Cleveland Authorities Wrangle While Unemployed Starve

To Give Jobless A Lead

(Continued from page 1)

three people in the city is living maining until the relief crisis is on direct relief or W.P.A. Cle- solved. veland has the largest per capita 20,000 able-bodied workers certi- Cleveland is absolutely dominatjobs and have been forced on to not take the initiative in any of direct relief.

Because of lack of planning by the city and state govern- a huge and militant demonstraments, direct relief periodically tion, organized under the leadbreaks down, and thousands ership of Bert Cochran, chief starve until some stop-gap legis- shop steward of local 217, was lation is passed by the city held on the public square by the council or the state legislature. C.I.O. It was to forestall simil-

exhausted. end of April inclusive, was the ruling class.

\$3,058,233, of which only \$94,-

256 was direct cash welief. This means that for the rest of the year, at the same ratio of increase, at least \$17,000,000 will be needed for the evergrowing numbers of jobless in the county.

Twelve Cents A Day

For the month of May, \$2,000, 000 are needed, but the only achas been the passage of an \$80,-000 stopgap for food orders only. This sum is to be provided by veland these days.

try in the world!"

This month, 500 families on the demonstrators. direct relief have had to live on cents per person per day. Ke working for no pay since the first of May.

The unions and the Workers Aliance have demanded that the funds for relief be taken from the sinking fund of the city instead of other departments.

For weeks, a battle of words has been fought between the Republican city administration and the Democratic state admimistration. Mayor Burton and Governor Davey have delivered many radio talks, which have not, however, proved an effective substitute for bread and oleo-

At last a special investigation committee of the Ohio legislature has got around to meeting. It aims to hunt for "chiselers on the relief rolls," people with bank accounts who are receiving public aid. This is an old standby when the politicians want to throw a partial cover over the plight of the unemployed.

Demonstration Opposed

However, the seriousness of the problem forces these gentle- budget. ment to also undertake a check of city financial affairs to find from cities, where the hunger to assume the complete deficit. jobless proletariat of the cities. and excise taxes.

In the committee, Cuyahoga County, with over 27,000 direct ities squabble over which departrelief families, has one representative to counteract the in- from, both assume that the fluence of eight country counties that are responsible for from ninety to a few hundred cases each.

A resolution calling for a demonstration was introduced by Ed. Simpson, president of local OUT SOON! 88, at the Cleveland Auto Council, which instructed him to bring it up at the Cleveland Industrial Council. The motion was supported by Bates, chairman of the unemployment and W.P.A. division of the auto union, but the Stalinists of the C.I.O. fought against it. These fake "Communists," not wanting to embarrass the Republican mayor, argued that it would be just as effective to send telegrams and hold an open hearing at the Monday night meeting of the City Council.

More than 1,000 jobless (according to the estimate of the local capitalist press) crowded. the council chamber in a stormy

session. About 150 jobless staged a sit-down strike in the chamber, spread that one out of every declaring their intention of re-

In the meantime, there had allowance for W.P.A. of any been spontaneous sit - down major American city. In spite strikes in all the relief stations. of this allowance, there are still The Workers Alliance, which in fied for W.P.A. who cannot get ed by the Communist Party, did crisis which threw its entire these sit-downs.

In the relief crisis of last fall, Relief distribution broke down ar action that the Stalinists alcompletely at the end of April lowed the organization of a sitwhen all funds provided were down in City Hall, hoping grad-

