

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 unemployed 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.

# Socialist Appeal

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## 14-STATE TEAMSTERS FIGHT BOSS FRAMEUP

### Transit Men Denounce La Guardia Union-Busting INTERSTATE GROUP, TOBIN MAP DEFENSE

#### WARN THEY'LL FIGHT BAN ON STRIKE RIGHT

"Friend of Labor" Announces His Fink Plan

After weeks of stalling the union with promises, Mayor La Guardia has finally exposed his hand and openly announced his intention of destroying the Transport Workers Union of New York. In a letter addressed jointly to Michael J. Quill, International President of the Transport Workers Union and John J. Donnelly, General Chairman of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, the Mayor stated that he would not honor the union contracts held by the union with the BMT and IRT transit systems, that the closed shop is to be done away with, that he will not recognize the union as spokesman and bargaining agent for its 27,000 members working on the two systems and, finally, that "the right to strike against the government is not and cannot be recognized."

In the December 30 issue of the *Socialist Appeal*, we warned that the demolition scheme of the La Guardia administration to raze the Second and Ninth Avenue elevated lines, which would throw some 3,000 members of the union out into the streets, was nothing but a step in a carefully planned campaign to destroy the union. We stated at that time: "It is plain as a pikestaff that the great 'friend of labor,' La Guardia, in collusion with the state officials (Continued on Page 2)

#### Bombay Workers Strike; Fight Against War Gains In India

Textile Operatives Again Take Lead In Struggle; Masses Pressing Congress Leaders to Take Early Action

By SHERMAN STANLEY

Again displaying their position as the vanguard of the Indian people, 135,000 textile workers of Bombay have declared a general strike, demanding a 25 per cent wage increase to make up for rising living costs since the beginning of the war. These workers represent about 90 per cent of Bombay's textile mills and come from 45 different mills. Meeting at Patna on March 1, the Executive Committee of the All-India National Congress has decided to prepare for the launching of a civil disobedience campaign against British imperialism. In a strongly worded resolution, nationalist India has openly disassociated itself from British rule and its war aims: "Indian freedom cannot exist within the orbit of British imperialism, and dominion status or any other status within the imperial structure is wholly inapplicable to India."

The preamble of the resolution states that Great Britain is carrying on the war for imperialist purposes and that India cannot be a party to the war. It opposes the sending of Indian troops to parts of the British Empire for war purposes. "The resolution concludes, 'Nothing short of complete independence will be accepted by the Indians.'"

**Final Action Postponed**  
Overriding the opposition of left-wing members of the Executive body, who demanded an immediate launching of the struggle for freedom, Gandhi succeeded in postponing final action until the plenary session of the Congress which is scheduled to convene at Ramgarh on March

hold in check the social forces of mass unemployment, hunger and unbelievable poverty. His latest move is undoubtedly aimed at stealing the thunder of his left-wing opponents, but such tactics have the dangerous habit of backfiring—that is, getting out of hand. Gandhi well knows this. If he sees that a struggle is unavoidable at present, he will do all in his power to limit it, isolate it and take advantage of the distrust and demoralization that has resulted from six months of futile talks with the Viceroy. Above all, Gandhi will endeavor to prevent a mass, revolutionary struggle in which the peasants will begin to take revolutionary measures by seizing and dividing up the land and the workers will begin to set up their democratic workers' control councils in the cities. But one thing is certain. The first open, mass revolt against the World War and for peace is about to begin!

Hindu-Muslim unity can now be achieved on the battlefield of common action and struggle. The rallying cry of the Indian people is, "Forward to National Freedom," and "Long live the democratically-elected Constituent Assembly!"

But the door seems to have been shut by the firm refusal of the British rulers to make the slightest concession that would satisfy the meagre demands of the Gandhi group. Masses Push Gandhi For six long months the Indian workers and peasants have been clamoring for leadership and action in the struggle against involvement in the war and for national independence. For six months they have been told to be patient, to bide their time while Gandhi was fruitlessly negotiating with the British Viceroy. Has the time for struggle come now? So far as the 400,000,000 masses are concerned the answer is yes!

