay on the job if their plan carries.

Ford can be cracked only by a strike. He will fight the strike to the bitter end. He will try to utilize the fact that he is one of the largest producers for the national defense program to get the Roosevelt Administration to crack down on the strike. He will use the most ruthless means available to produce a situation in which, he figures the hand of the Washington government will be forced.

FORD will not hesitate to shoot down hundreds of the striking and demonstrating workers. Four men lost their lives in an unemployed demonstration outside of Ford's River Rouge plant in the early thirties when machine gun fire was directed from the plant on the advancing demonstration.

The workers must be prepared to meet all possibilities. A leadership which means business will frankly tell the workers what they can expect and explain carefully what general plan it has to meet the danger. The general plan should be to involve the huge mass of Ford workers; the larger

masses of auto workers in General Motors and Chrysler and the parts plants; and the whole working class population of Detroit and nearby cities.

To insure the success of this plan a very broad strike apparatus would have to be set up consisting of delegates elected from the various UAW locals and even from other CIO unions. AFL locals should be encouraged to come in. The idea should be that the fight against Ford is every workingman's fight. And every workingman's union should have a voice in organizing and conducting it. In such a situation—with AFL locals represented in the strike set-up any sabotage that AFL officials might try would be quickly stopped by the AFL workers themselves.

THIS STRIKE committee should have complete control of the strike.

Ford strike committees would also have to be set up in every UAW local, in the locals of the CIO

even throughout the country and in as many AFL unions as could be got to go along. In the UAW locals in Detroit they would be subordinate bodies of the big delegate strike committee.

This would create a big apparatus, roughly parallel to the regular apparatus of the UAW. But it is necessary as the regular apparatus is not designed for strike struggles of the magnitude that cracking Ford involves. Besides it is overrun with conservative bureaucrats and cowards who are more afraid of mass action by hundreds of thousands of workers than they are of Ford.

The strike apparatus would bring fresh and courageous workers into positions where they would put intelligence and backbone into the strike. The more the control of the strike is taken out of the hands of the present leadership and the more the workers themselves are involved and the best among them put into positions of leadership in a democratic strike apparatus the greater will be the chances of winning.

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DETROIT, March 14.—The top spokesmen for the UAW-CIO have, of late, repeatedly threatened to strike Ford. Half-hearted threats, made by a crowd of slackers notorious for their infamous policy of class peace, they have never rung true. But they have served to keep the impatient mass of Ford workers in leash. Widman and Company have labored and lied heroically to obtain an NLRB election in the Ford plants. Yesterday their fond dream came true. The NLRB ordered public hearings for such an election. Certification of the UAW-CIO as the bargaining agency for the Ford workers is practically assured.

Today Harry Bennett made his reply: We will bargain because that is the law he declared. We will bargain till hell freezes over, he exuberantly added, but we won't give them anything. Sounds like Ford is set for a last-ditch fight.

As far as the UAW-CIO leadership is

I've joined the army, hallowed Tom, the truckdriver, as he hurried onto the dock out of the cold wind.

Sucker. Sucker, a chorus of dockhands roared in welcome.

Chump, how are you?, Pete yelled, passing by on the four-wheeler.

The four-wheeler got tangled in some string near Tom. You'll never get rich, you son of a bishop, Al wisecracked. Now your name's mud, and I do mean mud. Just look at that damned rain. Nice day to bury a dead soldier.

Whaddaya mean? Whaddaya mean? It's only a year, and this way I get choice of what service I want. No infantry for me. To hell with marching. And who's going to bury me?

Listen to the lug, Al chirped. He's picky about what branch of the army he wants. I suppose you want a certain kind of grave too, with a nice new coffin?

Tom looked around, waiting for the big 30,000-pound trailer to bend around the corner of the dock with the next load. Laughingly, he said, Trouble with you halfwits is that you ain't patriotic. You're just a bunch of no-gooders.

Patriotic? Baloney!, Al came back. Nice thick slices of baloney, and you swallow it—and like it.

Hell, man, don't you know the Army builds men? Don't you read the ads in the street car? "An excellent career for young men." That's me. Tom swelled his chest.

So You Enlisted

More baloney, from Al. The Army builds men. For what? It gives you nourishing food, hard work, outdoor life, makes you strong, builds you up, squads-rights you and squads-lefts you—for what?

I don't savvy, said Tom. Whaddaya mean, for what?

Now listen you blockheaded truckdriver. You can't be as dumb as you look. That aint possible. We guys been talking over this army-builds-men stuff. Al paused to catch his breath—and it smells like bosses' jokes. You're just like pigs FATTENED FOR THE SLAUGHTER, Al almost yelled.