Unity In Censorship

The Stalinists were also forced to leap into action by the activities of an independent group of militant unemployed, the Association of Unemployed on Direct and Work Relief, who organized a picket line against the starvation policies of the administration and are now planning to picket the sessions of the intion taken by the City Council vestigating committee of farmers. The determined efforts of this group, struggling against the inertia of the Workers Allay-offs and delaying promotion liance, created such a stir that in 32 city divisions and bureaus. both the Cleveland Press and The largest sum, \$23,000, is the Midwest Daily Record cartaken from the street-cleaning ried a photograph of the picketdivision, which is to be reduced ers. However, the capitalist because even the horses are not "liberal Republican" sheet obligetting anything to eat in Cle- terated the words on a sign in the photograph attacking Mayor All supplementary relief has Burton. The C.P. organ matchbeen cut off. Well did an im- ed this venality by putting in poverished working woman cry an insert to cover the words on out at the City Council meeting, a sign condemning Roosevelt's "Shame upon the richest coun- war budget, in order to conceal the anti-Stalinist character of

lief office workers have been RELIEF CEASES AS 'RECESSION' HITS CHICAGO

34,000 Jobless Families Face Starvation As **Funds Fail**

CHICAGO .-- An empty treasury closed down Chicago's 23 relief stations last week leaving 34,000 families dependent on foodstuffs furnished by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corpora-

Funds made available by the state and local levy at the beginning of 1937 have proved inadequate in the deeping crisis, and Chicago finds itself short \$1,500,000 in funds needed to meet the bare necessities of the unemployed this month. For the rest of the year, there is required, \$14,000,000 above the present

Governor Horner proposes to how much money Cleveland has of the state by \$500,000 a month. available for relief. What the Of this, Chicago may receive jobless may expect to get may \$400,000, which would still leave be judged from the fact that a monthly deficit of \$1,100,000. only three of the committee are City authorities wish the state

clamor is heard close to their | Horner has countered with doors, while eight are from the proposed legislation empowering rural regions, which begrudge cities to borrow from existing supplying state relief for the funds, or to impose new licenses

> While city and state authorment the funds are to come money will be collected by new taxes on the masses of the people. No proposals for taxing the rich have come from any of

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Workers Alliance Fails Chicago Case Workers' Union Falls Down Miserably In New Relief Crisis

By L. MALGRECKI

CHICAGO. - Once again an example of "respectable unionism" turned out to be a farce when the relief administration local of the Municipal Workers Union here proved completely helpless in the face of a relief membership out of work.

In this crisis, affecting 34,000 families on relief and 1,900 city workers, the union is tagging along after Relief Commissioner Lyons, changing all its policies to suit those of the administration, and in every way playing the role of a company union.

Second Crisis in Two Years

The present relief office shutually to wean their hungry and down follows two years after a Money spent in the county restless followers from all pub- similar crisis which was dragged for relief, from January to the lie action that might embarrass out over two months by having the offices remain "in operation" on skeleton staffs, which catered to a very few extreme emergencies and kept the clients hanging on thin hopes, begging for crumbs at the offices instead of demonstrating at city hall.

To avoid a repetition of this prolonged misery the executive board of the State, County and Municipal workers of Chicago, finally demanded a complete shut-down of the offices this time to force the hand of the state legislators. The union leaders, however, made no preparations to enforce their demand, keeping the members busy with lobbying visits to "educate" the individual politicians on the legislative bodies.

When the actual crisis was at hand the board ended up by betraying its demand and fell in 100 per cent with the trick strategy of Lyons, who took over his the 1936 crisis, while reliefers were starving and the skeleton workers.

Board Reverses Stand

After Lyons definitely announc-

"could not" go out on any walkouts because the Relief Admi- police are government workers! nistration has an agreement with increase the relief appropriation before the telephone company futile, pleading negotiations, than it was about the welfare with nothing to back them up. of the clients and the workers

in the agencies. The meeting was attended by fluence among the workers and serves the leadership well-their control all the meetings.

protest walk-out was defeated at necessary. the meeting, illustrating how the union's ruling clique, after havpursue any line of its own against the administration.