#### ANTI-LYNCH BILL BACKED IN ST. PAUL

ST. PAUL, Minn.—The St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, central labor body, approved at its last meeting the following resolution in support of the anti-lynching bill now before the Senate:

WHEREAS organized labor is continually faced with the threat to move industries in to the South where cooie wages prevail, and WHEREAS systematic terrorism has kept the workers of the South largely unorganized, and WHEREAS lynching, an important part of this terrorism, has served to drive a wedge between the colored and white workers and to prevent either from bettering their conditions, now THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, go on record as urging the passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill in the U. S. Senate, not only on the basis of protecting Constitutional human rights, but also with the hope that it will give some confidence and encouragement to the Negro workers and help break down the barriers that now stand in the way of a widespread union movement in the South.

#### Help Our Polish Comrades

Several weeks ago the *Socialist Appeal* published a letter detailing the desperate plight of our Polish comrades persecuted by both Nazis and Stalinists. Their escape to Y— has been little short of a miracle. The response to the printed letter was most heartening. However, several weeks have passed and it is now necessary to make a further appeal. Enough money for only immediate needs was obtained, it is necessary to send another substantial sum. Copies of the original letter have been printed with stamps of various denominations attached to them. We feel sure that our friends will have no difficulty in the distribution and sale of these stamps. SHOW YOUR SOLIDARITY with the cause of labor by immediately sending in your request for the letters. THERE MUST BE NO DELAY! Life hangs upon your prompt action. Send your requests to American Labor Aid, 125 West 33rd Street, New York, N. Y.

#### OMAHA JOBLESS WIN OUSTER OF ADMINISTRATOR

Picket Six Weeks Against Vicious Policies

OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 28—After six solid weeks of day-and-night picketing of the courthouse, organized by the Federal Workers Section, the county board on Tuesday fired E. F. Magaret, county relief administrator notorious for his vicious starvation policies.

The county board voted 3-2 to oust the hated Magaret; even the two dissenters, the *Omaha World-Herald* records, "protested only mildly against the dismissal."

Seeking a face-saving formula to cover up the fact that the pressure of the organized unemployed forced Magaret's dismissal, the board said the county relief administrator was removed because it was feared his continuance in office would prevent the surplus commodity stamp plan from being introduced in Omaha. The truth, of course, is that the Federal Workers Section, backed by the General Drivers Union and the Central Labor Union, put so much heat on the board that it had to act as it did.

That labor pressure was indeed the reason for Magaret's removal is indicated by the fact that the commissioners immediately asked Jim Powell of the FWS: "Now will you get that picket line off?"

Is Only First Battle  
The ouster of Magaret is just the first step in the fight for decent relief standards in this city. Getting Magaret thrown out of office is a great victory for the FWS and for all organized labor inasmuch as it was achieved by picketing in the face of Nebraska's infamous anti-picketing law, which has been under relentless attack by the General Drivers Union and by labor generally.

The prestige of the FWS has risen even higher since it has Magaret's scalp dangling in its belt. One third of the FWS membership is Negro.

"The Better Citizens"  
Magaret's reaction to his ouster was typical: "It's the board's privilege. The better citizens of Omaha know what I have been trying to do."

All during his public life Magaret has drawn this distinction between the "better citizens" and the rest of the city. He has publicly admitted that he administered relief in such a way as to please the "better people."

In the 1938 strike of the General Drivers Union Local 554, Magaret played up to the "better people" like Al Gordon, despicable owner of the fink Gordon Van & Storage Company, by telling relief applicants that if they wanted any relief they had better go scabbing on Local 554 by working at the Gordon Company. Gordon is Magaret's brother-in-law.

The fight for decent relief standards will be intensified in Omaha, FWS leaders stated today.

#### Unemployed Increase 10 p.c.

National unemployment rose 10.6 per cent in January. That terrible fact comes, not from radical or labor sources, but from the bosses' own statistics—those released last week by the National Industrial Conference Board. The Board estimates the unemployed in January at over ten million. But this accounts only for the plummet-like drop in production during January. The business index kept falling all the way through February also. Eight weeks of uninterrupted decline. Eight weeks of more workers tired and none hired. That means that, even by boss figures, the unemployed army stands at about ELEVEN MILLION. And the business index is still going down. That's what has happened to those jobs that Roosevelt promised us, in his Jan. 4 budget speech, as justification for his slashing WPA and wiping out the PWA!

#### California Legislators Slash Relief Funds

Cut Weekly Allowance to \$2.60 For Next Twelve Weeks; 350,000 Affected

LOS ANGELES—After appropriating \$13,800,000 to feed the unemployed till June 1, the California Legislature recessed for ten weeks. \$13,800,000 divided among the present average of 350,000 relief clients, gives each person an average of \$2.60 a week for the next twelve weeks! \$2.60 a week for those lucky enough to remain on the relief rolls! And absolutely nothing for those many thousands who are denied all assistance. THIS IS SACRAMENTO'S ANSWER TO CALIFORNIA'S HUNGRY!