The trailer hit the dock with a dull thud as the load boomed out against the trailer wall. The wheels had slipped. We began unloading box after box, all small stuff. Tom hung around, waiting to hear Al out.

Yes, the army builds men FOR THE SLAUGHTER, Al roared into Tom's ear, as he put a box down. Listen, Mr. Squads-right. They're not doing you any favors. The Army's no summer resort, or health camp.

Guess not, Tom agreed. He spoke more

slowly now. But we're all going to have to go. Might as well volunteer, go for one year, and get it over quick like.

Al looked at Pete, and Pete looked at Al. Then both looked at Tom.

Where in hell'd you get the idea you'll only be in the Army one year?, Pete asked.

Why, why, the President said so.

The President, the President! He says one thing today, another thing tomorrow. Today he's preparing to get into the war, yesterday he said he hates war. Who cares what he says? It's what he does.

What's wrong with what he does? Tom asked loudly.

Plenty, Al replied. He's going into war. When he does you'll stay in the army, not for one year, but for the duration, or till you get your brains blown out, or your guts smashed. You're just a pig to them, a pig ready for the slaughter. They're not going to take you out of the front line trenches or anywhere else in the army when a war's going on. And if war comes after your year is up you'll be called first 'cause once you finish training you'll be

in the reserves. My old man was in the AEF. He's in the Hines Hospital now with both his legs shot off.

Tom winced. Huskily, he hit back. What's the diff? We all gotta die sometime.

Yeah, Pete chimed in, but it's our lives. We ought to have something to say about it. Besides I'm not ready to die when some big shot gives the green light. I got rights.

Tom said, Yeah you got rights. Both of you punchdrunk, slaphappy, dock wall-pers, are so god-damned dumb even the army wouldn't take you in. He passed around the corner of the dock.

Al put his hand on Pete's shoulder. Poor guy, wonder how he finds his way home at night without getting run over.

Yeah, he certainly swallows all the bait. But look at you and me. We're in the same boat. We'll be drafted. Then what'll we do? Drill like puppets? Learn how to kill?

Take it easy, Al said. It's good to know how to march. It's good to get training. It's good to know how to use a gun. We'll just bide our time, be good soldiers, and bide our time. Just like in the union.

In the union? Why, we don't even meet; just pay dues to a bunch of gangsters.

Sure, we can't do anything now, but take it. And bide our time. Same thing in the army. We'll take it, discipline, marching, all the dirt. And we'll bide our time.

Strikes

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all of them hostile to labor, all of them seeking by one means or another to obstruct unionism or destroy it altogether, all of them giving their reactionary purposes a patriotic motive.

WHAT THEY ARE doing is helping the workers of this country understand what the revolutionists have been telling them right along, that profit and patriotism are natural twins; and that national defense and workers' interests are in irreconcilable conflict.

Most of the workers involved in the current strike wave don't see the thing that way. They're patriotic in their sentiments. But they're striking just the same.

In other words, caught in a contradiction between their interests and the interests of capitalist profit and patriotism, they're acting out of motives of immediate class interest which constitutes a practical rejection of the patriotic program of sacrifices of longer hours, wage cuts and speed up.

That's a very good sign. If the strike wave goes far enough it will force the capitalists to abandon their defense program—which they cannot do—or try to compel labor to make the sacrifices they demand from it. Out of that struggle revolutionary developments may come.

Roosevelt understands that as well as anyone. He is anxious to avoid a bitter internal struggle. If it comes to that his whole program of liberalism will go up in smoke. And the whole program of stopping Germany from gobbling up the British Empire will fail.

HE HOPES to ride out the present storm by choking the strike wave with conciliation machinery, tying up strikes in endless mazes of red tape.

Will he succeed? Time will show. Our guess is that he has a good chance to do it, a better than even chance. He can count on the labor leaders to help him. But before he does his ship will be pretty badly battered.

With the cost of living rising there is continuous pressure on the workers to strike while protracted conciliation holds them back. There is great power in the workers when they get going; and the country is loaded with dynamite. A long struggle at Ford's plants may explode it as may some other situation. If such an explosion takes place Roosevelt will need more than eleven-man conciliation boards to handle the situation. If it comes to that hundreds and thousands of workers will get their first practical lesson in the ABC of revolutionary developments.

Dirty Deal Brewing In England

THE UNITED STATES must help those nations fighting for democracy said President Roosevelt in his radio speech on March 15. In the front rank he put Britain.

