

# AMERICA'S PERMANENT DEPRESSION - V

## Panaceas Fail; Only Destruction of Capitalism Can Rid Society of Mass Unemployment

By ART PREIS

Although this is supposedly an age of scientific enlightenment, millions of sick people are still victimized by racketeers selling dangerous and worthless patent medicines and treatments. While the noxious brews of these racketeers may differ in color or content, they all have one thing in common; none of these fake cure-alls attack the real sources of disease—in fact, all tend to prolong and aggravate what they are advertised to cure by delaying proper treatment, or even stimulating more virulent attacks.

Diseased social systems also bring their hosts of patent medicine racketeers. These vend their pain-killers and phoney drugs with even greater cynicism and danger to human welfare than the rats who sell colored water to victims of cancer.

The American workers and farmers are the victims of deadly economic and social disorders—mass unemployment, labor exploitation, oppression, poverty, and imperialist war preparations. They are desperately seeking some cure, any cure, for the riddance of their misery. And the patent medicine men, with ballyhoo and fraud, palm off, at a price, their neatly labeled bottles to the victimized masses. These bottles may be labeled "Inflation" or "Deflation," "Price-Fixing" or "Free Play of Prices," "Spending, Lending" or "Budget Balancing," "Collective Security" or "Isolation," but they all have one thing in common; none of these colored waters attack the real source of our social disorders, the system of capitalism, all stimulate these disorders by delaying adequate treatment or by actually predisposing the victims to more deadly attacks.

### Workers Need Radical Cure

The cure of mass unemployment, the deadliest condition next to imperialism war induced by capitalism, cannot be affected by any of the measures projected within the frame-work of capitalism.

Furthermore, it becomes increasingly evident that the capitalist class, that handful of individuals who by their control of the natural resources, productive machinery and distribution mechanisms of our society, together with the government which is its organized arm of force to maintain it in power, does not intend to desire to eliminate unemployment. At best, the government and the class for which it operates will seek only to alleviate the most outright suffering attending unemployment, and then only when and where the pressure and revolt of the unemployed themselves are greatest. After nine years of unemployment unprecedented in the history of the nation, there has been no recognition by the government of the permanent character of unemployment under our present economic system.

Unemployment has been treated only by relief, even when administered in the form of made-work such as W.P.A. The very term "relief" implies something temporary, like morphine which momentarily deadens suffering but does not cure.

But eventually the capitalist class will consider such "relief" too expensive, will reduce the doses as it is doing already, and finally withdraw them altogether.

### No Cure Under Capitalism

The working class dare not be content to take "dope" for its suffering. It must seek to organize and effect an order of society in which the causes of its suffering are completely eliminated. It must fight unemployment at its very source, the capitalist system.

No program for the elimination of unemployment can be honest and effective that does not look to the destruction of capitalism and the establishment of a collective economic system controlled by and for the masses of workers, poor farmers, and impoverished middle classes as a whole.

The keystone of such a collective economic order is workers' control of industry. The workers as a class must say to their industrial over-lords, "You have been running this country up to now, and you've run it into the ground. You are not interested in providing the necessities and comforts of life for the millions whose labor has built the industrial system and gathered and fabricated the raw materials. You want only profits for yourselves, so that you can live in idleness and luxury while the vast majority live in want and insecurity. If you can't give us steady work, under decent conditions and short hours, with a standard of living that this country is capable of providing—

## L. A. Summer School Ends Fifth Session

LOS ANGELES. — The Labor and Socialist Summer School has recently terminated one week of intensive summer school activity. In the beautiful surroundings of Big Bear Park, 120 miles from Los Angeles, 45 students participated in a course of educational, sports, and cultural activities. This fifth year of the Labor and Socialist Summer School was in all respects the most successful.

Organized and sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and Young People's Socialist League, 4th International, with leading members of these organizations as instructors, the school covered all of the major political and theoretical problems of the working-class movement today.

