

Labors' Program: A Job for Every Worker!

In order to meet the continuing employment and relief crisis, and to provide jobs and a decent living for the people of the United States, we propose that the regular 1940 session of the Congress of the United States shall enact emergency legislation to put into immediate effect the following:

1. Appropriation of \$10,000,000,000 to provide, at once, jobs on housing and other public works projects for all employable workers.
2. Amendment of the Wages and Hours Act to provide throughout private industry and public works a maximum work week of 30 hours and a minimum weekly pay of 30 dollars.
3. 30 dollar weekly old age and disability pensions.
4. Appropriation of \$3,000,000,000 to guarantee either maintenance at school or jobs for all youth.

The Real Issue Facing Congress

As the Congressmen made their way to Washington for Wednesday's opening session, the newspapers they glanced through were full of the usual reams of first-week January ballyhoo about what a wonderfully prosperous year it was going to be.

Take just one example of their bare-faced manipulation of facts and figures. Almost at random, take one from Madame Perkins, Secretary of Labor, who listed "recent manifestations" which "should permit labor, industry and agriculture all to enter the New Year with confidence." Digging around for "encouraging factors" she dwelt at length on "non-farm residential building construction" which amounted to \$1,700,000,000 in 1939, an increase of \$400,000,000 over 1938. "Further gains were indicated for the New Year with a possible increase of as much as 25 per cent, she added."

What are the facts? They are not ballyhooed, but they are easily available—for example in the authoritative survey of building prospects in the January *Architectural Forum*. In the first place, the category "non-farm residential building construction" covers less than one-third of the construction industry (the *Forum* estimates an 11% increase in this category as against the lady's 25% guess). In the second place, the biggest item in the construction industry for many years has been GOVERNMENT-FINANCED construction of highways, public buildings, sewers, water systems, conservation projects, etc.—AND THIS ITEM IN 1940 WILL DROP DOWN 6% to \$2,632,000,000. In a word, the most optimistic forecast possible, says the *Forum*, is a 4% increase in the construction industry for the entire year. That means practically no increase in employment in this crisis-ridden industry.

Even such brazen manipulation of facts and figures doesn't enable Madame Perkins to make a plausible claim that unemployment is being solved. So, believe it or not, the lady ends up—in her annual report just issued—by putting the burden of proof on the unemployed to prove that they aren't going to get jobs! "No evidence is available upon which any conclusion can be based that millions of people are going to be permanently unemployed in the United States," says the lady. While there may be between four and five million people idle on any given day, all these are not unemployed, she says, "in the real and long-time sense."

As Madame Perkins well knows, even the dubious statistics of the bosses' National Industrial Conference Board show that the unemployed number "on any given day," not four or five million, but eight and a half million. More honest figures estimate that the unemployed now number ten to 12 million. The bosses' own figures, for the last month available, November, show an increase of 5% in unemployment during that month, despite the upturn in production.

Let Madame Perkins explain this revealing item. The government is making frenzied efforts to cut down the WPA rolls, in addition to the wholesale dismissals, by finding private jobs for WPA workers. All WPA workers in New York have been required to register with the State Employment Service in the hope that it can find them private employment. Yet only five WPA workers were placed in private employment by the State agency during November, and three were placed in December!

Whatever Madame Perkins may mean by unemployment "in the real and long-time sense," unemployment is real and is lasting a long time for ten to 12 million men and women able and desperately desirous of finding work.

Why is Madame Perkins concocting these threadbare falsehoods?

Because she and all other minions of the Roosevelt administration are under orders from Roosevelt to hide the real situation as Congress convenes. Roosevelt is out to slash the WPA and almost every other item in the Federal budget in order to find more money for armament. To get away with that, he must conceal from the country the facts about unemployment and the continuing economic crisis.

The workingclass must tear away the veils of falsehood and concealment being spread by the War Deal and pose before Congress the real issue:

JOBS, NOT GUNS!

