

Press Ballyhoo Hides True Story of Housing Program; Slum Problem Acute

The past week has seen blaring headlines in the press about new appropriations for housing, particularly in New York City. After hemming and hawing for many long months, 50 million dollars were finally released for two new housing projects that will accommodate 5,000 families, when completed two years hence.

The metropolis of the nation, also the leading slum-center, has close to 3,000,000 people living in tenements that were condemned in 1901! But the new plan of the federal and municipal governments will accommodate the pitiful number of twenty to twenty-five thousand people. And they have the gall to put this forth as a "gigantic" effort to take care of the housing problem!

Headlines Hide True Story Blazing newspaper headlines, pretty pictures of leading officials, ballyhoo and ceremonies galore, but new housing appropriations—only a drop in the bucket when compared to the needs of the population. Contrast to this the horrible total of dead as a result of fires in old-law tenements, and the cynical, pompous ceremonies become a gruesome farce. Law upon law has been passed, investigation after investigation has taken place. Yet, decade upon decade roll by, and nothing serious is done to eliminate the death holes that low-paid workers and unemployed call home.

With each passing year, the housing problem becomes more and more acute. Throughout the country, not only in New York, the rotting slums take their toll of the working class through fire, disease, and overcrowding. With the deepening of the crisis, overcrowding becomes a deadly menace to health and life. A recent survey of 16,000 youth (typical of life in the cities) in Maryland shows a perilous increase in the number of single and married young people forced to remain in the already crowded homes of their parents. Lack of jobs, poverty, compel large families to live in fewer and fewer rooms. No new houses are being built. Rents are mounting. There are no safe and sanitary homes to move into with rents low enough for the low salaries of the crisis-ridden working class.

Poor Tenants Excluded These are the conditions that make the government housing projects so inadequate. In addition, it is almost impossible for a low-paid worker to rent an apartment in the new housing projects. The rents of previous projects were supposed to have been set within the reach even of unskilled workers. But the real manner of renting proved this to be far from the case. For the actual figure finally set (in previous projects) was far higher than the original figures. Moreover, a systematic process of investigation of applicants was installed, making it virtually impossible to rent an apartment on the projects unless one was earning a substantial salary and had a very secure job. The result was that municipal employees, higher salaried workers and small business men were given preference as tenants.

Outright discrimination was practiced against home relief recipients and W.P.A. workers. In a number of cases, W.P.A. workers were forced to hide their source of livelihood in an attempt to get into the new projects "built for the poor." When their identity was discovered these workers were evicted from the housing projects. Negroes were universally rejected. Few, if any, will manage to get into the new projects.

It must be clear now to every working man and woman that the only way to get anything real accomplished is through a determined program and fight led by organized labor. There is nothing more horrible than death by fire. Yet that awful danger lurks as an immediate menace in every tinder-dry old-law tenement. The labor unions must answer the hypocrisy of the government in the face of that menace. The question should be raised in every labor organization! On this immediate demand for more billions (not millions) for housing, members of the C.I.O. and A. F. of L. should raise the call for joint action.

Youth Sits Down In Relief Bureau

NEW YORK.—A suspended sentence—suspended as long as he stays away from the relief bureau—was the answer Will Lubin, jobless youth, received to the one-man sit-in he staged last week at the Williamsburg relief station in protest against the bureau decision refusing him relief.

Lubin, a member of Local 17 of the Workers Alliance and the Young People's Socialist League, had spent weeks entangled in the red-tape of applying for relief. Although he patiently filled all the forms and suffered the investigations of the officials, the bureau, after weeks of waiting, declared it could not grant single maintenance relief.

After being evicted from his room and pawning his clothes and books, Lubin resorted to the sit-in demonstration. In this he was supported by Local 17, although Stalinist-controlled locals of the W.A. in the neighborhood refused to back him up as he is a "Trotskyist."

Three policemen were called in by the bureau officials and Lubin was thrown out. When he continued to protest he was arrested and held in jail overnight. The next morning he received the suspended sentence—a sentence that makes it virtually impossible for him to continue his efforts to get relief.

NEW YORK.—A purge of the W.P.A. writers projects, to be pursued in true Muscovite style, has been ordered by Stalinist party headquarters here. The Communist Party unit on the writers' project has received instructions that "all Trotskyists must be driven off the rolls as soon as possible."