Classes in American History, Trade Union Problems, the History of the three Internationals, Political Economy, Fundamentals of Socialism, Party and Y.P.S.L. Organizational Principles, and a Socialist World Tour were a daily curriculum.

A living newspaper covering the events of the "outside world" and of the school is now being compiled into a summer school annual.

The whole tone of the school was set by the nature of its opening. The school was postponed for one day in order to allow the entire student body to march under the Socialist Workers Party banner at an Anti-Nazi demonstration. Thus, the first class of the school took place in the streets, in a demonstration involving 3,000 workers, including the Socialist Workers Party contingent of over 200.

## CHICAGO SLATE IN AT A. F. T. MEET

(Continued from page 1)

strike leader, now serving a long chain-gang sentence on a murder frame-up charge. The case for the Beal resolution was vigorously presented by Esther Lieberman, representing the New York minority delegation and ably supported by Lillian Herstein, who has a twenty-year record in defending labor cases. The Stalinists who fought the Beal resolution with their usual falsehoods and frame-ups, succeeded in cutting off debate at the crucial margin of 178 to 144. Because the issues involved were new to them, many of the delegates abstained from voting.

### Resolutions on War

After the convention had listened to a debate on the war question between the collective securityites and those elements who had presented a minimum anti-war resolution, the Stalinists joined with other delegates in voting to table both resolutions. By this gesture they sought to conciliate that section of the convention which sought to act only on strictly teacher questions. The sentiment in the convention seemed to be that action on the war question would divide the organization into warring factions.

The apparent aim of both leading factions appeared to keep as many controversial issues off the floor as possible. At the same time both sides sought to line up as many delegates as possible for their respective slates upon the basis of their personal achievements rather than upon the basis of a definite program. As a result of such tactics the unaffiliated delegates voted for the candidates of both slates depending upon their personal prominence.

### Membership Doubled

The report of the Secretary-Treasurer Kuenz showed that released to the unemployed.

A further source of funds for the unemployed is the complete taxation of the billions in undistributed profits and surpluses extracted from the workers by the big industrialists, U.S. Steel, General Motors, Ford Motors, etc.

The workers want decent jobs, security, a measure of comfort, education and culture. America has the wealth, technical facilities and resources to provide everyone these things in highest measure. To the workers, it is immaterial whether they receive these benefits under capitalism or any other system. But they want these benefits. The first job is to organize the unemployed and the workers to fight for these things as their right.

And if capitalism and its government cannot provide the workers with these rights, then the workers will be organized and ready to go forward and seize these rights for themselves under the only system which can provide them, socialism.

(This concludes the series on "America's Permanent Depression." The whole series is to be combined in a pamphlet soon to be issued by the Socialist Workers Party, designed for mass distribution.—Ed.)

### Nationalize Subsidized Industries

In addition, all industries, such as the railroads, which have been draining billions from the public treasury through the R.F.C., and which the capitalists claim they cannot operate profitably without reducing wages, shall also be expropriated and turned over to the control of the workers in that industry. Thus the huge funds which the government is spending for subsidizing of bonuses and dividends on billions of dollars of watered railroad stock, will be

## Slogan 'Sales Mean Jobs' Displays Boss Futility

As though they had just sailed across uncharted economic waters and discovered a new route to capitalist "Paradise," the Chambers of Commerce of almost every city of the United States are expending hundreds of thousands of dollars to publicize the amazing news that "Sales Mean Jobs."

For several months the employers have been floundering aimlessly about in the stagnant waters of their various "factions," helpless in their efforts to find a solution to the economic crisis. Out of their quagmire of "plans" to bring about recovery, the best they have been able to concoct is this old, overplayed and long discredited idea.

No matter how often they run their ancient course, the businessmen never learn that the economic world is round, and that they always end up at the point of departure—another crash.

### Sidestep Crisis

But today it's asking too much of the ignorance and gullibility of the public, to attempt to sidestep the fundamental contradictions of the profit system, by a campaign for a "Salesmen's Crusade" to squeeze enough purchases out of the turnip-dry consumers of America to bring back prosperity.