Climax of Years' Impotence

This final demonstration of the union's complete uselessness to its members under the present leadership comes as a culmination hands of their own clique. of its half a decade of futile existence, in the course of which it has not been able to organize a majority of the workers, despite the fact that it has a comp- set-up dovetails perfectly with lete monopoly over the field and the Communist Party's policy of almost no opposition from the bureaucratic rule wherever its administration. It has not even henchmen are in control. Since once succeeded in bringing into the overwhelming majority of Our Printing Plant locataction the minority of workers the membership do not attend | ed at 36 West 15th St., it does have enrolled on its lists — this in a period of mighty labor struggles, in which the very their own, the C.P. clique can the struggles of their own, the C.P. clique can the struggles of their own, the c.P. clique can the struggles of their own, the c.P. clique can the struggles of the

Newspaper Guild, has participat, pense of a strong organization, ed energetically.

of unionism, nor why, having fore acting on it. joined it, he should be active. bund condition.

Causes of Bankruptcy

1. The union is under a leadership whose idea of unionism consists of press releases and protest telegrams. This is in keeping with the Communist Party's Moscow-dictated idea of avoiding all struggle in "democratic" countries as much as possible, at no matter what price for the workers. The "parlor pink" leadership, headed by Alinsky and Van Houten, is playing the game of the Com- feeling of revolt which has now which would settle all labor dismunist Party, which places its broken out over the leadership's putes. party line before the workers' interests. This must be said, not crisis, added to a new feeling of out of red-baiting, but for the epposite reason: the C.P. is today "red" by tradition only; what the union needs is more, not less, of a "red" policy in its original militant sense.

2. In 1936, when the C.P. was anxious to "make up" to the A.F. of L. leaders for its unionsmashing tactics, and stampede any price, the relief agency workers were split up into sedictional division broke the backbone of militancy in the profesagencies out of work.

Forbidden to Strike

3. In 1937, when the C.P. droped he was going through with ped its line of leaving pro-C.I.O. his treacherous plan, the union unions in the A.F. of L. (to board immediately reversed its work for unity), the public stand and came out in favor of agency workers joined the skeleton staffs. To do this, it S.C.M.W.U. and the private actually had to play the role of igency workers the U.O.P.W.A. strike-breaker; since already the In line with the Lewis-Roosevelt workers of one office, union and horse-deals at the time, when non-union, had unanimously vot- Roosevelt opined that governed on their own initiative to shut ment workers should be deprivdown their office by a stoppage; ed of the right to strike, the and the board had to tell them S.C.M.W.U. forbade its members to strike, by a notorious Questioned by militants on the article in its constitution. If the floor of a union meeting on the eve of the crisis, the union leaders "explained" that the workers have had to unite with Coolidge in breaking the strike, since

Having thrown away the only the Bell Company that it will club that organized workers can always keep phone operators at hold over their employers, havits office switchboards! The ing deprived itself of labor's S.C.M.W.U. board was more basic right and weapon, the selfconcerned about preserving the emasculated S.C.M.W.U. can 'honor" of the administration do nothing but spend its time in

Union Becomes An Office

betrayal of the elementary prin- and direct dealing with office scarcely more than a hundred of cipl of unionism, the S.C.M.W.U. supervisors over grievances. the 1,900 workers about to be central office, with its conferlaid off the next day-concrete ences, top negotiations with the proof of the union's loss of in- relief administration bureaucra- sistence on the maximum of cy, press releases and "protest rank-and-file participation, and of the fact that they no longer telegrams," carries on the sum emphasis on the importance of take it seriously or respect it. total of union activities; auto- rank-and-file action. This organizational bankruptcy matically the union office becomes all-important, while the militants feel, it would be possible own handful of yes - men can organization of the workers to build a union which could put themselves, in their places of an end to immense case loads, Even a motion for a 24-hour work, is unimportant and un- unpaid overtime, the appalling

volve its membership in any ac- other inexcusable abuses against ing failed to gain a single thing tion requiring organizational which the union has hitherto not for its members in five years of strength, it can just as well have raised a finger; to demand and union history, having failed like- 100 workers attending its meet- win higher wages, better hours, wise to forestall the present ings as 1,000-the smaller num- more vacation and sick leave, crisis to the slightest degree, is ber can just as easily elect the and a general security which no now incapable and unwilling to executive board and pass reso- public agency worker has ever lutions for it to forward to the enjoyed up to now. administration or the legislature: on the other hand, this means that the officers have to trouble themselves less over sordid organizational work and can remain sure that the union stays in the