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"GUNS, NOT JOBS"—F. D. R. MESSAGE

American Ships Permitted to Sail War Zones

FDR SCUTTLES 'CASH-CARRY'; SHIPS 'SOLD'

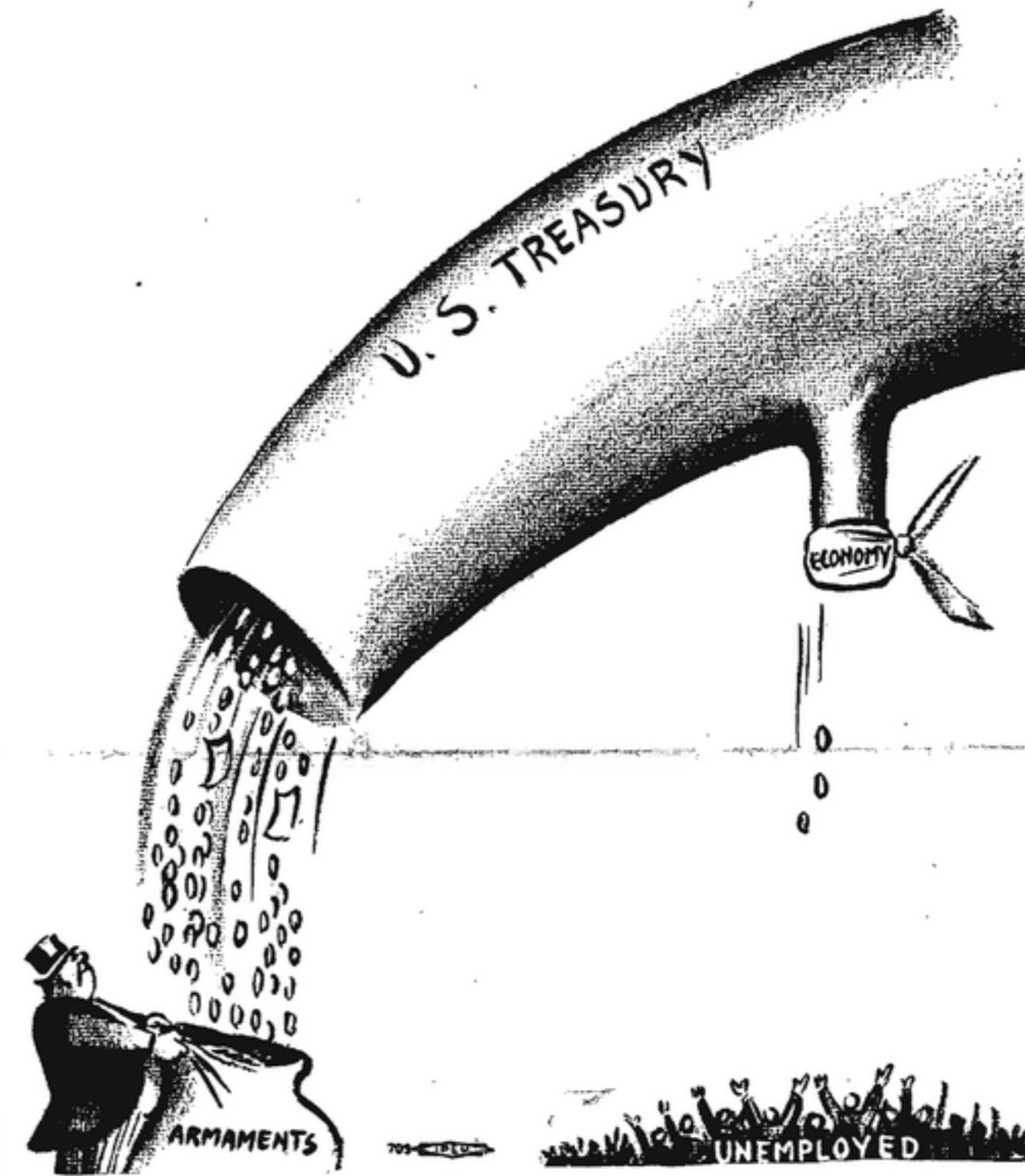
Threadbare Trick Used to Sail Ships In War Zone

The "cash and carry" clause of the Neutrality Law, forbidding American ships from entering the war zone or carrying war materials, was thrown on the junk heap this week when the Roosevelt Administration gave its official approval to a brazen scheme for getting around the law.

The United States Maritime Commission on Dec. 31 approved an application of the United States Line for "sale" of eight of its big ships to a dummy Norwegian corporation. A previous attempt by the same line, early in November, to transfer the same ships to "foreign" registry through a dummy corporation in Panama, was approved by the commission but held up by President Roosevelt because of the public outcry against this obvious violation of the Neutrality Law.