The logic of the "Sales Mean Jobs" campaign goes something like this; if people would loosen up and buy something, we would have to make more goods, and consequently we would have more jobs, which would make more sales, which would . . . etc, etc.

A very desirable turn of events. The catch is, however, that no one has any money to start this snowball rolling. It's the job that makes the sales, and it is at the source that the problem must be

have been in cahoots with Lewis all along. He said:

"I want to say that the suspended and expelled officers have at all times consulted and been advised by the head of the C.I.O. We have not made one move without consulting the Committee for Industrial Organization. And you may rest assured that at the proper time and proper place the C.I.O. will give us the guiding hand this union so badly needs."

The Toledo conference not only howled down the opposition of the two Socialist delegates, George Edwards and Victor Reuther, but it went a step further and decided to give Lewis or his administrator the power not only to call the rump convention, but to change the date or to call it off entirely. Here is example number one million of Stalinist "democracy." After howling their heads off about violations of democracy, the hypocrites' first move is to give a dictator the right to deprive their own followers of the democracy they promised them!

## AUTO UNION LAYS PLANS TO BUILD

(Continued from page 1)

nist Party and its stooges and whatever misguided union officials they could lure, had the run of the show, answerable to nobody but Earl Browder or his Moscow boss. The principal slogan of this conference seems to have been: split the United Automobile Workers in as rapid an order as possible.

The two steps decided upon at this rump conference completely confirm our predictions in previous issues of the Socialist Appeal: the Stalinists are headed directly for a split, and they are banking on John L. Lewis for support.

The first resolution specified the calling of a special convention within sixty days. The second, for the appointment of an administrator to serve as the head of the union until the next regular convention in August, 1939. The heavy emphasis, however, is placed on the second point. What the Stalinists want most of all is the intervention of Lewis. The resolution for a special convention is an attempt to blackmail Lewis to intervene, and now it seems entirely likely that Lewis is not at all disagreeable to being blackmailed. Wyndham Mortimer, chief Stalinist hatchman in the auto union went further, claiming that the splitters

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## NEW BODY WINS SUPPORT IN L.A.

## Locals Back Stand of Leaders; Hail 6-Point Program

By a Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — The Bridges-Stalinist cry of no support by the rank and file was thoroughly answered last week as an aroused C.I.O. membership in local after local voted in decisive fashion to support the Los Angeles Trade Union Conference in withdrawing from the Los Angeles Industrial Union Council and boycotting the Bridges' privately-called, privately-planned and privately-conducted "State C.I.O. Convention."

The model six-point program of the conference is finding an enthusiastic response in all sections of the labor movement. Solidarity in the struggle against the onslaughts of the bosses in the deepening crisis is recognized as the primary need. Stalinist splitting tactics and dictatorship are becoming thoroughly discredited.

### I.L.G.W. Locals Solid

An overflow meeting of Local 98, I.L.G.W.U., the dressmakers' union, by a 2-to-1 majority, acted to support the Conference. The Stalinists made a desperate stand in this local, attempting as a final resort to break up the meeting by a noisy demonstration, while Bill Busick, I.L.G.W.U. organizer and leader of the insurgents, was relating the union-wrecking history of the C. P. in the labor movement.

Every I.L.G.W.U. local in Los Angeles and San Francisco is now 100 per cent behind the break with the Bridges-Stalinist misleadership.

### Rubber Union Rallies

Earlier in the week, District Council 5 of the rubber workers representing every local west of the Rockies and General Motors Local of the United Automobile Workers, the largest on the Pacific Coast, and the Willys Local of the U.A.W.A., took similar action.

Out of 62 delegates to the rubber workers' council, 61 voted to support the stand previously taken by every rubber workers' local in solidizing themselves with the conference.