Lack of Union Democracy

5. The unimportance of the "mere" rank-and-filers in this union which shares its office, the safely run everything at the ex-

Every time a new issue is brought The cause is very simple: as up on the floor of the union, it Open Shop Employers things stand, there is absolutely is immediately referred to the no reason why a worker should executive board, so that there join the union, outside of purely can be an opportunity to get the intellectual adherence to the idea "party line" on the question be-

Unless the union becomes an been a do-nothing policy smoke- shop, led by the Committee of instrument for making concrete screened by a great deal of talk. 43, an organization of leading Local 5, United Rubber Workers gains for the workers, it is bound For a long time the reaction of anti-union employers, found ready of America, announced that the to remain in its present mori- the majority of the rank-and- response from Harry Bridges' negotiating committee would use What are the facts behind pation in union activities either week, when George Wilson, pre- major grievances. Negotiations because of a justified inability to cooperation with the bosses in early this week. union. This reaction of the work- Auditorium. ers resulted in abandoning the union to the C.P. clique and, for June 3, is expected to be the even worse, of implanting the culmination of an eight-month notion that unionism can play no campaign by the Committee of important role in effecting im- 43 against the labor movement provements of working condi- in this "union town." The Com-

ness and impatience is making jurisdictional disputes in San itself felt among the rank-and- Francisco to advance a scheme file. This reached a climax in a for a "joint mediation board" sell-out to Lyons in the relief responsibility caused by the realization that if those who are now dissatisfied had attended the meeting they might have changed the decision.

A Program of Action

Union militants feel that now is the time to lay the foundations of a militant group in the union workers into the Federation at which alone can make it into an instrument of the agency workers and a powerful ally of the parate groups for the private unemployed. Such a group would and public agencies, so that the be in a position to take over the ing through picket lines of other latter could get into the corrupt reins rapidly from the present unions, prefers to "talk it over" American Federation of Govern- qlique, in view of the latter's five figures, in the very midst of ment Employees. This craft juris- complete ineffectualness. Once in ries of militant rank-and-file ac- Lapham, president of the Amestaffs were putting in two months sion. Agency workers of the two tions which might at first slight- rican-Hawaiian Steamship Line rubber workers would be. different groups have actually ly decrease the paper member- and head of the Waterfront Emtegy is, of course, a repetition of been forced to scab on each ship, by getting rid of deadwood, ployers Association during the Goodrich!" progressive unionists the skeleton-staff "emergency other — in the 1936 crisis the but would vastly increase the 1936-37 strike, engaged in a declared in rallying Goodrich aid" policy which worked so suc- private agency workers had to active membership by galvaniztake over some of the public re- ing the workers into activity. As closing weeks of the strike. LaSalle Street millions of dollars lief cases and thus helped keep a result of this militanca the at the expense of the clients and their colleagues in the public union would immediately make concrete gains which would soon swell its ranks to far greater proportions than those of the present union rolls.

The program for such a militant group, as suggested by those include demands along the follow- employers.

1. A fighting leadership, freed of the pussy-footing policies im-Employee solidarity, not handholding with the administration. 2. One industrial union, unitagencies, with the principle that an injury to one is an injury

3. Reaffirmation of the right to strike, and immediate tests of the strike weapon by refusal to work overtime, short protest stoppages in the best organized offices over questions on which the office administration will not yield, etc. These could serve both to steel the membership and to show the administration that the union means business.

4. Organization by offices, with functioning office committees, regular office meetings, office bulletins, a dues rebate to the 4. By the very logic of this offices for organizational work,

> Complete union democracy, not merely in name, but by in-With such a program, union

sickness rate in offices from over-Since the union refuses to in- work, political favoritism, and

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BRIDGES GROUP BACKS BOSSES' MASS MEETING

Offered Forum By Frisco C. I. O.

