### MARCH OF EVENTS By JACK WEBER

The Profit System and Capitalist Sabotage

No class-conscious worker will be fooled by the revelations of socalled "inefficiency" in the handling of food stuffs for relief purposes by the Federal, State and City authorities. When millions of pounds of potatoes, cabbage and veal threaten to glut the market, lower prices and decrease the profits, not of the prove their innocence once for all. farmer-producers but of the big commission merchants and the monopoly capitalists of the produce the Appellate Division's decision to exchanges, the government steps in the Court of Appeals, an attempt to protect the interests of the class in power. It buys up the huge food Justice of the Court of Appeals on surpluses and hides its real motive the grounds that the Appellate for the purchases-the preservation Division's decision had been unaniof the profit system-by pretending mous, showed that the District that the food will go to relieve the starving unemployed. Under cover of this phraseology for deluding the masses, the various agencies of City, then cooperate in the task of destroying the food surpluses by a game of "inefficient handling".

This capitalist sabotage manifests itself everywhere and at all times when the maintaining of profits requires the destruction of wealth, whether in the form of means of production, food supplies or raw materials. The rotting of the foods so desperately needed by the hungry, penniless workers is not a New York phenomenon, it is one more revelation of the decadence and rottenness of the entire capitalist system. Veblen aptly characterized this capitalist sabotage when he spoke of it as the "conscientious withdrawal of efficiency". It is indeed the brazenly cold-blooded foscreate the demand necessary for the coining of profits in the capitalist market. . . .

#### Profits and Housing

Capitalist society in the throes of crisis is faced continually with the problems of planned economy. But so long as private property and profits remain the backbone-the unbroken backbone-of the economic system, a planned economy remains like a watery mirage in the desert, something thirsted after but far-distant and unattainable. Thus it is with any real housing program of which there is so much talk in banking and industrial circles. The proper housing of the masses is Roosevelt recognizes the ultimate acter of the board appointed by them. The Lever Act was supposed, linked up with a myriad of prob- necessity of war if the capitalist "our" President to "take the profit just as the President's end-profitlems that remain almost totally in- regime in this country is to contin- out of war" Barney Baruch, old in-war laws are supposed to be emsoluble under capitalism. There is ue. One need only remark that line democratic politician, many ployed against excessive corporathe problem of slum clearance; the while the government handed out times a millionaire, and a member tion and individual profit. moving of large masses out of the one billion in relief under the New of the war board which connived Such laws, such attempts at what cities; the reallocation of indus- Deal, it spent two billion, exactly the exploitation of the last war, purports to be reform, always tries; the establishment of so-called twice as much, on armaments. subsistence homesteads to "solve" the unemployment problem, etc.

What the capitalists desire is that the government shall somehow set the wheels of heavy industry ly connected with munitions, they going once more by means of a housing program involving Federal financing and subsidizing society. Thus "city demobilization" would immediately affect land values which would in turn affect the entire taxing structure of the state. There would be a profound effect on the transportation systems built around and through the big centers of population. The entire profit structure involved in the present distribution of foodstuffs would be disturbed. The relations between town and country, between the farmer and city-worker, would undergo striking changes. Clearly the need for profits stands uncompromisingly in the way of real planning of housing.

### Housing and the Building Workers

This does not mean that the government will not concoct schemes for aiding the languishing heavy industries through some form of subsidized housing. In its usual fashion the government will attempt for twenty four hours it looked as to create the illusion that its real if he had actually laid bare the aim is to help the unemployed building trades workers. As a matter of fact the whole scheme of to retract his original uncomprostarting a housing boom is being mising stand, and the fortunate inlinked up with the idea of stimu-tervention of a hare-brained thirty lating greater demand by lowering year, two hundred billion dollar building costs in the most radical manner. The one completely satisfactory method for accomplishing this objective known to the capitalists, is to conduct a fierce and relentless onslaught on the wages and standards of living of the construc-

