

High-Lights

By HENRY THURMAN

THE PEOPLE'S FRIENDS

"Anti-Soviet, ally of the Friends of New Germany, shielder of the murderers of a charity patient," was the cheerful manner in which the C. P. of Cleveland characterized Doc Walz for the past few years. Walz has the habit of running as an independent mayoralty candidate.

But this year, after the primaries, I. O. Ford, Communist candidate for mayor, took a meeting of the Independent Civic League that the minority candidates ought to get behind a write-in campaign for Walz.

Ford sat down with Walz and wrote out a reformist platform for him.

The C. P. leaders met and decided to participate in this action if the S. P. stated its willingness to go into it. Otherwise the C. P. was to pretend that it has reached a contrary decision for some trumped-up reason. (Write-in campaigns are not effective.)

At the meeting where the "united front" was to be consummated, Walz made a typical liberal, reformist speech—then launched into an attack on conditions in the Soviet Union! The C. P. representative sat without a protest, with his head bowed sheepishly. No objection could be made to Walz's statements because the Socialists hadn't stated their position as yet, and the united front was yet tentative.

The S.P. disrupted another beautiful united front. They thought the platform (prepared by the C. P.) had nothing to do with labor and didn't resemble anything that militants could rally around.

At any rate, the audience got a good laugh.

"DESIGN FOR LIVING"

"Frankie and Uppie were lovers," Maurice Sugar snatched on Upton Sinclair in the Detroit debate on "America's Way Out—EPIC or Farmer-Labor Party?"

"He was your man but he done you wrong. You captured the Democratic Party. Roosevelt has captured you! Mr. Sinclair, it is apparent that you fell in love with Roosevelt at first sight. He carried you. He led you on. He played with you. . . Mr. Sinclair, you lovely man, you have been seduced!" (Daily Worker, Nov. 5).

This Freudian analysis does not help us to understand that a Farmer-Labor Party will get America "out" of—(economic crisis?)—but we would like to point out that Earl Browder states in the September "Communist" that the C. P. ought to take over the Epic Plan.

F.D.R.'s bedroom must be getting popular.

"I KNOWS IT, BROTHER"

Mike Gold chides the Left young Socialists for singing ribald parody "Our Line's Been Changed Again." Instead of the customary abuse, threats, and third period epithets, the columnist resorts to wheedling, pleading, and sugar-talk. We understand, Mike,—your line's been changed again!

WORKERS SCHOOL HANDS OUT PLENTY TOO

"Have you ever wondered why I. O. Ford (Communist candidate for mayor) is always so jolly and gay, why he has that big smile on his face?" gushed Onda at the Cleveland Browder meeting. "Because he's a Communist!"

We thought it was because Onda, running for council on a Labor Ticket, promised to collect all the garbage if he was elected.

Too bad he didn't get in. His first job would have been to send around a truck behind the Workers Book Shop to pick up all those copies of "The Name is Lewis, John L.," which have been withdrawn from circulation.

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A 'Square Deal' Corporation An Altruistic Boss! Workers Get It in the Neck

By CYRUS RIGBY

BINGHAMPTON, N. Y., Nov. 15.—Last week the workers in shoe factories of the Endicott Johnson Corporation were given renewed and positive assurance that the world does not move. The occasion was the posting, on all shop bulletin boards, of the identical Promotion Policy Message that George F. Johnson had himself issued before in 1920.

The statement was prefaced by a note saying that "This is just as true today as it was 15 years ago, and as it will be 50 years from now." Resuscitated, the message took no account of the ravages made by the system of capitalism on the workers of the Southern Tier no less than in other parts of the world. Parading of the now completely exploded American myth of "equal opportunity to all" was so brazen, in the light of past events, that the notice was this time greeted only by ridicule by those few workers who paused to read it.