SAN FRANCISCO. - San The total result of all this has Francisco's crusade for the open because of open disgust or simply sident of the council, proposed were see anything worth while in the holding a mass meeting in Civic

The mass meeting, scheduled mittee, outspoken opponent of Lately however, a new restive- the closed shop, has utilized

Boss Plan Rejected

The A. F. of L. Labor Council has rejected the "impartial" plans of the bosses, and the action of the C.I.O. Industrial port there. San Francisco is still an A.F. of L. town, with less tant stand. than 10,000 of its 100,000 union men enrolled in C.I.O. unions. The main base of the C.I.O.

council is the longshoremen's union, controlled by the Bridges' machine. Bridges, while militant enough when it comes to breakwith the boss. One of the leading figures of

power, it would undertake a se- the Committee of 43, Roger public debate with Bridges in the

Desires Coincide

As far as Bridges is concerned, the coming mass meeting is more likely to become a love feast than a debate, for actions truck drivers, and waiters and of the West Coast C.I.O. direct- waitresses, added fuel to the or recently have coincided rewho favor its formation, would markably with the desires of the

posed by the Communist Party. man frankly stated the organiza- a company stooge as he mounted tion's opposition to the closed the rostrum. Two hours later, shop, boycotts on "hot cargo," ing workers in public and private disclaimed any wish to destroy cended from the platform in desor weaken the unions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Insertions in this column are 25 cents for five lines. Copy must be in at the APPEAL office before six o'clock Monday evening.

NEW YORK

PINS AND NEEDLES! theater party for the SWP to Pins And Needles will be held 116 University Place.

SONGS AND BEER IN AN OUTDOOR GARDEN! The party has taken over the Terrace Beer Garden with its dance Moor, orchestra and outdoor garden for festivities on Saturday eve, June 4 from 8 P.M. on. Admission at the door 25c. 1110 2nd Ave. (59th St.)

CAMP SEVEN OAKS, Decoration Day Week-end, Friday evening through Monday dinner, \$6.50. Daily \$2.75. Fare 80 cents, Red Bank Station on the Jersey Central Railroad. All sports. Good Food, No Tents. Plumbing. Address before Saturday. Camp phone, Eatontown, 515.

MINNEAPOLIS

HAL DRAPER, National Secretary, Y.P.S.L., speaks at 669 Second Avenue North, Friday, rica?" V. R. Dunne, chairman. Detroit is the first of the auto that it gets there every week. Auspices S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L., Admission 10 cents.

Suburban Theatre Ardmore, Pa.

CZAR TO LENIN Friday-Saturday, May 27-28

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Akron Goodrich Plants Strike Against Pay Cuts

flared into a sit-down late last arity of the rubber workers who week in protest against seniority have withstood a series of unionviolations among electricians. It busting attacks, ranging all the immediately received factory- way from "red apple" propawide support and the next day ganda to mass lay-offs which large picket lines closed the have made thousands destitute.

All Grievances Up

L. L. Callahan, president of file in the offices was non-partici- C.I.O. Industrial Council last the opportunity to settle all proceeding satisfactorily

> weeks, which successfully stop- wage cuts, it includes vacations rank-and-file and inspired the hours, and the acceptance of the entire Akron labor movement.

> The report of the United States up. Department of Labor, which followed the vote by a few days, substantiated the claim of unionists that wage-cuts were unjustified. The company's claim plant probably will not reopen that decentralization was inevitable unless wages were reduced was exploded by these actions. However, it may be expected penalize the union for its mili- ory negotiations are progressing.

Firestone Contract Renewed

The solidarity of rubber workers led to a renewal of the contract between the Firestone Company and the U.R.W.A .a contract which included provisions for a standard six-hour day and maintenance of present wage

Firestone broke the united employer front when it realized how costly the battle with the

"If Firestone signed, so can settle grievances.