the lead in this process of "defla- would never come again, and that tion" of costs. If present intima- he was taking up the question now tions become a reality, then we may because there was at this time no expect a direct conflict between the war cloud on the horizon." construction workers and the capitalist state. Far from helping the building trades workers, the Feder- of hoping war out of existence first issue of the New Militant are beginning has been made in that al authorities will aim a blow at where did Mr. Roosevelt get the them. Already there is an effort to idea that there was no war cloud encourage the mass production of on the horizon? The President that new applications for memberfactory-built houses ready to as- knows that war with Japan over ship are being received everywhere. its membership. More than \$400 semble. This would eliminate the the Chinese market is always im- The organization of the two coast has been pledged and about \$109 pathizers to rush their contribuneed for any skilled workers who minent; that war with Great Brit- to coast tours is under way with has been paid in cash as reported would become part of the perma- ain over the colonial market, espe- a short three week Cannon-Muste below. nent reserve army of unemployed. cially in South America, is ever tour as a forerunner to begin Jan-The use of new materials and fac- possible; that the war between uary 13. The Party's national edtory methods is relied upon to Germany and France, now brewing, ucational committee is functioning create a new industry for capital- would involve the United States and its program will soon be availist exploitation. In this way, from very rapidly: to mention a few war able for the branches. Two of the every aspect the government's hous- clouds. As for actual wars—the Party's concentration districts ing program contains within it a Chaco dispute is, as the State De- have been started. A pamphlet, dark threat to the livelihoods of partment knows, a war not between embodying the Declaration of

# Free on Bail

Harold Robins and Andre Gras, whose conviction for assaulting a Division of the Supreme Court, is its trade union activities. That \$2,000 each pending the new trial ordered by the appeal court.

Happy to be free and ready again union movement. to take their places in the labor confident that a new trial would They pointed out that the attempt of the District Attorney to appeal which was refused by the Presiding a firm contact with the progressive Attorney was afraid to take the case before a jury.

as attorneys.

# Robins-Gras W. P. AND TRADE UNIONS Harlan "Law"

By ARNE SWABECK Secretary of Trade Union Dept. of the Workers Party.

TN THE program of action adopted scab during the hotel strike was 1 at the convention giving birth to reversed last week by the Appellate the Workers Party the central point were released Wednesday on bail of is a job which the party intends to tackle in earnest in order to become a factor of influence in the trade

that are within reach of a live active force. Following further in the same fashion the initial steps are now under way to organize the long to trade unions, and to cement | Cleveland. elements who are eagerly awaiting a lead to chart a new course in accord with the needs of the trade union movement today.

A trade union department has The Robins-Gras Defense Com- fractions are being organized and mittee for Non-Partisan Labor De the first steps taken to contact the government, Federal, State and fense, will continue the fight for live wire progressives in the various the freedom of Robins and Gras localities. Information will be ex- amples have been set of what prorom the charges against them. changed mutually between the Abraham Abramowitz, of the So- branches and the center, taking up cialist Lawyers Association, and such questions as: How to start Louis Glickhouse, the volunteer the trade union activities; the funcin unorganized shops; the burning character. issues in the trade union move-

the party's trade union policy, etc. | wing or progressive policies or or-These are, of course, only prelimi- ganizations. For the present, hownary steps to get the machinery ever, we do not intend to enter into into motion in order to take up the a discussion of these questions. bigger points on the order of the They will be taken up in subsequent

Basic Tasks

The program of action for the trade union work centered around two basic propositions. The first and foremost is the creation of a national progressive movement in the first steps in our activities. To Thoroughly realistic, this pro- the trade unions. The second pre- this end we are discussing this movement, Robins and Gras were gram of action sets out objectives sented the idea of selection of a question directly with a number of couple of concentration points, the outstanding progressive trade unsection of the textile industry in New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania and the automobile industry party itself, its members who be- in and around Detroit, Toledo and

> concerned, the crying need for a forces it would not be advisable to national progressive movement does not have to be emphasized to militant workers. In fact it represents

SUBSCRIBE TO NEW MILITANT ment; the essence and meaning of adduced of how not to conduct left bigger issues confronting it.

articles in the New Militant dealing more directly with the purposes of the projected national progressive movement in the trade unions. At this moment our first task is to get the wheels into motion and to begin