Dividing the Workers for Profit

The message is part of the halloved Endicott Johnson "square deal plan," which is itself founded upon a policy of dividing the workers in order the better to use them for profit. One passage reads, "You may even be the general manager or one of the directors, as we are looking for the best talent to fill all positions of responsibility." It closes with the words, "If you are faithful, loyal and reliable, you will earn a good living with a chance for advancement. This company and its directing heads know their business. Their business is to see that you give them a square deal, which means a fair return for what you receive—an honest

effort to do the work well and a fair and sufficient amount of it."

Because the most recent breakdown of capitalism has forced more and more people to wear shoes of a cheaper, and hence inferior grade, the Endicott Johnson factories have enjoyed an ever-increasing expansion since 1920. But not one extra benefit has accrued to shoe workers by this circumstance. Wages have been lowered and the threat of unemployment held constantly over their heads to still protests. Speed-up has been grooving in pace every month. Stoolpigeons and spies, always with hope of promotion at the expense of their class, have been more numerous and more active.

A "Working Class" Bank

Everything in Endicott and Johnson City is cloaked with a fake "working class cooperative" veneer. Even the local bank bears the name "Workers Trust Company." Yet further scrutiny of this institution, as an example, will show how all these labels and policies are merely clever methods of deluding the workers into a false sense of power. Assets of the Workers Trust Company are placed at about five and a half million dollars. Stocks in the bank consist of 8,000 shares. Are most of the shares in this "working class" establishment owned by the workers in the E.-J. factories? By no means! 7,534 shares, or complete control and ownership of the institution, are owned by the Marine Midland Corporation, a major fortress of finance capital in America. Investigation has shown that the same issue of spuriousness covers every supposedly benevolent gesture of the Endicott-Johnson shoe barons.

American workers have learned, to their sorrow, that they are no different from workers in every part of the world: that for the working class there is strength only in unity. Anything else faintly resembling a real trade union is still banned in the Endicott-Johnson sphere of influence. Most of the workers there still hope to live on altruistic crumbs from the table of "George F." and his fellow capitalists. Yet even the most superficial examination of the facts will prove that their one salvation is in solidarity with the entire working class, rather than in accepting the occasional sops handed out to them by their exploiters to keep them docile.

Minneapolis Labor Notes

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 19.—Hans Luther, Germany's ambassador to the United States, was sneaked in the back door of the Radisson Hotel this noon by a squad of police, where he was scheduled to address the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association. The reason was that a picket line was parading in front of the Radisson Hotel, in protest against the appearance of the emissary of Hitler's barbarous Fascism. Among the picketers was a group of eight members of the Spartacus Youth League, carrying a banner reading: "Hitler is the Enemy of All Workers."

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 19.—All Walgreen Drug stores in Minneapolis and St. Paul are being picketed by members of the Sign Painters and Card Writers Union, Local 880, of the A. F. of L. Walgreen locked out the workers because they joined the union. Sign painters in the Walgreen stores have been forced to work 85 to 90 hours a week. The union, which is turning the lockout into a strike, is asking for higher wages and shorter hours.

ST. PAUL, Nov. 20.—A special session of the Minnesota legislature has been called for December 2, to clear up the relief problem in this state. The Minnesota Conference for Progressive Social Legislation, Farmer-Labor controlled, has been meeting this week to draw up plans to resist the fight for a retail sales tax, which the state Tax Payers Association is pushing. The Farmer-Labor conference has drawn up a program calling for enforcement of existing taxes, particularly levies on corporations and individuals with large incomes.

PARTY AT WORK

NEWARK, N. J.

The Newark branch of the W.P. has taken a new headquarters at 105 Springfield Ave. The new place is fitted out with an office, meeting hall, kitchen and library. The library which is now being put in order will have available to workers an extensive collection of Marxian literature and files of labor and industrial statistics and information.

The weekly Sunday night forums held at St. Regis Hall, 34 Park Place are proving very successful and are attracting an ever increasing audience of workers. The more than doubling of the sale of Workers Party literature in Newark is an indication of the rapidly extending influence of the local branch.

Ten of the new party members employed as W.P.A. workers at present are doing a splendid job of organizing on the projects and the meeting they hold at noon-hour on the projects are attended by from 30 to 200 project workers.