Successful settlement of a strike at the Sun Rubber Co. last week gave further incentive to the aroused Goodrich workers. Victorious strikes by Akron rekindled labor movement. An "enthusiastic" welcome was

given last week by hundreds of The stand of the Committee U.R.W.A. rank-and-filers to a was made clear at a luncheon Goodyear company - sponsored held recently, where the chair- rally. Thunderous cheers greeted the militant audience was still and "violence." The chairman cheering when the stooge despair after being able to utter only a few words during the entire period.

The events are a remarkable

(Continued from page 1) . tribute to the courage and solid-

The well-laid strike-breaking plans of the Greater Akron Asosociation and the Chamber of Commerce have been punctured flatter than a worn out tire at the present time.

Union Position Better

Negotiators for the Goodrich union have been placed in a stronger position by the signing The strike climaxed a series of the Firestone contract. Beof victories over the past two sides the six-hour day and no ped a vicious anti-labor offensive. with pay - one week for five Recently the fight of progres- years' service, two weeks for ten sive Goodrich unionists against years, seniority rights guarantewage-cut proposals received a ed with no lay-offs until the 10 to 1 majority vote from the work week has gone down to 24 union's grievance committee set-

> Goodrich this week issued secret orders to its office staff to consider this week of idleness as its vacation, indicating that the until next Monday.

Because of this sign and the bitterness of management toward the union, the rubber workthat Goodrich will attempt to de- ers are preparing for a prolong-Council is unlikely to find sup- centralize some production to ed strike, even though satisfact-

The famous slogan of the fiveweek Goodyear strike - "Hold That Line!"-has been revived, showing that the gum miners are returning to their old tradition of militancy.

Next Issue To Report Congress

The next issue of the Socialist Appeal will contain a report of the first All-American-Pacific Conference of the Fourth International which was held here recently.

With representatives mandated by sections of the Fourth International in the United States, Canada, China, Australia, Cuba, Puerto Rico and other countries, it followed on the Latin-American preconference held in Mexico City several weeks ago with representatives from a number of the most important countries of the Western Hemisphere.

A number of documents of primary importance for the revolutionary movement, especially of the New World, were adopted. Considerations of space prevent us from printing in this issue anything approaching a full report of the conference.

ASK FOR THE APPEAL AT YOUR NEWSSTAND

Appeal Army

AL

Only one bundle order increase came in this week. This came Stern, 58 E. 4 St., BR. 9-7620 from Ben Hubert, of Saskatchewan, Sask. (Canada).... Ben starts off with a modest bundle of five but we know he will raise it.... And Ben paid in advance! Congratulations to whoever is doing that fine work in Minneapolis Abe Miller is jealous newsstand! If the Appeal is not June 3, on "Fascism in Ame- and promises an early revenge ... there ask for it and we'll see

Things are happening that cities to get under way in getshould make party literature ting some subs.... Whereabouts on Wed. eve. June 1, and agents all over the country sit are Cleveland, Toledo, Los An-Tuesday eve. June 7. Tickets, up and take notice. Just look at geles? How about starting a all at \$1.65, can be secured Minneapolis, will you, jumping local sub campaign in these from Miller or Paine by leav- right out in front and licking cities?.... And Chicago has ing an order at the City Office, New York City! And they've only been sinking lower and lower . . . started their sub campaign! Literature agent Karl Shier Here's the record for the week: writes every week from Chicago about how much the Appeal is liked, but why not let some other people like it, too?

> National Appeal Campaign: Attention: All Literature Agents! In a few weeks we hope to have the campaign definitely under way. You will shortly receive all necessary information and instructions on what the campaign is all about. And don't worry-you'll have plenty of time to prepare it locally. We can tell you now that it will mean plenty of drive and keep everybody busy. A National Newsstand Week, Library Week, Street-Sales Week, etc. are being planned.

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