Concentration Points

The idea of selecting a couple of concentration points for our trade union work has to do with our ini-Insofar as the first proposition is tial party stage when with limited attempt to spread over the whole field at once.

to them a long felt need; but the In the two particular concentration Workers. Many of them are on the been set up. The party trade union forces to actually tackle the prob- points mentioned issues of the most payrolls of the companies and the lem were not at hand. There is important character are accumu- straigther they can shoot the more today not such a national move- lating and great struggles are in they are paid. ment in existence. Excellent ex- prospect. The issues are of course not the same character in both in- "the good state of Kentucky", gressive and left wing policies stances and to that extent the ap- which fears a repetition of the 1930 mean and what can be accomplished proach to the problems differ. In "national scandal" when the coal when a group of determined mili- the Detroit automobile area for operators and the Sheriff's office tants begin to act in an organized example the real problem is still crushed by violence an incipient lawyers whose splendid brief re- tion of the party fractions; the or- fashion. We need mention only the one of establishing a union or- union movement. sulted in the reversal of the origin- ganization of local progressive Minneapolis and Toledo. But these ganization. But that also is a job al conviction will continue to serve groups; the problem of organizing examples had so far mainly a local for the militant forces. And so, with the initial preparations on the Many other examples could be way our party will proceed to the

# Still Active

HARLAN, Ky. - Carl Williams and two other union miners were FASCIST STATE IN PORTUGAL attacked and beaten in the Louellen Hotel here by Ben Unthank, Frank White and George Lee, three of the 75 gunmen on Sheriff Middleton's deputy sheriff force.

said, explaining the attack. Middleton, who was elected by the miners' vote, has been ordered by Lieutenant Denhart, chief of the state militia, to rid his force of "gunmen". Immediately after the election of Middleton he re-hired corporative state modelled after the deputies who terrorized the miners in the big strike of 1930. The miners say they have been "sold out" again.

Gunmen are procured to "uphold" the law and to prevent the miners But this is not the only reason. from organizing in the United Mine

Denhart intervened in behalf of

JOIN THE WORKERS PARTY.

SUBSCRIBE TO NEW MILITANT | their own terms.

## Munitions Makers Put the Screws on Roosevelt

tering of mass hunger in order to President Overplays His Hand In Profitless-War Plan

take-the profit-out-of-war campaign the British Shell Oil Co. The Italwas a lesson in capitalist politics. lans are involved in a semi-war War has always been one of the over Abysinnia, which may attract crucial questions for a capitalist other nations interested in African regime, for it is in war that the colonies. And so on throughout the bloody contradictions of the class world . state become most apparent. While sme 50,000 young Americans were acted now because there was no killed and 150,000 wounded on a war cloud is pure nonsense. He wage of exactly one dollar a day acted because large munition, steel during the last war, 181 capitalists and financial interests were fearful back home, who risked nothing, not of the Nye investigation, and beeven their fortunes reported in cause these interests practically orcomes of one million a year or over. dered him to act.

New Deal and War

has barely scratched the surface, also a member of the late war ably to the greater advantage of every lead, no matter how indirect- Arthur, a professional army man, would finish by indicting the whole capitalist state as a monstrous device for oppression, graft, and murder. As it is the committee has statements on taking profit out of blundered on to some rather start- war are even more revealing. To ling revelations of the conduct of quote the Sun again: our super-patriot, millionaire, "dol-

and Navy departments, and by inwell as every financier in the country were involved in the exhorbitant profits from the sale of war supplies to the government, and in the sale, at a tremendous profit, of munitions of enemies or potential

enemies of the United States. Roosevelt on the Spot

There can be no doubt that President Roosevelt was put under pressure by just those financial interests that found the Nye committee so dangerous. The President responded nobly. He responded too nobly, he overplayed his hand, and real capitalist nature of "our democracy". However, he was forced recovery scheme distracted public attention.