Thus runs a report in the current New Leader, organ of the Social Democratic Federation, which claims to have this information from unimpeachable sources.

Of course, the purge is being planned not only against Trotskyists but against all writers who reject outright Stalinist dictation. At the first possible moment, according to the report, non-conformist writers are to receive warning slips about "inefficiency" from party-line W.P.A. officials on the project. Ultimately, the anti-Stalinists are to be dismissed entirely.

Relief Red Tape Leaves Tenants Helpless Before Marshals; Brutality Features Evictions

NEW YORK.—With LaGuardia's relief administration coldly ignoring the plight of unemployed slum residents, even the filthy rooms of New York's tenements are denied the jobless as systematic evictions are carried out by deputy marshals.

The growing number of eviction cases is especially concentrated in the East Side slum area, where a large percentage of the population is on relief.

Woman of 65 Evicted There is the case of a woman of 65, on relief and living alone at 146 Suffolk Street. She could not even speak English to the marshal when he came to throw her few belongings out in the street. She merely wept.

Members of the Young People's Socialist League appeared on the scene as the furniture was being further demolished by a down-pour. They returned the furniture to the apartment.

At Second Street and Avenue D, one of the worst slum blocks in the country, a woman and her young daughter were thrown out. They had been on relief. When the dispossession notice was received it was brought to the relief bureau. The bureau refused to handle it.

Bureau Action Delayed A ruling in effect does not permit the bureau to accept dispossession notices for action as emergency cases, but forces the family to wait for the final eviction notice. This final notice allows the tenant only 24 hours to clear out or be evicted by deputy marshals.

The bureau seldom acts before the client is on the street. Sometimes the furniture stands on the street for two or three days in all kinds of weather, and the family remains homeless while LaGuardia's relief officials "investigate."

not long in the United States and unable to speak English well. The evicting deputies were drunk and kicked the furniture about, tore up the olcloth from the floor and cursed the woman constantly. When she dared offer a word of protest they struck her.

Eviction Relief Inadequate Even when the relief bureau belatedly grants moving expenses, the sum is never adequate; with less than \$15 the evicted family is expected to pay moving expenses, put down a deposit for electricity and gas, and pay the first month's rent.

Low-rent apartments, even in the slum areas, are hard to find and moving costs are high. Few buildings safe from fire and with decent sanitation are within the relief rent allowance. There exists a real shortage of any kind of apartments. In Harlem less than three per cent and on the East Side less than eight per cent of the apartments are vacant. Of these almost all are in buildings condemned as unfit for human habitation, in some instances as long ago as 1901.

STAGE RIOT AT AUTO UNION TRIAL (Continued from page 1) prospect of John L. Lewis coming to Detroit on a dictatorial junket, the Stalinist machine is beginning to tack a new course. Recent statements of George Ades and the other suspended officers makes it clear that they have ceased their open splitting maneuvers. Locals have been publicly advised to make their per capita payments to the International Union. Litigation to hold up the funds of the International appears to have been dropped. And despite indiscreet statements by Ed Hall, no rump convention is contemplated.

C. P. Greater Danger But it would be the most serious error to think that the Stalinists have given up their intention or their campaign to dominate the auto workers union. On the contrary, the new legal forms their fight is taking make them a greater menace than ever before. The continued agitation for a special convention is to be carried forward along constitutional lines with the aim of placing an onus of illegality on the actions of Martin.

If the entry of Lewis would place a straight-jacket on the auto union, a special convention at this time will reduce it to a shambles. In the midst of the present furor and with the main issues still indistinct in the eyes of a good section of the membership, the danger of C. P. domination at the convention is not lightly to be dismissed. Before any convention is held in the U.A.W., a serious and vigorous educational campaign must be conducted in the union. The militants must be organized and educated on the basis of a genuine democratic and progressive program.

But these considerations entirely aside, the most damning argument against the special convention is that it would bankrupt the union. Tomorrow or the day after, every penny of a treasury constricted by the ravages of unemployment—may be needed in a life and death battle against wage cuts.

COPS FORCED TO RETURN PAPERS OF UNION OFFICER

NEW YORK.—Another attempt by the Stalinist slander machine failed here last week when members of Workers Alliance Local 22 voted down charges placed against Harry Shepherd, militant member of the Progressive Group, by a vote of 28 to 24, despite the hysterical pleas of the Stalinist officials.