The President of the United States thus defined the general political aim for which the British government is supposed to be fighting. If he were just expressing his own personal opinion it would be one thing. But he wasn't doing only that. He was making that opinion the basis for the policy of the government of this country. And that as we say is a horse of a different color.

The British government itself has consistently refused to define its war aims; and it has refused to say what kind of a peace it would dictate if it won.

In India the nationalist movement for independence from Britain has challenged the British government to define its aims and to make them concrete by giving India its freedom now. The British government which rules India by force and oppression, refused.

The whole course of political development in England itself since the war began has been a steady progress toward an unlimited dictatorship in which the working class has been the chief victim. Now the press reports that Air Minister, Sir Archibald Sinclair,

declared that it would not be right to have a general election in Great Britain until about three years after the war ends.

He is quote as saying.

A general election following closely upon an armistice would be disastrous.

FDR Deceives

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UNDER THE PRESENT system of capitalist private property and capitalist political states that is the fate of small nations—to be the pawns of the large imperialist powers. It will continue to be that way until the workers and peasants of Europe and other continents rise up to abolish capitalism and construct socialism.

Roosevelt knows the facts about Greece. He knows that Greece is not a democracy. He knows that it is not fighting for democracy. Yet he calls it a democracy and says it is fighting for democracy.

He is consciously trying to deceive the people of the United States about the political character of the Greek government and its role in the war. In this he is supported by the Congress of the United States, most of the newspapers and the radio.

That is the way democratic capitalist governments the world over deceive the desire of the peoples of the world for peace; that is how they prepare them for war. During the hearings on the lend-lease

bill Secretary of the Navy, Knox, gave the whole rotten and cynical game away.

Knox testified that the last war came about primarily as a result of what he called military threats. Senator Nye asked him

You don't mean to say that we weren't interested in saving democracy?

That was Wilson's slogan for getting us into the war.

Knox is reported to have laughed at this and said

That was one of the shibboleths employed to arouse our war spirit.

THERE IT IS, cynically frank! And they are doing the same thing again, telling the same lies, playing the same game.

Only instead of Wilson we have Roosevelt. And after Roosevelt there will be another great liberal and reformer who will betray the people he is supposed to lead and benefit—unless the workers of this country decide to put an end to all capitalist demagoguery and wars by taking power into their hands and begin to build socialism.

In the Richest Country In the World

THE WILL OF Mrs. Susan Beachy, disposing of an estate estimated at \$400,000, was admitted to probate yesterday. Mrs. Beachy, an aunt of Merry Fahrney, much married heiress to the Fahrney patent medicine fortune, died Feb. 13 at the age of 77 in her home at 238 Forest Avenue, Oak Park. She was the wife of Peter A. Beachy, retired Nebraska banker. Except for \$60,000 left in trust for the upkeep of residences in Oak Park and Michigan, the estate goes in equal shares to three children. Chicago News, March 1.

"X-rays" conducted by the Chicago Plan Commission in the Chicago Land Use survey point out symptoms of disease and heartbreak in district 35. . . . the area four and one-half miles from the Loop on 26th street, east and west; 85th; Vincennes and the lake. . . .

52 per cent of the homes are in need of major repairs or unfit for use. 30 per cent of the people share sanitary conveniences with neighbors on their floor. Only 59 per cent have any inside sanitary facilities.

10,117 out of 14,234 buildings were erected before 1895—two years after Chicago's Columbian Exposition when electric cars were a novelty.

Only 8 per cent of the homes are rated "good." Such necessities as gas for cooking become luxuries in this neighborhood.

Juvenile delinquency per 100 males 10 to 16 years old is 19.7 per cent as compared with 4.2 for the whole city.—Chicago Tribune, March 2.

Springfield, Ill., March 3, (AP) — Gov. Green today bestowed on Ferre C. Watkins, his close and confidential be-

hind-the-scenes campaign adviser, the best salaried state job he has to give.

He appointed Watkins general counsel for the bureau of liquidations, in the state department of insurance, which pays \$12,000 annually and is a part-time job, leaving Watkins time to pursue his private law practice. . . .

A short, slender, scared boy named Martin Scouler, 19, was locked up at Stockyards station today after police nipped his attempts to start a hold-up career with a toy pistol.

Scouler said he has been doing odd jobs since he left school last June to support his widowed mother at 4550 S. Wallace. A week ago he lost his last job, working for a

JRY e said CHICAGO Times, Feb. 28.