A brief glance at the President's end-profit-in-war pronouncement re-

veals its source and its intent. The New York Sun said, "In announcing the afternoon conference sumated. The Workers Party of day Party Foundation Fund Camon war profit laws, President Roos- the U. S. is launched. The mem- paign is swinging into action. The government is moving to take evelt declared that he hoped war bership of the two organizations is This covers six points in the Pro-

No War Clouds? Leaving aside the asinine piety Program of Action, printed in the the \$5,000 within sixty days. A Bolivia and Padaguay, but a war Principles and the Constitution of

WASHINGTON. - Last week's between the Standard Oil Co. and

The President's statement that he

The End-Profit Boys

General Hugh Johnson, now notori- greeted clamorously by liberals and The Nye committee on armaments ous for his anti-labor activities, right wing Socialists, react inevit-If the investigators care to follow board. And General Douglas Mc- capital. mentioned by General Butler as a candidate for leader of a Fascist army!

President Roosevelt's further

"Likewise he asserted, there was lar a year" men during the last war. an unequal mobilization of human On Wednesday the committee was beings resulting in the present disblithely prepared to show that not pute over the bonus. He called atonly the Dupont Co. but our War tention to the fact that the boys who fought in the trenches got a ference the whole government as dollar a day, while the boys who worked in munitions factories received eight and ten dollars a day. Thus, he said, the demand for the

First let us dispose of the bonus. The President brought it up in hope of making the end-profit-in-war campaign a sop to the American Legion, a sop to cover up non-pay- talist war palatable to the people. ment of the bonus.

Equally How Wages

There are a multitude of reasons to regulate.

the mass meeting which launched

Reports from the country show

taking on life.

profit out of war, concerns himself, not with corporations, but ominously with the mobilization of human beings. Second: The antilabor, militaristic, capitalist nature of the board makes its intent plain. Third: The overwhelming evidence of history and circumstance points toward the conclusion that equal mobilization means equally low wages for workers, and equally higher profits for capitalists. The Lever Act

During the last war the Lever Act, as the New York Post pointed out, was intended, so far as the public was concerned, to take the profits out of war. The Lever Act was never employed against a single one of those 181 who made over a million a year during the war. Although the Secretary of War once called the Duponts "outlaws" This can be seen from the char- he later signed contracts with

Against Labor

just as the present proposed laws the new industrial bourgeoisie was will be employed, against labor. Striking unions were held for "conspiring to make unfair profit". Many strikes were broken, even as potent in the face of all attacks. late as 1920, two years after the anthracite miners was broken on just these grounds. Thus while went scot-free, trade unionists who proletariat who was less skilled in black proletariat reached superb ployment statistics just issued," tried to raise their wages a dollar workmanship. The Negro was not, heights. Their demands were for says the dispatch, covering the or two, or cut their hours from ten however, conscious of his true posi- equal citizenship and, logically, a to eight were accused of "conspir- tion as a workman. His only in- higher standard of living. Their ing to make unfair profits".

dently he could not afford to have artisans just emerging from chattel of the labor movement in America. any blunderers associated with the slavery. Thus one could easily be delicate problem of making capi- played against the other.

The President overplayed his hand on the whole end-profit-in-war | ible for the uneven development of On the matter of equal mobiliza- business. He made it quite plain the two workmen, and sowed the tion-Is there anyone who supposes that the government must and can seeds of hatred and mistrust which the President advocated \$10 a day only represent the capitalist class, is responsible for their disassociawages for soldiers? What the and that New Deals, labor promises, tion until this day. President advocates is equally low welfare governments, all sorts of wages for all working people, whe- so-called reforms are not only pre- skilled labor was needed, the bourther employed in bloody slaughter, destined failures, but worse, come geoisie, the former slave masters, or in the manufacturing of the in- to serve more and more directly employed black labor because of struments of bloody slaughter. just those interests they pretend its skill and cheapness. Thus white

Fusion between the former Am- | the Party is on the press. The na- | Local Philadelphia has also taken

erican Workers Party and the Com- tional Trade Union Committee is action with about \$75 pledged.

munist League of America, is con- gathering its forces and the sixty- Other branches have not yet re-

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now functioning in united branches gram of Action. There still remain

the party, is taking concrete form. full we must bend all our forces

The eleven points outlined in the and energies toward the raising of

direction.

and the enthusiasm engendered at five points to be acted upon.

