ACROSS THE COUNTRY

And Muste

The tour is over! Comrade Muste reports herein on the final meetings and his impression of the whole tour. Comrade Cannon; during the tour, was called to California and is now in Sacramento.

By A. J. MUSTE

DAVENPORT and MUSCATINE, a .- It is when one meets a small oranch such as the one at Davenport that one sees most clearly, perhaps, how thorough training in revolutionary theory can hold a group together in the face of the greatest obstacles and discouragement. If other branches made a membership in mass meetings, Chicago and Minneapolis would get out a thousand and New York five thousand.

had our first open encounter with try was made public. Now that an American Legion anti-Bolshevik | the report has been released, it is propagandist, a gentleman who easy to understand the Presiden's sought to pin "the destruction of suppression strategy. Joint product of armed force in various strikes, the home" and "bloody revolution" of the researches of the NRA Divion us and who did not consider it sion of Research and Planning and the witnesses were obviously lying pertinent when we pointed out that the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the and cross-examination shot their capitalism had robbed the workers study demonstrates plainly: of their homes, had murdered millions in the World War, in White Guard and Fascist pogroms, etc.

At Muscatine the workers in an unemployed union seemed not a bit shocked when told that under the new Roosevelt bill project workers To begin with the "speed-up", vicwould get only eleven dollars per lous and unrestrained, is the uniweek. After the meeting I learned they were getting only five or six dustry. "There is no set speed for dollars and figured that eleven a conveyor line evn after producwould represent a hundred percent tion has been pushed up to what increase in the wage standard. To is regarded as a maximum." Workthis has the proud American work- ers, "at present speeds, cannot go ing class been reduced!

Crowded Hours In St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Mo .- The standard, not to say classic, Stalinist mimeo- nitely brought there by the foregraphed leaflet distributed at our men. The speed-up is thus inherpublic meeting gives "the new line" ent in the present situation of lack of the C. P. on us, at least for that of steady work and an army of unday: the workers are warned to employed waiting outside" beware of "ultra-revolutionary par- BITTERLY OPPOSE tles" such as the W. P.

A conference with workers who want to discuss the details of the of progressive trade unionists, two work. The typical method of pay- syndicalism in Sacramento. Arresmeetings with middle class sympa- ment is the "group bonus plan", to ted on August 13 he was balled out thizers, a business meeting of the which method the workers are "bit- by the Non-Partisan Labor Defense

Workers in St. Louis want to be organized, but the Federal Auto know how much they are receivlocals and others have lost member- ing". The logic of the compensaship. There is no one to give direction. A young officer in one of the glone, who keeps the books. "Even new locals tells his experiences: "An A. F. of L. representative was sent in to our Local. He made a and so many shifts in the number speech. I thought it was a good from day to day, that it is imposone. Then I got home and my wife sible for an employee to figure out cherry and pear strikes in the asked me what he had told us to his earnings". What is more, the Santa Clara Valley, the Redwood do. I thought and thought, and then I woke up and realized he hadn't told us a thing to do."

St. Louis Branch W. P. has added some members and has some good prospects on the list.

ILLINOIS MINE FIELDS. Shacks, dirt, poverty. Here one realizes again that Columbia has indeed fallen low. In one mining town P.M.A. members on strike over two years still believe in the Pearcy-Keck-Picek machine in the P.M.A. which supplies them with about fifty cents worth of relief a month, and regard Allard, Pat Ansbury and Jack Battuello as unionwreckers! . But that will not last much longer. All the indications been received in the National Office recently to the effect that the prestige of the militants in the P.M.A. is rising rapidly.

Meetings in Gillespie, Pana, Bullpitt which takes in Tovey and Kincald also, and Springfield. The Gill- of the Senate Appropriations Comespie meeting was held in the S.P. mittee in amending the Roosevelt hall. Here for the first time on Work Relief Bill it is necessary to the trip the C. P. turned out in force. They should have spared tions of the amendment. their pains, for their record in the Illinois mine fields has thoroughly discredited them. In both Gillespie and Springfield the most serious families at \$50 per month (30c per and the "expensive" relief facand active workers turned ont to our meeting, asked numerous questions and urged the Workers Party to send an organizer to Illinois. That call must be heeded.