Shachtman Meeting in San Diego

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Nov. 19.—Approximately 75 workers came to Woodbine Hall last night to hear Max Shachtman lectured on "War and the Soviet Union." Shachtman analyzed the causes of war and outlined the revolutionary tasks of the proletariat in relation to war as advocated by the Workers Party and other adherents of the Fourth International in contradistinction to the class collaboration policies of the parties of the Second and Third Internationals. A lengthy question and discussion period followed the lecture and nearly everyone stayed until midnight asking questions about the Workers Party. This was one of the first public meetings attempted by the San Diego branch and Shachtman's lecture is calculated to conclusively solidify the W. P. with the already sympathetic class-conscious workers.

Dunne to Give Series on Labor Party

Tuesday Night, Dec. 3, 8 P.M. "What is a Labor Party?"

Tuesday Night, Dec. 10, 8 P.M. "Can a Labor Party Promote Trade Union Organization?"

Tuesday Night, Dec. 17, 8 P.M. "Can Labor Parties Prevent Imperialist War?"

Tuesday Night, Jan. 8, 8 P.M. "Labor Party or Revolutionary Party?"

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How They Ache for War!

Editor's Note: How the Stalinist is out-Baldwin Baldwin and becoming the most rabid advocate of military sanctions, i.e., imperialist war, is revealed in the quotation below from the Journal de Moscow, French equivalent of the Moscow Daily News—one of the many Stalinist stooge periodicals.

MOSCOW, Nov. 1.—Steps to make possible military sanctions must be taken by the League of Nations, the Journal de Moscow, French language newspaper here, declared tonight.

The sanctions already voted against Italy will help the League's prestige by showing that it is prepared to act, the newspaper said. But economic and financial penalties never can stop a war.

"The first experiment of the League will allow us to conclude that economic sanctions alone never can succeed in guaranteeing peace," it stated. "and that it will be impossible in the future in analogous cases to limit ourselves to economic sanctions, as is foreseen in Article XVI, Paragraph 2 (of the Covenant) treating of military sanctions.

"It will suffice to study especially this paragraph and at the 3-4 per cent create the conditions necessary to apply it rapidly in case of need."

If the sanctions already voted are not energetically applied they will only have a harmful effect, the paper declared.

Appeal Date Set in Cal. C. S. Frame-Up

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Nov. 27.—The District Court of Appeals has set a hearing for Dec. 3, at which Raymond W. Henderson, attorney retained for Norman Mini by the National Sacramento Appeal Committee, will argue for a writ of mandate ordering the trial court in the famous criminal syndicalism case to provide the Mini defense with a copy of the proceedings of the trial.

Mini, Prisoner 57606 in San Quentin, one of eight workers appealing against the frame-up convictions arrived at under pressure of an anti-union and anti-radical drive launched by employers' organizations in this state. Thus far the trial court has provided only one transcript of the proceedings. Applications for copies made by Mar-

tin Wilson and several other appellants who represent themselves legally, have been denied.

Due to the refusal of the I.L.D. to consider a unified defense, there are two attorneys in the case. Leo Gallagher represents the I.L.D. defendants, while Henderson represents Mini. By compelling the two attorneys to prepare their briefs on the basis of one copy of the transcript, the court is working a hardship on both. Henderson's fight for an additional copy has the support of Gallagher.

Support for the defendants is on the increase. The Los Angeles and San Francisco sub-committees of the N.S.A.C. recently held successful mass meetings.

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A Radical Farmer's View of Recent Shifts in AAA

(Reprinted from the Producers News, official organ of Farmers Holiday Assn. of Montana)

The AAA Wheat Production Control Board has now amended the bonus basis from the county acreage of wheat production per acre average to that of the individual unit of wheat production as the basis, based on the last three years production adjusted to the preceding two years, whatever that may mean. This individual unit base discriminates against the small grower, against the poverty stricken farmer, who do not have the means to farm properly, or who for the want of seed wheat could not get his crop in when he should, and so did not get the crop which he would have had the planting been done in the proper seed bed and at the right time, and in favor of the farmers who have the proper machinery, the seed and the means to carry on his farming operations as he should.