The "new company" set up to operate the ships under Norwegian registry, according to the shipowners' application, is owned 40 per cent by the United States Line and 60 per cent by "Norwegian citizens." The ships will operate, as they did previous to (Continued on Page 2)

The Roosevelt Budget



Arms Increases, Cuts In Relief, Is Program

In the face of an army of ten to twelve million unemployed men and women for whom there is no place in private industry, and who with their dependents number at least thirty million—nearly a fourth of the nation—President Roosevelt delivered an annual message to the opening session of Congress Wednesday which could be summarized as: "Guns instead of jobs."

An "important" increase of funds for armaments and, to make up for that, "all other important items show a reduction"—that was the sum total of his speech.

To justify this callous disregard for the needs of the unemployed, Roosevelt had to gloss over their plight. He perfunctorily conceded that "we have not yet found a way to employ the surplus of our labor," a condition which he falsely claimed resulted from "the efficiency of our industrial processes" instead of from the fact that the workers cannot buy back for their inadequate wages the goods they have produced.

Then he proceeded in a few phrases to paint an utterly false picture of the economic situation.

Fancy and Fact
"The number of the unemployed has decreased," he said—but left out the fact that even according to his own Secretary of Labor's figures, the decrease has been little more than a million in a year. During that time a million and a half have been fired from WPA, leaving some two million WPA jobs to be doled out among twelve million who need them. Yet Roosevelt blandly described this condition in these terms: "Their (the unemployed) immediate needs for food and clothing, as far as the Federal government is concerned, have been largely met, while their morale has been kept alive by giving them useful work." Since 1935, when Roosevelt abolished Federal grants to the states for direct relief, the only form of assistance which the eight or more million families on or applying for direct relief have received from the Federal government has been the occasional handouts of food and clothing by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation. And this is all that Roosevelt has in the way of facts to justify his broad reference to "largely met" the needs of the unemployed for food and clothing!

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL COMES UP FOR DEBATE

Congress Scheduled To Consider Bill Jan. 8

By virtue of a petition signed by 218 Representatives to force it out of committee at the last session of Congress, the Gavan-Fish Anti-Lynching Bill will come up for debate in the House of Representatives on January 8th. The bill assesses a penalty against the county in which the lynching occurs of not less than \$2000 nor more than \$10,000 (\$25,000 in the original bill) to be paid to the family of the victim.

The penalty can be applied, however, only against a community whose peace officer can be proved to have been negligent in protecting the victim. A large percentage of lynchings are perpetrated under the benevolent neutrality of the authorities. In 1937, for example, all of the eight recorded victims were taken from the custody of peace officers.

Lynch Alibi Disproved

Since 1880 there have been more than 5,000 lynchings in the United States. The popular notion that these crimes have been committed to protect white women or mainly for that reason is negated, for example, by the evidence compiled by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Only 21 percent of the lynchings had as their basis even alleged sexual crimes against white women.

In the five-year period 1931-35 nine out of the 84 victims were accused of no crime whatever, and 25 were accused of acts no more serious than disorderly conduct.

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FBI SNOOPER IS HIRED BY CIO!

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3—Russell Turner, Sr., an aide of Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold in his "anti-trust" investigation of the building trades, was yesterday appointed to the staff of the CIO's United Construction Workers Organizing Committee.

This extraordinary appointment lends weight to the charge made by the building trades unions, affiliated to the AFL, that the CIO top leaders are supporting, at least to the extent of making no move against, the "anti-trust" moves of the Department of Justice, which are in actuality directed against the building trades unions.

More Arms—For What?
He asked for army and navy increases "not as small as unrealistic persons claiming superior private information would demand"—a gibe at those who insist that America is in no danger of attack. But what danger there was, against whom this gigantic country, protected by two oceans, needs further armament, Roosevelt did not say. He made no attempt to justify the armaments, as needed for purely defensive purposes.

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Behind the Lines

By GEORGE STERN

The Finnish events prove again that Stalin is incapable of defending the Soviet Union. If Stalin is not overthrown by the Russian workers, aided by the workers of the entire world, he will drag down with him into oblivion what remains of the conquests of the October Revolution.

The invasion itself is an act destructive both of the defense of the Soviet Union and of the interests of the world revolution. Stalin, calculating on the eventuality of having to fight Germany or a coalition of Germany and other powers, sought in Finland advance bases which would give him a military advantage over his opponents. Characteristically, he set about securing them in a manner which serves to drive the Finnish workers into the arms of their own bourgeoisie and in the process loses for the Soviet Union the friendly sympathy of millions of workers throughout the world.