"Best Political Meeting Yet"

COLUMBUS, Ohio.-The best political meeting yet held in Columbus from the standpoint both of numbers and of the level of questions and discussion. Dick Harrington was on hand. For months he posed as a non-partisan in the unemployed organizations and came

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CAPITOL **NEWS** LETTER

Roosevelt Held up Auto Labor Report until Code Was Renewed

By JACK ELDER

WASHINGTON, D.C.-Acting on showing in proportion to their the principle of sentence first and verdict afterward, the President renewed the automobile code one week before the Henderson-Lubin report on employment and labor At the Davenport meeting we conditions in the automobile indus-

Not one solltary advantage, large or small, has accrued to the automobile wage-slaves as the consequence of the labor provisions of their code.

Let the report speak for itself. versal practice throughout the into the tollet and cannot even get a drink of water". The "fear of layoff is always present (in the minds of workers) even if it is not defi-

PAYMENT PLAN

Pass to methods of compensation. Few workers are paid on a straight lowing statement is one of the 17 W. P. program, one with a group hourly basis or by individual piece workers being tried for criminal granch, and a public mass meeting terly and unalterably opposed", be- after the I.L.D. had let all the decause of "the simple but to them fendants except one rot in jall for all conclusive fact that they do not six months. tion is a secret, known to the boss worked his way through the Uniif the method is understood there fornia. In 1933 he was San Jose are so many employees in a group group bonus payment plan acts as City mushroom strike and the San an incentive to the workers' speed. Joaquin cotton strike. ing up one another. "The men are driven to earn a bonus and after working for weeks to reach a speed they find their rates out so that a bonus is out of the question."

Workers must come to shop "as much as an hour early to prepare work for the day". During the swer o the Communist Party slan-

(Continuou on Page 4)

C.P.'s Attack on Mini Decried in Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Feb. 11 .- That the prosecution's immediate aim in the criminal syndicalism trial is the crushing of trade unionism n the rich valleys of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers has become crystal clear during the fourth week of the presentation of the state's case. As the fifth week opens, the state nears completion of its testimony and "evidence".

During the first weeks of the trial the prosecution utilized Communist party literature as a smoke-screen. Under this cover, it now begins to sneak up on the Cannery and Agricultural Workers Union, or its successors, since the union has been smashed by the terror.

The testimony presented by stoolfarmers (i.e., employers of migratory workers) is that Pat Chambers and Caroline Decker, union leaders, openly advocated the use and provoked violence. Many of testimony full of holes.

Stool Pigeon's Testimony

The testimony of M. Harris, a stool-pigeon who had been in the visible. Communist party was also featured. This gentleman, who soon after joining the C. P. was made secretary to the section organizer, with access to all party records, is connected with the Associated Farmers (i.e., mortgage-holding banks). the Industrial Association of San Francisco and the State Criminal tirely according to the conceptions Identification Bureau.

Leo Gallagher, International Labor Defense attorney, has made no headway in wiping out from the juror's minds the prejudice which middle-class provincials inevitably

pigeons, sheriffs and prosperous bring to such a trial. One of the jurors openly criticized Gallahger's method of cross-examination. The fact that the complaint was unjustified is less important than the fact that this and other jurors are full of resentment and antagonism against Gallagher. The effect of Gallagher's openly declared policy (now confirmed by the Western Worker) of not talking to the jury but to the 112 spectators is plainly

> Having, after a series of ineffectual counsellings and warnings, publicly dissociated himself from Gallagher's ill-starred tactics, attorney Albert Goldman of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense is compelled to sit back generally in silence while Gallagher proceeds enof the Western Worker which calls the jury a "vigilante jury".

> > Mini's Statement

The prosecution introduced las

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Warnick Defends Miniz Raps 'Western Worker'

Ed. Note: The author of the fol-

Warnick is twenty-eight years old, the son of a blacksmith. He versities of Washington and Calisecton organizer of the Cannery and Agricultural Workers Industrial Union and was active in the

Warnick recently criticized the Communist party for its actions in smashing the Sacramento united which would give them a bonus front. Now he speaks out against the Communist party attack on a comrade who stands in the shadow of San Quentin. His straight-torward statement is a crushing annoon lunch interval "material must der campaign against Mini.

> Warnick's Statement "No brief or excuse can be held

for a class-conscious worker giving any information whatsoever to the police. That is why Norman Mini should be severely condemned for his statement given at the time of his arrest last August to Neil R. McAllister, chief prosecutor, in the Sacramento criminal syndicalism case.

