

Turn War Funds Over to the Unemployed!

The Forgotten Man



N.Y. RELIEF ROLLS CUT TO SHREDS BY LA GUARDIA

While 'Little Flower' Waxen Noble Over Cleveland!

Mayor LaGuardia, with his usual nose for good publicity, was proudly indignant about the collapse of relief in Cleveland. If he were really concerned about the condition of the unemployed, however, his own backyard can stand plenty of cleaning up.

85,000 Families Dropped

Last year 360,000 of the city's jobless families received either home or work relief. Now only 275,000 families are getting relief.

Some 63,000 New York workers have been dropped from the WPA rolls, which, in 1938, averaged 165,000 a month and are now just over 100,000.

The same kind of slashes have taken place on the home relief rolls. In 1938 an average of 197,000 families and single individuals were on the relief rolls. According to the latest available figures (Dec. 1) there are now only 175,000 cases on home relief.

Needy Refused Relief

The drop in the WPA and relief rolls has been deliberately engineered and doesn't at all mean that those dropped have jobs. Nearly one out of two families applying for relief don't

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CIO and AFL Officials Protest Mpls. Frameup

Carey of CIO, Padway of AFL, and 22 Others Sign Message to Roosevelt on WPA Trial

Judge Joseph A. Padway, counsel to the American Federation of Labor; James B. Carey, secretary of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and 22 other labor and liberal figures, have joined in an appeal to President Roosevelt, asking him to direct the Department of Justice to cease such practices as the prosecution and conviction of WPA strikers in Minneapolis recently, it was made public Jan. 8 by the Workers Defense League.

Others included among the signers are Mayor Daniel W. Hoan of Milwaukee, Roger Baldwin, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union; Arthur Garfield Hays and John F. Finerty, Upton Sinclair, Fred Kirshway, editor of "The Nation," Paul Kellogg, editor of the "Survey Graphic," Harry W. Laidler, recently elected Labor Party councilman of New York City; Joseph Schlossberg, general secretary of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, and Ashley L. Totten, secretary of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

The letter assailed the Minneapolis proceedings as "subversive of the true interests of justice and opposed to the letter and spirit of Constitutional guarantees for a fair trial." It said that the "conspiracy to violate the relief act" clause, under which the strikers had been indicted, had not been intended by Congress to "be used against organized labor" and declared that "it is inimical to our democracy that striking workers, engaged in peaceful picketing, are prosecuted under a Federal statute which was never intended to apply to such conduct and tried en masse, thus being refused a fair trial."

Other signatories to the letter include: Norman Thomas; Harry Elmer Barnes, the historian; Alfred Bingham, editor of "Common Sense"; J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union; Prof. George S. Counts, president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL); Mary Fox, executive secretary of the League for Industrial Democracy; John C. Granberry, editor of the Georgetown, Texas, "Emancipator"; Rev. John Haynes Holmes; A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (AFL); and Dave Reed, district president of the Progressive Miners of America (AFL).

The letter follows: "Dear Mr. President: 'The undersigned view with grave concern the nature of the Federal indictment and prosecution' (Continued on Page 2)

Behind the Lines

By GEORGE STERN

It now appears to be the general expectation that the spring of this year will witness the unfolding of the first really decisive phase of the second world war. Those who with maps in hand try to gauge the plans and intentions of the warring powers now draw a wide-swinging arc from Scandinavia through the Balkans to Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and India to indicate the probable scope of the war's extension in the coming months.

And from India it is necessary to extend the blood-red line of war up into China, to the Philippines and Japan, and across the Pacific to the United States.

It is within the context of these calculations that the Soviet-Finnish war assumes its more exact proportions. Hanson Baldwin, one of the shrewdest of the clan of military experts, writing in the New York Times, says:

"The Finnish-Russian war can no longer be viewed as a side show, dissociated from the main conflict. Clearly another manifestation of the same illness that convulses all of Europe, the war on the Northern Front is not only politically allied to the war in the West, but

is undeniably becoming part of the same strategic picture. Finland and the Scandinavian peninsula are the left flank of the Western front and they may be the decisive flank."