Charges against Shepherd were: 1) calling George Renon, local Stalinist Alliance officer, a "rat"; and 2) slandering himself Shepherd related an incident where Renon had denounced him in the presence of police in an attempt to have him arrested. Shepherd also backed up his statement that the Communist Party leadership in the W. A. capitulated to the relief administration at a time when militant action promised to bring results.

OMAHA, Neb.—The fight of teamsters against the police frameup and conviction of Al Russell on charges of "vagrancy" moved forward a step last week when the authorities surrendered to Russell all the property which was seized when the cops illegally searched his apartment.

The property was returned "voluntarily" by the police after General Drivers Local 554 instituted suit for a writ of replevin to force the return of the property. The union has directed its attorney, Dewey Hanson, to continue the suit to establish the illegality of the raid and seizure.

Authorities Harass Russell In an attempt to induce Russell and the union to drop the appeal from the 90-day vagrancy sentence, imposed despite the fact Russell is a paid organizer of the union and was working in the offices of Local 554 at the time of his arrest, the authorities are deliberately harassing the young unionist.

SEAMEN PICKET GOVT FINK HALL (Continued from page 1) men in the N.M.U. their indignation knew no bounds. Prevented by the dictatorial methods used by the Stalinist tops in the N.M.U. from turning the union against the shipowners and the government, more than 75 East Coast men tore up their N.M.U. books to express their rage against their union officials.

When the West Coast unions, plus the A. F. of L. Seamen's Union, went ahead with the picket line the majority of the N.M.U. men respected the pickets, much to the consternation of the N.M.U. officers. A leaflet, signed by the N.M.U. District Committee, was circulated on the waterfront, urging N.M.U. men to pass through the picket line.

C. P. Slander Fails In Alliance Local

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C. P. SPLITS PHILA. NAVY YARD UNION

PHILADELPHIA.—The work of the Navy Yards on the East and West Coasts. A full time Director of the Navy Yard Locals was to be appointed, also in accordance with the decision of the National Convention.

Harry Kelner, Secretary of Local 17, was determined to get the job—by hook or by crook. He secured the recommendation of the Joint Council of Navy Yards for the position of Director. However, the National organization was in a very bad financial state, due to the shipyard strike which had recently ended in the Port of New York, and was unable to support a Director. This condition did not satisfy Kelner and his group in Local 17.

"Pressure" Campaign Begins They began hammering at the National officers. Meetings of the Joint Council, which Kelner almost completely influenced (the Council was a shell, with only two of the five Navy Yards Locals represented), were spent discussing nothing but methods of compelling the General Executive Board to give Kelner the job as Director.

Finally, in desperation, they decided to go over the heads of the National Union, and to attempt to have the C.I.O. itself finance a Director. An appointment was made with Brophy of the C.I.O., and a committee from two Navy Yard Locals went to see him. The result of the entire meeting with Brophy, in which the National officers were given "the works" by the Kelner crowd, was only to refer the entire matter back to the National Union. In view of these actions of the Joint Council, the G.E.B. voted to suspend the Council indefinitely.

Local Union Dwindles These actions took place over a period of nearly one year. All efforts were bent in the direction of fighting against the G.E.B. Local grievances of the workers were ignored, Kelner and Co. claiming that satisfaction could only be secured through contact in Washington; organizational work was neglected, and attempts at concrete action were sabotaged with the intent of proving that nothing could be accomplished without a Director—and the Local membership dwindled. When the G.E.B. arranged meetings with Navy Yard officials, Kelner rejected them. But the G.E.B. was blamed. For did they not refuse to appoint Kelner as Director?

Finally, in view of all the rumpus raised by Kelner's group and of certain elements he influenced in the Brooklyn Local, the G.E.B. decided that the best way to prove Kelner's bankruptcy was to allow him to have the Director's job for a trial period of two-and-one-half months. The results during this time were to determine the permanency of the job. After a period of "discussion" at Local 17, Kelner refused to accept and demanded a five-month period. When that was not forthcoming he threw in his charter.

Kelner and Co. will now attempt to swing other Locals into the path of Local 17. It can be stated with certainty, however, that not only will this disastrous policy be unsuccessful in any of the other Locals, but that Local 17 will again be established in Philadelphia under a healthier and a firmer leadership.