By this alone he has immeasurably weakened the position of the Soviet Union and lent powerful aid to the anti-Soviet plotters in Washington, Berlin, London, the Vatican, and Rome. In their column, "Washington Merry-Go-Round", Pearson and Allen last week gave the following summary of views held in important Washington quarters:

"Certain powerful forces both in Germany and England would not be at all averse to patching up their own row and then encouraging a politico-religious war against Soviet Russia. This would meet with the very decided approval of Italy. And there are potent people in the U.S. State Department also who would welcome such a move. Whether the Myron Taylor mission to Rome, just initiated by Roosevelt, will take this turn remains to be seen—but it may."

It is, however, not only in the broadest political sense that Stalin affords aid and comfort to the enemies of the October Revolution. In his invasion of Finland he has also exposed before the world the state to which he has reduced his much-vaunted army. He has provided the military staffs of the powers with their first real opportunity to measure the results of the purges which swept the ranks of the Red Army, officers and men, during 1936-38. And what they have observed has already caused some rapid changes in the calculations of the chancelleries and general staffs in London, Rome, and Berlin.

By bogging down in Finland a poorly-staffed, poorly-supplied, politically disoriented army, Stalin has managed to prick the legend of Russian strength behind which he has been hiding during the past year.

One immediate effect of this in London seems to be the growth of the belief that the British need not seek a deal with Germany in order to dispose of Russia. Instead the feeling develops that the Allies can successfully dispose of both these enemies of Anglo-French supremacy without making costly concessions to one in order to beat the other. This is clearly stated by Augur, British foreign office mouthpiece in the *New York Times*:

"The Finns' resistance also is defeating intriguers in Berlin and their sympathizers in Britain and France who favor a swift settlement of the war by agreement with Chancellor Hitler. . . . It would be much better, they say, to come to terms and create a united front against the Moscow peril. That intrigue was based on the assumption that the Russian army was formidable. (Continued on Page 3)

'NO ONE SUFFERED IN CLEVELAND'—BUT SOCIAL WORKERS TELL TRUTH

CLEVELAND—They said—the governor, the mayor, the Democrats and Republicans—that nobody was starving here during the weeks, beginning November 15, when the usual relief crisis became a total crisis with 16,000 getting no relief at all, and the rest of the 60,000 on relief getting only daily handouts.

But now, in addition to all that was already known, we have the testimony of the ultra-conservative American Association of Social Workers, whose Cleveland chapter has just issued a report on 219 typical cases that came to the attention of various private welfare agencies during those weeks.

The report doesn't generalize—that's something social workers don't do. It just provides the details in social-worker terminology. But that's bad enough. If anybody thinks nobody starved in Cleveland this past month, let him get a copy of that long document.

Vainly Seek Jobs

The city fathers told the unemployed to "get jobs" instead of waiting for relief. Out of the total of 219 cases, 85 were reported unemployable because of physical illness (which itself in most cases can be traced back to the physical hardships of the unemployed), 13 because of mental illness (any social worker will tell you that in these cases it is almost invariably a result of unemployment).

All the others had been vainly seeking employment, many of them for considerable periods. Several mills in town had closed down amid the ballyhoo of business upturn. Sixty-six of the 219 had been employed on WPA and fired by the slashes instituted by Roosevelt; the jobs supposed to

be waiting for them in private industry proved non-existent.

Of the 219 cases, 128 of them complained of inadequate food while on relief. Most parents reported no milk for their children. One person reported his Thanksgiving dinner consisted solely of an onion sandwich. Diabetics were fed beans and potatoes—it might as well have been poison in their condition. Here is a typical detail: "The mother eats bread and coffee given to her by a married daughter whose husband is on WPA, one of the boys has been going to a girl friend's house to eat his meals, another boy eats at friends' and at stores."

Sickness as a result of improper or inadequate diet was reported in an overwhelming number of cases. Hospitals reported many of the 219 cases as suffering from a lack of food. Poor clothes and living conditions contributed to ill health, and no one could estimate the mental effect of these deprivations.

Evictions

Thirty of the 219 cases were threatened with immediate eviction and nine families had already been evicted. Lack of heat and overcrowding were found time and again. In 33 cases children were forced to stay out of school because of lack of clothing. Many families were forced to move together because of inability to pay rent, and overcrowding was intolerable.

Pregnant women were given no special conditions—neither the proper diet, medical care, or provision for hospitalization.

And so on, and so on—the bare details piled up in the social workers' report. But no generalizations. That's not a social worker's business, they say.