### that make this the only possible; interpretation. First: The President, who is supposed to be taking Negro Workers in the Early American Labor Movement 400,000 men were mobilized during

Fight for Social and Economic Equality Since 1869

United States.)

By SIMON WILLIAMSON

interest of the black proletariat, appeared before the national conion. This organization averred itself as a purely industrial union, share of all that he produced. Howpeared at any of its succeeding representative affairs. There seems to have existed a difference of opinorganization on the Negro's position as an industrial worker.

war, the strike of the Pennsylvania black worker, especially in the Knights of Labor between the years south, found himself master of the 1881 and 1886. During these perilcrafts of his era. This made him ous years of crisis that followed 181 milion dollar a year incomes a fierce competitor of the white the Civil war the militancy of the of the New York Times. "Unem-The President made his intention life at whatever wage was avail- fective in the struggles of organeven more plain in completely neg- able. Low wages to white artisans ized labor of that time as any delecting the Nye committee. Evi- were lucrative salaries to Negro mands formulated by any section

labor came to regard black labor

Autoinette Konikow of Boston

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ported.

Williamson on the history and problems of Negro labor in the

Negro labor in America showed the tendency to unite with white labor as early as 1869. It was then that four delegates, representing the vention of the National Labor Unhaving for its only objective the securing for the producer his full ever, after the first convention of the new labor organization no ion among the various strata of the

This change of attitude toward the black proletariat was, no doubt, The Lever Act was employed, due to the peculiar psychology that using upon the white worker for the purpose of weakening its class understanding and rending it im- visualized an age not his own. How-

> Sowing Seed of Hatred The slave masters were respons-

In the cities of the south, where

Foundation Fund Campaign

(Ed. Note.-This is the first of | as a foe rather than friend, that a series of articles by comrade | sought to take its means of livelihood. Whereas the black worker who experienced the arrogance of the white, developed a feeling of mistrust instead of comradeship.

Knights of Labor

of the American labor movement in Germany re-arming. various parts of the country. It "This turn in policy is likely to may be somewhat astonishing to affect French-Soviet relations. The many of us to know that William critics of Soviet foreign policy have Sylvis, president and one of the always taken the view that the founders of the National Labor Un- French capitalist government would ion, as early as 1868 made the as- be an unreliable ally of Soviet Negro delegates seemed to have ap- sertion after a trip through the Russia. If an agreement with Gersouthern states, that:

"Careful management, and a vigorous campaign will unite the whole laboring population of the south, white and black, upon our platform. The people down here will unite on the money question, because everybody is poor."

The Years 1881-86

Sylvis was partly right, but his dream is yet to be realized. He ever, thousands of Negro and white Just emerging from slavery, the workers lined up behind the terest was to find the necessities of demands were as piercing and ef-

Development of Industry

The technical development of the observers expect unemployment to United States' industry, the short- reach the 500,000 mark by the end sightedness of the white proletari- of February. at, the mistrust of the Negro work-! "The industrial production index er, and the betrayal of the Negro is pursuing a steady downward middle class are responsible for the trend, which indicates contraction many setbacks of the black proletariat in the United States.

brought with it new crafts and de- have risen slightly. Railway earnvices that required time and money ings and car loadings declined." to master. The Negro worker was possessed of neither. His precarious lot forced him to succumb in face of disaster and to return to the plantation of his former slave master. In fact but few had left the plantation. Here they were forced to lead the miserable life of tenant farmers and share croppers.