TEAMSTERS WAR ON FINKS In a declaration of war against finks, the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council called upon every Minneapolis driver to refuse to purchase gas at any gas station not signed up with Filling Station Attendants Union, Local 977.

ASK FOR THE APPEAL AT YOUR NEWSSTAND

EIGHT ARRESTS IN INDIANA STRIKE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—The strike at the Mohan Box Co., manufacturers of paper box cartons, is now entering its fourth week. Twenty-eight out of 35 workers, members of the C.I.O. local, struck against a ten per cent wage cut. The management has consistently refused to negotiate with the union.

Early in the strike, around July 4th, a policeman threw a firecracker at one of the girls, burning her leg. Eight workers have been arrested for picketing, charged with acts of violence, inciting to riot, assault and battery, etc. Of these two have been released, judgment withheld on one and prosecution continued on the others. The police have continuously encouraged strike-breakers to enter the plant.

WANT ADS GIRL WANTED TO SHARE APARTMENT—2 large separate rooms and kitchenette, attractively furnished, modern house, privacy, piano. \$30 a month will cover all your expenses. Sanel, 26 Grove St.

DU LIEST DEUTSCH??? Dann abonniere sofort UNSER WORT, das Organ der Internationalen Kommunisten Deutschlands. 12 Nummern, 60 Cents. Zu beziehen vom Labor Book Shop, 28 East Twelfth St., N.Y.C.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Insertions in this column are 25 cents for five lines. Copy must be in at the APPEAL office before 6 o'clock Monday evening.

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STALINISTS ORDER W.P.A. "PURGE"

C. P. Members Told To Dismiss All Dissenters NEW YORK.—A purge of the W.P.A. writers projects, to be pursued in true Muscovite style, has been ordered by Stalinist party headquarters here. The Communist Party unit on the writers' project has received instructions that "all Trotskyists must be driven off the rolls as soon as possible."

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Alliance Purge First Step In view of previous experiences, there can be no doubt of the authenticity of the report. Stalinists have previously attempted to get around the problem by attempting to expel non-conformists on W.P.A. from the Workers Alliance, the unemployed and W.P.A. workers union under their control.

Recently they made such an attempt in the case of Liaison Oak, a former leading functionary of the Communist Party who broke with it as a result of his experiences in Spain. The "trial" of Oak in the Workers Alliance was reported in the Socialist Appeal two weeks ago. Readers will remember that the Stalinists did not achieve their aim of expelling him from the union as a step towards his removal from his W.P.A. job. They are, therefore, now pulling strings behind the scenes through their stooges in the administration here and in Washington.

CALL GUARDSMEN IN IOWA STRIKE

(Continued from page 1) the town, the company, emboldened by the presence of troops, attempted to open the factory. Scabs, guarded by armed thugs added to the sheriff's and constable's forces, crashed the picket line in the early morning hours.

Warned of the company's move in advance, strikers and their wives turned out at 4 A.M. and a crowd of 500 met the scabs and the gun-toting scab-herders. In the fierce fighting that followed, 20 were injured, six seriously. A "special deputy" was knocked down and his gun taken from him.

Within 20 minutes two armored cars arrived from the Guard encampment and drove recklessly through the crowd, scattering the pickets. Shortly after, a company of infantry marched to the factory with fixed bayonets and drove the strikers and their wives a block away.

Machine Guns Mounted While the factory was kept closed by the Guardsmen, Mayor George E. Campbell announced early this week that he was sure that Governor Kraschel would order the troops to open the plant. Maneuvers of the Guard point to this, with machine guns being mounted in strategic positions for use against pickets.

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Appeal Army

We are glad to report that the response to our emergency appeal last week was sufficient to enable us to avoid skipping an issue. As the first anniversary of the publishing of the Socialist Appeal approaches, we can point to a regular appearance of America's only revolutionary socialist paper! We particularly want to thank those comrades and sympathizers who sent in donations, and those branches which leaped to the rescue by throwing parties, making collections, etc.