New York, Feb. 8. (AP) — Aimee Crocker, whose flittings as a famed social butterfly of a palmier era made her the talk of New York and Paris for 15 madcap seasons, whose five marriages and four divorces were tidbits for the gossips of two continents, died yesterday of pneumonia at 78.

\$10,000,000 inherited from her father, Judge Edwin Bryant Crocker of Sacramento, Calif., launched adventurous Aimee on a romantic career begun in the 1880's as the belle of San Francisco.

And \$10,000,000 plus her marital mix-ups and other activities made the years until 1927, when she retired from the public gaze, a field day for the tongue-waggers who, however, never refused a bid to one of Aimee's lavish parties.

Aimee's first marriage was in 1887 to Porter Ashe, a horseman who won her in a card game.

Coffin Maker For Aid to Britain

AMONG THOSE who donated \$1,000 to \$5,000 to the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies is Frederick C. McKee. It is not hard to figure out why McKee is interested in this Committee.

Roosevelt's policy is all-out aid to the British government. Roosevelt's policy means war. The Army is preparing for war. Included in its preparations is a large order for millions of casualty tags on which there is a provision marked KIA.

KIA stands for Killed In Action. There is another provision for indicating where the body is to be disposed of.

WHEN THERE is no time and there are lots of bodies they are buried in pits or large trenches.

But when there is time and not so many they are buried in coffins. The army has placed an order for millions of coffins.

McKee doesn't care about burying bodies in pits and trenches.

But he's interested in bodies buried in coffins; mighty interested in the order the army has placed for millions of coffins.

McKee is a director of the National Casket Company.

\$! \$! \$! \$!

Ford

Continued from Page Three

ONE of the biggest problems which the leadership will have to face in striking Ford is defense. Not legal defense so much as physical defense. Ford is known to have prepared to smash a strike with arms ranging all the way from clubs to tear gas and machine guns.

The workers have a perfect right to strike. If Ford is allowed to arm thousands of men to attack the strikers then the strikers have the right to arm themselves in self defense. There must be no more Memorial Day bloodbaths.

The politicians say that capital and labor are equal. What goes for Ford must also go for the union.

If Ford wants to bring the government into the picture that's his affair. The workers' job is to settle accounts with Ford on the picket line. And to do that job right and make the result stick they have to protect themselves against the murderous violence that he is preparing to use.

Successful defense against armed attacks on picket lines can be made only by organized armed defense bodies. It is the solemn duty of the leadership to take this position openly and act on it to protect the lives of the workers.

WHEN FORD'S thugs and servicemen realize that they may get as good as they give they may not start anything at all.

Now is the time to strike Ford.

Feeling is running high against him.

He is handling millions of defense contracts and can't afford interference with production.

Tens of thousands of workers all over the country are swinging into action for higher wages, better conditions and union recognition. Tomorrow there will be hundreds of thousands more.

Labor is once more on the march.

In this situation a strike against Ford can count on the solid support of labor from coast to coast. It has every chance of winning.

Ford Worker.

Protest Waler Death Verdict

CHICAGO, March 11.—Sharecropper Waller Shall Not Burn was the sentiment of a protest meeting held tonight in Chicago's South Side at Good Shepherd Church by the Workers Defense League and the National Association of Colored People. The audience, almost a hundred strong, the majority white, were heartened by the announcement made by Chairman Kees, of the NAACP, that Waller's execution, scheduled for the 14 had been automatically stayed by the granting of a writ of error by the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals last week.

Waller was sentenced to die December 27 in Chatam, Virginia, as a result of the self-defense killing of his white landlord last August. In December the Governor of Virginia stayed the execution until March 14.

Speakers included Ira Williams, Chairman of the Chicago NAACP, Abraham Plotkin, Midwest Organizer of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, Michael Mann, Organizer of the United Retail, Wholesale Employees of America, CIO, and Henry Ross, Midwest Secretary of the WDL.

Sacrifices

Continued from Page One

the government take \$2,500,000,000 from the workers to put back in the treasury.

In the name of national unity and defense, says Roosevelt, capital and labor must make sacrifices, and gives away billions to American capitalists.

In the name of national defense, says capital, with government billions in its pockets and more pouring in, let's sacrifice labor.

Isn't national defense the old capitalist-labor con game?

Eat Less

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Employed workers are already eating less. The cost of living is going up steadily.

But it's nice to know that if the British people need food the Roosevelt government is made up of men like Harriman who are ready to take the bread out of the mouths of the rest of us to give it to them. It's a damned nice thought, especially if you're starving.