White Labor Monopoly

White labor finally organized it-A close New York sympathizer barred Negro labor, to insure white "plans" would be gone into. Nye writes that the news of the fusion craftsmen of steady employment. and the launching of the new party | They sought to do for their crafts thrilled her to such an extent that what the capitalists sought to do she stands ready to contribute to for their wealth. They sought to the Party Foundation Fund \$200 gain a monopoly on their crafts. for every equal amount we raise Where Negro artisans were admiting the Foundation Fund tax from from others, up to a total of \$1,000. ted, they were placed in separate locals and given a lower wage. Middle Class Negroes

> The Negro middle class, which we shall discuss later on in detail, al-DON'T DELAY! ACT TODAY. for their position, whenever white the opulent white

# IN REVIEW

The dictatorship of President Carmona has ridden rough-shed over the rights of the workers and peasants of that country for the last nine years. Labor organiza-"They are reds," the deputies tions have been suppressed, their publications suspended and workers' leaders imprisoned. As a culmination of the process that has been definitely developing for some time, the ruling clique has now decided to convert Portugal into a Mussolini's Italy. The change is to take place "peacefully" through elections in which only one slate of candidates appears on the ballot. In view of the weakness of the Portugese labor movement, and the complete lack of a revolutionary party, it appears that Carmona will encounter no serious opposition to his schemes at the present time.

### CHACO WAR TOLL HEAVY

. . .

As the Paraguayan army prepares to drive the Bolivian troops from their last strongholds in the Gran Chaco, the government of that country has rejected the proposals for settlement offered by the League of Nations. Flushed with victory, the Paraguayans are now unwilling to terminate the two and a half years of open warfare, excepting on

This conflict, having its origins in a territorial dispute involving American and British oil interests, has already cost the lives of 80,000 men, sixty per cent of which were Bolivians, Between 350,000 and the course of the struggle.

POWER BALANCE IN EUROPE The following significant item,

reporting from Paris that French policy is turning in the direction of reaching an agreement with Germany, is taken from the British New Leader, organ of the Independent Labor Party:

"In well-informed circles here it is believed that French policy has The National Labor Union finally turned in the direction of reaching gave way to the Knights of Labor, an agreement with Germany. Offian organization of all races and cial circles are now reconciled to creeds, that sought to serve the the Saar Plebiscite resulting in a needs of all who toiled. Thousands return of the territory to Germany, of Negro proletarians entered the and it is recognized that nothing struggles lead by the early knights effective can be done to prevent

many can be reached, the French government will not hesitate to

throw over Russia. "Austria is also changing its attitude towards Germany. The government has issued instructions to the Press (1) not to print anything in future regarding German re-armament, and (2) to treat the Saar problem 'in a manner favorable to Germany'."

TREND IN FRANCE DOWNWARD The general economic situation continues to go from bad to worse, according to a news dispatch from Paris in the Sunday, Dec. 15 issue

ending last Saturday, "show a rise of 9,658 over the previous week and 115,223 over the corresponding week in 1933." "The total was 384,841. These are registered as wholly unemployed, and it is generally agreed that the actual total is about four times the official figure. Competent

of trade. Bankruptcies have reached an all-time record. The stock mar-The new industrial system ket index is down, although bonds

SECRET WAR PLANS

WASHINGTON.—Despite reports that the War Department will not permit the Senate committee investigating the munitions industry to bare to the country the secret arrangements between the government and big business for the mobilization of 1,700 peace-time and munitions factories for the production self into the craft unions of the of gases, guns and exploisives in American Federation of, should we the next war, Senator Gerald P. say white, labor. These newly or Nye, North Dakota liberal, chairganized craft unions in many cases man of the committee, said that the will ask an appropriation of \$50,-000 from Congress to continue the committee's work.

> He said the committee would keep secret the allocation of wartime procurements among plants and the details of arrangements between the government and industry in regard to kinds and quantities of war materials to be produced.

ways despised white labor. It had labor seeks unity with black. That PARTY FOUNDATION CERTI- made a bid for power. It can only was true then as now. To make FICATES will be issued for every exist on the antagonism of labor secure its position it exonerated donation over \$1. If you can't make which has resulted in separation. white bourgeois philanthrophy and a contribution, send for a collec- They get their chance in such a renounced all efforts of solidarity tion list and a certificate will be is state of affairs to become the small of white and black labor. They sued to you for the amount collect- leeches on the backs of black labor. preferred and still prefer seeing They become mistrustful, and afraid black labor remain subservient to