The first and the largest section of farmers of course raised very poor crops, the latter quite good crops. So on the individual unit basis, the impoverished farmer gets a reduced bonus, while the rich farmers get the big check—the gravy as it were.

On the county average basis for the last five years, all farmers get the bonus on the average acreage production of the county so all farmers share alike as to the number of bushels per acre they receive the bonus on, and this is as it should be.

But the county average basis for the bonus payment is contrary to the basic policy and program of the AAA, in spite of all the illusions the farmers may be entertaining of the purpose of the act, and so just could not stand. The

Letters to the Editor

Editor, NEW MILITANT:

I cite the following incident as a revelation of the inner workings of that great democracy-loving organization, the League Against War and Fascism. Essentially pacifist and reactionary in nature, this body listens no end to preachers, rabbis, society ladies, senators and others of the same kidney but can spare not a moment to a revolutionist. Indeed, in my case, the presentation of the point of view of the Workers Party meant ejection from a meeting of the League.

I attended a meeting of the Boro Park branch of the League in a Y.M.H.A. building at 49th Street and 4th Avenue, at which a speech was given on the Chinese Soviets and the situation in the Far East. During the discussion I took the floor and attempted to show that the speaker had been guilty of several misstatements as well as outright lies, all of which were intended to justify the line of Stalin on the Chinese Revolution. The chairman interrupted me when I offered

to outline briefly the historically correct theses of Trotsky and the Left Opposition. He immediately entertained a motion that I be excluded from all further meetings of the League since for several weeks I had insisted on presenting a political point of view which could "only succeed in disrupting the organization," etc., etc. The organizer, a well-known Y.C.L. member, backed the motion, furling for fully fifteen minutes against the "counter-revolutionary Trotskyite line." Some "innocent" members of the American League protested that this action smacked of bureaucracy, but the Y.C.L. faction had a majority and the motion of exclusion was passed.

The American League, which would fight for democracy in Germany, Italy, Spain and everywhere except in the American League, will never learn that the struggle against tyranny like charity begins at home. A stooge can only mimic his master, the American League, the C. P. —MILTON HINDUS.

The 'Resettlement' Fraud A Texas Thanksgiving Relief Is Discontinued

By JAMES EVANS

(Special to the New Militant) DALLAS, Tex.—Thousands of impoverished Texas farmers are being made the victims of Roosevelt's "resettlement" fraud. The relief administrators make glowing promises to these bankrupt producers, only to shunt them into leaky shacks on sub-marginal lands. As a rule, the tenant is forced to incur several hundred dollars of indebtedness before he is allowed the privilege of supervised starvation.

In McLennan county alone, five hundred rural families were taken off the relief rolls last year and given government loans to "rehabilitate" themselves. In twelve counties of central Texas, 2,600 such families were given opportunities to lead the simple life—as prescribed by the banking interests that dominate the Federal agricultural policies.

Slaves of King Cotton

Despite the uncertain condition of the cotton market, two thousand have been put to growing crops of this staple. These recipients of government bounty are truly the slaves of King Cotton. Many of them became impoverished as a result of the cotton plow-up program. Their rented tracts of land went back to the owners upon being retired from cultivation. Their small AAA checks went to satisfy the landlord and the merchant. Their livestock starved to death or was sold for a song. Now, they find themselves once more planting cotton, bound to Uncle Sam rather than the landlord, still keeping their children out of school to pick the crop during the fall.

Texas Old Age Pensions Cheaper than Poorhouse

(By a Worker Correspondent)

Austin, Tex., Nov. 18.—The Texas old age pension act has proven to be a pig in a poke, as every Marxist knew it to be. No funds have been raised to pay the pension, although \$145,000 has been appropriated by the legislature to begin paying the salaries of the administrators immediately. There is every probability that the Texas measure will bear out the statement made last year by Mary T. Norton, Congressman from New Jersey: "Old age pensions are cheaper than poorhouses."