Other dispatches, especially from London, have strongly suggested that the Anglo-French combination is more and more basing its war plans on simultaneous struggle against the Soviet Union and Germany, discarding temporarily the previous strategy of breaking up the Moscow-Berlin axis by bringing about the early downfall of Hitler and bringing Germany into the anti-Soviet front.

From the revelation of Soviet weakness in Finland the Allied strategists have not concluded that the Russians are a pushover. But they have modified their earlier notions about Soviet strength and have acquired new confidence in their ability to cope with the pooled forces of the German-Soviet combination and to deal a decisive blow to this twin threat to Anglo-French supremacy on the European continent.

This new confidence and the changed strategy that flows from it is indicated in many (Continued on Page 3)

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F. D. R. WAR DEAL BUDGET SLASHES RELIEF FUNDS

Million To Lose Jobs To Feed War Machine

Stripped down to its plain meaning for the working class Roosevelt's proposed budget for the coming year means:

- 650,000 to be fired from WPA—
- 250,000 to be fired from PWA—
- Slashes in NYA and CCC equivalent to a loss of another 100,000 full-time jobs—
- ONE MILLION JOBS WIPED OUT BY ROOSEVELT'S BUDGET.

And all the money for these jobs, plus a lot of other money that should be going for more jobs, is INSTEAD turned over to the WAR MACHINE.

Battleships and cannon are to be built, if Roosevelt has his way, out of the hides of the unemployed workers and their children.

The "needs" of "national defense" are the excuse for slashing the work relief and public works employment rolls. But the same "needs" don't cost the coupon-clippers anything. MORE MONEY IS PROVIDED IN THE BUDGET TO PAY "INTEREST ON THE PUBLIC DEBT" THAN IS PROVIDED FOR WPA.

There's a billion for WPA and a billion plus one hundred million dollars provided for the coupon-clippers! The ten million unemployed and their families get less than a tiny handful of government bond-holders!

The banker-munitions-makers get directly most of the money provided by the budget. The capitalist press, conniving with Roosevelt, reports a figure for "national defense" of \$1,800,000. That's bad enough—nearly twice as much as WPA gets—but it tells only part of the story. Roosevelt deliberately spread various armament items in different parts of the budget, and some of them he buried altogether under other headings, to make it impossible for the workers to know how much he really plans to spend for the war machine. But here are some of the figures, so far as they can be located:

War Department ("non-military").....	\$ 45,000,000
U.S. Maritime Commission (naval auxiliary).....	149,000,000
"Civil" Aeronautics Authority.....	28,000,000
Navy Department (under "public works").....	50,000,000
War Department (under "public works").....	225,000,000
"National Defense"—"regular".....	1,539,000,000
"Emergency National Defense".....	300,000,000

C.I.O. PREDICTS "BITTER ECHO" TO FDR BUDGET

CIO News Voices First Open Attack On Administration

Taking alarm at the new war budget proposed by President Roosevelt, the CIO sharply criticized his proposals "to put through deep slashes in relief, public works and social services and agencies, while adding huge sums to arms expenditures."

"The cheers which rang from the tory benches of Congress when President Roosevelt promised to slash appropriations for unemployment relief and all other than war purposes, will have a bitter echo in millions of Americans' homes in the coming year," the CIO News warned editorially, Jan. 8.

"The budget presented to Congress the next day," the editorial explained, "proposes drastic cuts for public works and other essential social services to make more money available for armaments."

Ralph Hetzel, CIO Unemployment Director, estimated that the present budget means a cut of 650,000 WPA jobs below last year's average. In addition, the PWA, which has been providing about one quarter of a million jobs, is cut out entirely. NYA is cut from 100 million dollars to 85.