### Auto Union Lines Up

At the General Motors and Willys meetings a steady flow of Stalinist speakers attempted to stem the tide. The hypocritical cry of unity-unity in the Stalinist program—was all they could offer; no defense of the charges leveled against them was attempted. The vote in both locals was overwhelming and the Stalinist secretaries of both were forced to resign.

Harry (You'll-take-orders-from-me-or-else) Bridges gave the show away in a San Francisco interview to the press: "I'm no dictator," said Harry, in effect, "that's why I'm calling a convention, it will settle everything."

This is his answer to the growing revolt against his leadership of the West Coast C.I.O.: a record of strike-breaking as in the Ford strike, of picket-smashing as in the S.U.P. struggle with the Shephard Line, of false promises as with the timber workers in the Northwest, of union-smashing as in the office workers in San Francisco, of dictatorship as in the case of the auto, steel, and rubber workers' unions.

### Bridges Sleight-of-Hand

But the unions in the L. A. Trade Union Conference know that the Communist-Bridges hand picked convention can settle nothing. Too long have they been held captive by an iron control exercised through paper locals. Do Bridges and his stooges need a few more delegates? Credentials appear as by magic. Do they need some more fake unions? Charters are granted readily to a few communists.

The only thing that can happen is that Bridges will "elect" Bridges, his hero-worshippers will be thrown into hysterics and the real problems of the labor movement will remain unanswered. Had Bridges desired a real convention, he would have consulted with the international representatives and other officers of the unions in California and democratically planned it.

### Cut-and-Dried Convention

The convention "decisions" were long ago written by Joe Stalin's man, Earl Browder, and the dish prepared and doctored by the Communist party commissars of California.

The progressive trade-unionists, in the main, refuse to swallow this dish. Those few who haven't as yet seen the real facts will have their eyes opened at the "convention."

Meanwhile the L.A. Trade Union Conference is getting down to business in carrying out its program. A newspaper is being planned and it may first appear as a special "convention" issue setting forth completely its position and answering the many questions that have been raised by an awakening labor movement.

# Approve Plan for No-Profit Industry

(Continued from page 1)

workable and unnecessary, and begin the march on the road to the socialization of industry.

### Before Local Unions

Now being studied in the local unions, the act was endorsed by the legislative committee of the Trades and Labor Assembly, which used as the basis for its provisions the need "to banish poverty and the evil consequences thereof by providing unlimited and unrestricted means for continuous industrial operation in every department of productive activity, thereby insuring the satisfaction of every human need of those whose labor and talents are no longer required in private industry."

How long private industry could continue to exist under such a system of state-owned and worker-operated production is problematical. A vicious fight on the part of Minnesota industrialists can be expected.

Wages, according to the act, shall be determined by "payment to the workers of the full value of their collective product." And hours of employment "shall be reduced to the lowest point commensurate with a high standard of living, but not to exceed a five-day week of six hours per day."

### Challenge to Capitalists

Such provisions stand as a real challenge to the capitalist system of production, in which profits determine everything, and the needs of the workers are secondary. Sick and tired of the waste under capitalist production, the act states as its purpose "to enrich the community by enlisting every unemployed worker in the production of all forms of useful wealth" and further states it aims "to safeguard youth of the community by providing oppor-

### Slate Is Named by SWP in New Jersey

(Continued from page 1)

him that Ely is not a real New Dealer" as he claims. But it looks bad for the Stalinists in this State, for it seems certain that Roosevelt is satisfied with the reactionary Ely and will not intervene in the primaries.

The Socialist Workers Party is planning an extensive campaign with thirty street corner meetings that will take them into every section of the county. A local election newspaper will be published to bring the important issues of the campaign before the workers: the fight against Hagueism and the need for workers defense committees; the need for independent political action; the fight against unemployment; and the answer to the new economic crisis and war.

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By ART PREIS

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(Whereas the Silver Shirts is one such organization that will be used to perform this task, a fact brought out at the Silver Shirts meeting, July 29, and State, for it seems certain that Roosevelt is satisfied with the reactionary Ely and will not intervene in the primaries.)

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