Branches should now be actively engaged in their canvassing campaign. Get after all sympathizers, former subscribers, etc. for subs or renewed subs. This is the time for getting those subs in and credited with us for that first prize in the sub-campaign. To date there are four comrades bunched together for first place with Grace Carlson of St. Paul ahead with a total of 6; followed by T. R. Dostal of St. Paul, Chester K. Johnson of Minneapolis and Karl Sher of Chicago—each with 5. The campaign still has 2 months to run.

We are still receiving subs which do not contain the name of the sub-getter on them. Name of the branch is not sufficient. Each sub must have the name of the one who obtained it if any credit is to be given.

Here is the list of new subs for the past two weeks: NEW YORK CITY 11 CHICAGO 11 MINNEAPOLIS 8 FOREIGN 8 DETROIT 7 PENNSYLVANIA 4 CALIFORNIA 3 NEW YORK STATE 2 ST. LOUIS 2 MASSACHUSETTS 2 AKRON 2 MONTANA 2 ST. PAUL 2 CLEVELAND 2 OREGON 2 NEWARK 1 TOTAL 69

THE SOCIALIST APPEAL CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE FOLLOWING NEWSSTANDS NEW YORK CITY MANHATTAN: Fourteenth St. at University Place, S. E.; at Broadway, S. E.; at Fourth Ave. S. W.; at Fourth Ave. N. E.; at Fourth Ave. S. E. (1 and 2); at Third Ave. S. W.; at Third Ave. N. W.; opp. Jefferson Theatre; at Second Ave. N. W.; at Sixth Ave. N. E.; Rand Book Store, 7 E. 16th St.; 12th St. and University Pl. N. E.; Candy Store, 75 Greenwich Ave. Forty-second St. at Fifth Ave. S. W.; at Sixth Ave. S. E.; at Sixth Ave. S. W.; at Seventh Ave. S. W.; opposite Sterns; 103 W. 44th St.; 48th St. and B'way, S. E. Essex and Delancy Sts.; Bookstore at Grand and Attorney Sts.; Candy Store, S. E. 9th St. and Second Ave.; Biederman's Book Store, 12th St. and Second Ave.; Wigerson, 145th St. and St. Nicholas Ave.; 110th St. and Columbus Ave. BRONX: Jerome Ave. and 170th St.; Jerome Ave. and 167th St. (opp. Loew's Theatre); Sorokin, 200th St. and Bainbridge Ave.; Jerome and Burnside Aves.; 160th St. and Prospect Ave.; Allerton Ave. Station; Freeman Ave. and Southern Boulevard; 174th St. and Boston Road. BROOKLYN: Havemeyer Avenue and South 4th St.; Pitkin Ave. and Strauss St.; Sutter and Van Sinderen Aves. ROCHESTER, N. Y. 433 N. Clinton St. 237 N. Clinton St. Cor. Cumberland & Clinton Sts. Cor. East Ave. & Chestnut St. S. E. Cor. Main & Clinton Sts. S. W. Cor. Main & South Ave. NEW HAVEN, Conn. Nodelman's Newsstand, Church St., bet. Chapel & Center CHICAGO Cor. 57th & Blackstone Cor. 12th & Kedzie P. O. News, 37 W. Monroe Ceshinsky Bookshop ALLENTOWN, Pa. R. Zettlemeyer, 637 Hamilton St. PHILADELPHIA 1806 North Franklin St. Cor. 13th and Market Sts. (N.W.) Cor. 11th and Market Sts. (N.W.) BOSTON, Mass. Andelman's, Tremont St. (opp. Hotel Bradford) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. Felix's, Massachusetts Ave. at Harvard Square LYNN, Mass. Sam's Corner, Olympia Square ROXBURY, Mass. Friendly Variety, Warren St. (Grove Hall) MINNEAPOLIS Shinder's, Sixth & Hennepin; Kroman's, Fourth & Nicollet. YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio Nick's, Wick St. and Commerce SAN FRANCISCO MacDonald's Bookstore, 65 6th St. SAN DIEGO, Calif. Universal News Co., 242 B'way

Republicans Swing Behind Democrat

LABOR PRIMARIES A few weeks ago. This process, already far enough advanced in 1936 to throw the most prominent right-wing Democrats into support of London, will neither cease nor lessen. We may expect to find in this autumn's elections numerous examples of that phenomenon rare in the history of American politics, but well known elsewhere: coalition candidates. These, in turn, will only foreshadow the more drastic realignments to come.