"However, any attempt, such as is being made by the Western worker, to characterize the statement of Norman Mini as a 'confession' and the act of a 'cowardly, treacherous stool-pigeon', must be equally condemned. "I am convinced from my close

acquaintance with Mini in jail and during the last months, that Mini did not give the statement with evil intent. I am certain that he neither attempted to save himself from a prison term, nor consciously gave information against his fellow-defendants. Neither do I think the information he gave is damaging to the revolutionary movement. What he said consisted of facts which we have always disdained to hide. The rest was merely his personal "Norman Mini made a stupid

mistake. But it is not a fatal mistake and he should not be crucified for it. (signed) JACK WARNICK

San Francisco Feb. 10, 1935."

Sectarian Defense Organization

With cynical disregard for existing written agreements binding the tion, the S. P. appears now to be engaged in setting up a "labor and Socialist" imitation of the I.L.D. The New Leader of Feb. 2 an-

nounced that a conference to launch a permanent labor defense organization will be held March 15 in the headquarters of the I.L.G.W.U. and that a call for that conference is being sent out to "trade union, Socialist and fraternal organizations". The announcement did not state by whom the call will be issued. The impression one gets from reading the announcement is that the call will be issued by the New York Socialist Committee for Promotion of Labor Defense. It may or may not issue the call. Some other body may do that. A number of organizations-trade union or fraternal -may sign the call. All that is important but not decisive in determining the significance of the

The announcement of this conferof Labor Defense as a step in the the formation of a Labor and Socialist National Defense Committee. The conference, therefore, must be considered as a part of Merry-go-round this policy.

A "Plan for a Labor Defense Organization" was drafted about a year ago by representatives of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, the Communist Party Opposition, the endorsing the plan of the Provisionbor Defense, and leading trade unionists was provided for. Its function was to "organize and carry through a conference of invited representatives of as many organizations as are interested in the plan as here set forth at which conference the defense organization is to be set up and then publicly of their fellow-workers from the conference the committee was to domination of Bill Green through conference illustrated that the job late resolutions upon policy", "car- dicates that Claherty still controls just begun. The vitally important ry on preliminary negotiations with the union although the beginning Chicago-Gary district had one reporganizations and outstanding in- of serious organization among the into the conference", "select a name dent and will undoubtedly receive the entire Michigan area was with-

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SOCIALISTS United Opposition AGREEMENT Needed against Tighe

Now Take Steps to Launch Lack of Preparation Brought Present Progressive Movement in Steel to Disaster

By ELMER COPE

In defiance of an expulsion threat made by President Mike Tighe of Socialist party to united action to the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, delelaunch a labor defense organiza- gates and members from 78 locals met in Pittsburgh February 3 in a conference called to consider steps toward the organization of the steel industry. Similarly, about seventy miners from Western Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, in face o ouster action by their officialdom, met in joint session to plan united action with the steel workers.

> The call for the conference was issued at a meeting held five weeks previously, attended by regularly elected delegates from three district organizations of the Amalgamated Association. At this meeting

six international officials also attended. Though the officials de- ther with Louis Morris of Canton, fended their policies they estab- Mel Moor of Weirton and others lished the legality of the conference by promising to issue the call for the February 3 meeting. The Leaders

The initiators of this progressive movement are by and large the same militants who took over the 1934 annual convention of the A. A. and forced through a program for general strike action, over the protest of the International officials.

This original movement collapsed after a re-convened convention held two months later had-under pressure from President Roosevelt and ence follows by a week the au- Bill Green of the A. F. of L.—renouncement of the formation of a scinded the strike action of the major cases. In Weirton, Duquesne, Socialist Committee for Promotion previous convention. Last fall the McDonald and Warren, the union movement took a new lease on life direction of the formation of such and under the leadership of Clarcommittees in other cities where ence Irwin of Youngstown, and the Socialist party is organized and William Spang of Duquesne toge-

For Akron Labor

lution was passed here today by the conference, launched an attack the United Rubberworkers subor-Group, the Workers Party and the dinate council whch committs the many delegates away. Socialist party. The plan specified Goodrich Federal Union to another how the organization was to be bout in the courts and further those attending came from lodges launched. A Conference Committee class-collaborationist monkeyshines. where unemployment is high and of representatives of organizations Following like action by the Fire-I working conditions most desperate. stone union, the Goodrich workers The lodges with signed contracts, al Committee for Non-Partisan La- are to fight through the thrice-dis- mostly in the tin plate divisions, credited regional labor boards for were cool toward the movement the removal of the company's blue and had no significant representaeagle for failure to recognize the tion at the conference.