So much red tape has been wound into the provisions of the act that only eight percent of those entitled to pensions will receive this beggarly assistance. As in the case of the relief, relatives with small jobs will be coerced into supporting the aged. Moreover, the burden of caring for those who do clear all the hurdles will probably fall upon the workers through some tax on sales or even a discriminatory income tax.

The act is intended to discriminate against Negroes and Mexicans by providing that "usual living standards" are to be considered in determining the amounts of individual pensions.

Corruption Rampant in Ft. Worth, Texas, Relief

(By a Worker Correspondent)

FORT WORTH, Tex., Nov. 18.—Fort Worth relief clients are being put off projects because they will not pick turkeys for poultry houses at the starvation wages of fifty and sixty cents per day. The price of turkeys has advanced with the approaching holidays and due to a strike of farmers which forced poultry dealers to pay more for the fowls. Nevertheless, the companies are adhering to the same wage scales.

A recent investigation of the Fort Worth relief administration shows: widespread graft, coercion and corruption. Young girls were even told by case workers to get out and hustle if they did not like the rations afforded them by the relief boards. In some cases, case workers even forced indigent women to accept their attentions.

It was for exposing such evils as these that T. E. Barlow, Unemployed Council leader, was murdered by the third degree in September of 1933.

Newark Jobless In Demonstration

NEWARK, N. J., Nov. 21.—A demonstration of organized unemployed and project workers took place in Washington Park today.

The demonstration was called by a united front of three unemployed organizations: the Workers Alliance of America; the Unemployment Councils and the Association for Adequate Relief, Newark section of the National Unemployed League. The demonstration marked the launching of the fight for an increase in wages on the projects and for the continuation of direct relief. The meeting was an enthusiastic one and is to be followed by a large indoor mass meeting to hear the reports of the delegations that visited the state and county WPA and ERA officials.

The mass meeting was preceded by a short parade of the women who decided suddenly that they didn't need a permit to parade. This was led by Elsie Salvatore and other members of the Association for Adequate Relief. The speakers were Edwin Kaemph for the Workers Alliance; Fred Haug for the Unemployment Councils and Irving Rosenberg for the Association for Adequate Relief. The chairman was Jerry Kotz of the Association for Adequate Relief.

The project workers' locals of the Association for Adequate Relief are planning a giant mass meeting for Dec. 9 in the City Hall council chamber in Newark. The Monday night project workers' local, attended by over a hundred workers, received reports from almost all Essex County projects that the men are clamoring for action against the \$55 slave wages.

The entire project has proven a bonanza for the large landowners. In many cases, the landowners have collected for several hundred acres in excess of the tracts they have sold for colonies. Misrepresentation of acreage is very common, and even Rex Tugwell has been forced to have the situation investigated. In the long run, all this graft will have to be paid by the tenants, through increasing debt and unremunerative extra labor on the infertile acres.

We will win this strike if you give us your support. We appeal to you for assistance. Through your Executive Board, through your membership, through your affiliations we appeal for immediate financial aid.

Send all contributions to Leon Levy, chairman of the Finance Committee, Department Store Employees Union, Local 1250, 265 West 14th Street, New York City.

Mays Strikers Call for Aid

The strike in the Mays department store in Brooklyn, entering its fifth week, is agitating the New York labor movement. Over 100 strikers came out in answer to a strike call when Mays began to fire members of Local 1250. The working conditions in Mays are absolutely intolerable. We are fighting against the starvation wage of \$10 and \$12 for a 50 to 60 hour week. This wage is lower than that received by most workers on relief projects. We have been compelled to work on Sundays or suffer the loss of a day's pay, or worse, the loss of our jobs.

The militancy and courage of the strikers has won the widespread admiration of labor for the struggle we are making. Wholesale arrests, reaching a total of 102, have been made, the "conspiracy to interfere with business" charge made against two union organizers and three strikers have hardened us and we are more determined than ever to win this fight.

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