Unemployment to Increase

At the same time the research department of the CIO found that "All signs show that the United States production index will recede sharply in the first three months of 1940, bringing increases (Continued on Page 2)

But even this is only part of the story. There are items hidden under provisions for the Coast Guard, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, naval and military projects under work relief and public works. Other items chargeable to previous wars and war expenditures include a half billion for veterans' pensions, most of the interest on the national debt, etc. The real figure, if we could go behind the smokescreen figures of the budget, would probably be close to FIVE BILLION DOLLARS FOR THE WAR MACHINE.

That's FIVE TIMES AS MUCH AS THE UNEMPLOYED ARE GETTING.

Not even the President pretended that America was in any danger of attack. No, that war machine is being built to fight abroad.

Whose interests will the war machine protect?

NOT the interests of the ten million unemployed, whose fight for existence is right here and now and AGAINST the bosses and their government.

NOT the interests of the eight million families now certified by local relief authorities as without means of existence—and when you're certified by those buzzards you're starving!

NOT the interests of another eleven million families who manage to live on a family income of less than \$1,000 a year.

The 8,000,000 families who are "continually facing starvation" and the other eleven million families who are "fighting poverty"—they are described in those terms in a chart in the record of the government's Monopoly Committee's hearings—amount to 76,000,000 men, women and children—the vast majority of this country. They've got nothing abroad to protect. THEIR enemies are right here at home: the bosses and bosses' politicians who won't permit the great majority of the population a decent living.

Since the crisis began in 1929, six million young men and women have grown up and entered the market for jobs—without finding them. Where are their enemies? Their enemies are those who won't give them jobs, right here in America.

In a shabby attempt to justify wiping out one million jobs, WPA JOBS—Roosevelt says he "has taken into considera- (Continued on Page 2)

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.

Relief Crisis Grows Acute In Detroit

Public Welfare Head Predicts "Crisis That Is a Crisis" This Month

DETROIT—Now in the first pangs of an approaching relief crisis, Detroit will, within a month, in the words of G. R. Harris, Superintendent of Public Welfare of the City of Detroit be faced with a "crisis that is a crisis".

Blame for the crisis is being used as a football, being kicked by the city to the state and the federal government and then back again. But the unemployed take the rap.

Relief budget allowances of the City of Detroit for the past few years have been so low as to have been characterized by the United States Department of Agriculture in its health report as a "dangerous budget" and as a budget which under no circumstances should be used for a period of more than six weeks. The allowances of the State of Michigan have been and are even more damnable.

Now further retrenchment steps have been taken in Detroit welfare services. Emergency food orders have been discontinued. Cases must now be completely investigated before any aid is given. This investigation often requires a period of two weeks for completion during which time the applicant continues to starve.

Curtailed of the services of one of the city hospitals and the abolition of one of the city pharmacies has already been approved.

Under the State Welfare Act, passed by the last session of the state legislature, the state has taken over from the city the care of 4,500 Aid to Dependent Children cases. This became effective on January 1, 1940. When these cases were being taken care of under the city a mother and one child received \$44.23 per month with which to provide rent, heat, light, gas, food, clothing etc. Under the state a mother and one child receive \$24.00 per month with which to pay for the same services. It must be remembered that the city budget had been termed "dangerous." The state budget can only be termed outrageous, criminal, and death-dealing.

Growing children are forced to subsist on a budget which even if used for only the shortest period of time will leave its mark indelibly stamped on their minds and bodies. Many of these mothers have already made known the plight into which they have been (Continued on Page 2)

QUEENS JOBLESS BACKED BY LABOR GROUPS

Form Permanent Body To Push New York Unemployed Demands

The Unemployed and Relief Workers League of Queens—militant South Jamaica organization affiliated with the Unemployed and Project Workers Union—was held, last Saturday afternoon, to twenty-five delegates of Queens labor and pro-labor organizations, called into conference to draw up a program of united action to better the miserable conditions of the tens of thousands of underprivileged families in that borough of New York City.

Represented at the conference were the Ministerial Council of Queens; the Unemployed and Relief Workers League; the American Labor Aid; several locals of the Workmen's Sick and Death Benefit Association; the Veteran's Benevolent Association, comprised of WPA veterans of Queens; the Socialist Workers Party, and several other organizations. (Continued on Page 2)

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