Continuation of this stupid and futile policy which has to date accomplished nothing for the rubberworkers but the allenation of many launched." In preparation for the union was made possible by the "draw up a draft constitution and his henchman, Coleman C. Claherty. of building a real, national prodeclaration of principles", "formu- The adoption of the resolution individuals, in order to draw them rubber progressives is already eviadded impetus from this fresh be-

began to rally the progressives for the nation-wide organizing campaign which the officialdom had completely abandoned. The new locals were disintegrat-

ing rapidly. All organizers had been withdrawn from the field and the locals left to shift for themselves. The steel trust began a new offensive of terror to strengthen the company unions. The National Run Around was hitting on all cylinders. The labor boards, in which the Tighe bureaucrats had placed their entire reliance, failed to deliver the goods in all became entangled in prolonged court action, morale was shattered, and general confusion prevailed.

The Feb. 3 Conference

In an effort to find a way out approximately 400 steel workers came to the February 3 conference. It is not known how many were officially delegated to represent their respective lodges. The fact that the bureaucrats, after first in-AKRON, Ohio, Feb. 11 .- A reso- dicating that they would tolerate

It is significant that the bulk of

There is no doubt that the conference, although the majority of delegates came from the Pittsburgh-Youngstown-Canton - Weirton area, expressed the dissatisfaction of the workers in the industry with the inaction of the Tighe machine. The gressive movement in steel has resentative, no one attended from the Portsmouth, Ohio section, and

out a spokesman. Resolutions

"The steel workers can not depend upon labor boards and other federal agencies but must rely upon their own organized strength," read the main resolution adopted. "We reaffirm our belief in the principles wages would be, as under the ori- President of the United States, of A.F. of L. Helpless; Strike of the A. A. and the A. F. of L. which are principles of struggle." The resolution provided for the establishment of a committee to seek the cooperation of the executive boards of the A. A. and of the A. portunity to pay \$12 per week in- F. of L. for a general organizing

A detailed program of action called for mass meetings, publicity, unemployed relief committees, ladies auxiliaries and a supporting committee of liberal and professional elements. Another resolution was adopted petitioning the A. A. executive board to liberalize dues payments and provide exemptions for unemployed workers in order to meet the emergency.

Tighe Goes Into Action

Hardly had the conference adjourned when the delegates were informed that Spang and his Duquesne lodge had been expelled, and that the A. A. attorney, Ogburn, had been instructed to withdraw the Duquesne case which was then

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SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST TO NEW YORK WORKERS

To the person who sends in the largest number of subs be-(ween this date (February 16) and March 2 the New Militant will award a free scholarship consisting of three courses in the International Workers School. These courses may be chosen by the winner subject to the capacity of the classes. Ten yearly subs or équivalent will be the minimum in order to qualify. In case of the similar

Relief Bill Will Drive Wages of All Labor to \$12 Minimum

here confirm the reports which have Prevailing Wage Clause evelt. Defeated by Order of Roosevelt

In order to understand the action understand the financial implica-

On Thursday, Feb. 7, the Roose velt Bill, which provided full time employment for 3,500,000 heads of hour) at a total yearly cost of four tions: The fact of the matter is billion dollars was introduced.

An amendment by Senator Adams, providing a continuation of the present home relief at a yearly | nal bill, and might even cost less! cost of two billion dollars was de-Adams' amendment represents big business sentiment, as embodied in a resolution of the National Manufacturers Association several months ago, for cheap government and a balanced budget.

Prevailing Wage Amendment

At the same session of the Committee the "prevailing wage" amendment was introduced and passed by a 12-8 vote. This amendment provides for the payment of wages at rates prevailing in the locality where work is undertaken. This was calculated by the Budget Bureau to be 80c per hour as an average for all localities and all

sorts of work to be undertaken. The vote for this amendment, 12-, is rather startling as it shows wo Senators who stood out for the Adams' amendment (10-10 vote) as

Roosevelt Opposes It How does it happen that two advocates of cheap relief and ten advocates of "expensive" relief get together on the amendment? And why does President Roosevelt greet this amendment which receives support from both camps as an amendment which "defeats the whole purpose of the relief **ЫН"?**

First to take the problem of the agreement between the cheap relief that the amendment, while it provides higher wages, would not necessarily cost more than the origi-

The original bill contemplates feated by a 10-10 tie. Senator full time employment for 3,500,000 heads of families at \$50 per month (30c per hour). On this basis total wage payments per month would be \$175,000,000. At the same time the cost of materials, according to the estimate of the Budget Bureau, would be \$160,000,000 per month, a total of \$335,000,000 per month, or approximately four billion per year.

> The amendment provides "prevailing" wage payments (80c per hour) but it says nothing about full time employment. This leaves two possibilities. The first, which attracted the proponents of "expensive" relief, is for full time emwould involve a total yearly expenditure both for wages and mater-

ials, of some six billion. The second possibility, which attracted the proponents of cheap re- that under the second plan, al- for the Building Trades Employers

time, the cost of materials would only be \$80,000,000; the total monthly expenditure \$225,000,000, slightly more than three billion per

The Three Proposals

What does the unemployed worker stand to gain from each of these

The best proposed plan is that

for full time employment at prevailing wages. A plan which would cost six billion per year. The second best is for part time (62 hours per month) employment

at prevailing wages. A plan which would cost three billion per year. The third choice is the President's proposal for full time employment at 30c per hour. A plan which would cost four billion per year.

Why does the President choose and support the last plan which is the worst so far as the workers are concerned and which is only second best so far as total government expenditure is concerned? Against the first plan, it is true, he may argue expense, as it calls or unemployed, organized or unorfor an appropriation of six billion ganized to drive all wages down to instead of four.

But even leaving the first plan per week. out of consideration, what argument can be advanced against the second plan, which actually will ployment at prevailing wages. This cost one billion less than the original proposal?

The Sweatshop Argument

The argument advanced by the

ginal bill, \$175,000,000. At the same this great Democracy, for, of, and time, since the work would be part by the people, is reduced to bargaining like any common little sweatshop boss!

The President admits that the government is nothing more than a glorified sweatshop, whose first and principal consideration is not the welfare of its workers, nor even the welfare of its taxpayers (who will pay the extra billion) but the amount of profit it can squeeze out of its citizens!

While this argument reveals the complete degradation of the state under the capitalist system, it does not fully explain the tenacity with which the President clings to his plan. There is another reason which he doesn't mention, not even in a whisper, for preferring payment at 30c per hour instead of at prevail-

If the President is willing to argue like a vulgar street peddler, it is because he does not dare mention the real purpose of the bill. Legalizing Scabbing

The bill is intended to drive down the wages of all labor, employed

What other reason can the President have for insisting on his plan, which is least advantageous for the workers, and only second best from the point of view of taxpayers in general?

His purpose is clearly recognized President, through his agents, is in at least two quarters Speaking original measure proposed by Roos- plan the monthly payments for time instead of full. Thus the from relief rolls," Not averse! tacks of the Administration.

Action on PWA Only Course for Labor

How they would welcome the opstead of the present scale of \$12 drive.

And the A. F. of L., recognizing that the bill threatens its very existence, has hastened to make its feeble and ineffectual protests. To quote the New York Times, "The full force of the A. F. of L. as represented by William Green, president, and the executive council, was brought to bear on the Senate Appropriations Committee in an effort to have it write the prevailing wage requirement into President Roosevelt's \$4,000,000,000 work relief program. . . .

"The Federation President declared the adoption of the relief program without the McCarran (prevailing wage) amendment would wreck the prevailing wage scale throughout the country."

The Outlook

As the matter stands at the present writing the Senate Committee, the slave level of 30c per hour, \$12 under pressure from the President, has voted 14-9 to reconsider the amendment which it passed last week. There can be little doubt that the President will finally succeed in having the amendment totally withdrawn. The ineffectual bleats from the A. F. of L. officialdom, if the past is any indication will have less than any influence.

There is only one course for the the cheapest method of taking care lief, is for part time employment though it costs one fourth less, the Assn., C. G. Norman, in pleading workers, both unemployed and emof the unemployed, switching to an at prevailing wages, part time such government will receive in return that public works be put under ployed, for both are threatened, amendment which on the face of it as to make the monthly payments only one half as much construction private contract said, "The con- and that is to organize militantly is even more expensive than the total \$50 per worker. Under this because workers will be on part tractor is not averse to using labor for strike struggle against the at-