The real meaning of this legislation has been quickly shown. Executive orders cut all relief checks 40%. Further orders curtail county-sponsored works projects, eliminate free lunches for undernourished children, abolish job placement services. These and other measures merely translate the lawmakers' aims into concrete terms of human misery.

The Assemblymen and State Senators claim that a recess is needed "to investigate the needs of the unemployed." As though the last ten years of starvation have not provided ample evidence of the needs of the unemployed! As though the report of the fact-finding Richards Commission, appointed by the Governor, is not available to every legislator! A report that condemns even the previous relief standards as giving "the family a mere subsistence diet and wretched shelter."

The lawmakers are not trying to discover how much relief the unemployed need—but how little they will accept. They do not wish to find out how many are in need of relief—but how many more can be cut off, without arousing overwhelming protest. They have not recessed to measure the number of unemployed in their districts, but to gauge the strength and ability of the unemployed to fight against starvation.

For only the fighting strength of the unemployed themselves will determine how much will be appropriated for relief. It is true that Governor Olson and his supporters have asked for a larger appropriation—\$18,000,000 instead of \$13,800,000: about \$3.50 a week instead of \$2.60. But he is merely more sensitive to the pressure of the workers since he leaned so heavily on Labor's vote at the last election.

To avert the danger of independent action by the unemployed, the governor calls on them to leave the fight for adequate relief in his hands, to demoralize only in his support, and against those whom he points out as the "real enemy." Then, with the unemployed safely corralled under his leadership, he dickers with the bankers for an appropriation that will keep the unemployed quiet, and yet avoid any further taxes on the wealthy.

#### Union Leaders Are Arrested In Sioux City

The 14-state North Central Area Committee of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters was convened in a special meeting with International President Daniel J. Tobin in Indianapolis, this Friday, to fight back against the latest employers' attempt to break a vital link in the teamsters' movement. The meeting was called after the arrest, last week, of Howard Fouts, Ralph Johnson and Charles Cunningham, officers of Teamsters Local 383 of Sioux City, Iowa, on the fantastic charge of "kidnapping and holding for ransom."

Screaming extras, on the streets a few hours after the arrests, tried to scare Sioux City unionists with a statement by the authorities that the union leaders would not be released on bond because the maximum penalty for the offense was death by hanging.

Aimed At 350,000 Drivers  
These arrests were only the latest of a long series of attempted frameups, designed to smash the Sioux City teamsters' union and thereby break a link in the powerful chain of recently-organized teamsters in the 13-state area.

In the successful teamsters' struggle which culminated, in November, 1939, in the signing of a 13-state area agreement creating uniform conditions, a closed shop and substantial wage increases for 350,000 over-the-road drivers, the Sioux City drivers, were an important factor.

22-Week Strike  
Resisting the over-the-road area agreement, trucking companies in Sioux City and Omaha locked out their men on Sept. 9, 1938. This strike, lasting over 22 weeks, became famous in the annals of the teamsters as the "Omaha strike." The unions won a general settlement on Feb. 8, 1939. But a minority of the employers in both Omaha and Sioux City refused to sign, and the strike was continued against them.

Since then most of them have signed up. But a few companies did not, and the strike is still on against them—and effectively. The struck companies are being variously subsidized not only by the local chambers of commerce and boss associations, but also by other groups in the North Central Area.

The important point is that the Omaha and Sioux City locals have had to fight many struggles, both directly against the bosses and against the authorities who are hand-in-glove with the area agreement and thus protect conditions throughout the North Central Area.

Some of the hardest blows of the employers' attack has been borne by the Sioux City local. Here, in this comparatively small city, located in a particularly reactionary farmers' area, the bosses hoped to find a weak link in the armor of the teamsters' movement.

Series of Police Frameups  
The bosses' attacks have in the last year taken principally the form of police frameups against the officers of the union.

Last winter Howard Fouts and Ralph Johnson, Local 383 officers, were arrested on a charge of damaging a truck during the over-the-road strike, extradited and tried in a Sioux Falls, South Dakota court. A hand-picked anti-labor jury, composed of small businessmen and wealthy farmers, convicted them and they (Continued on Page 2)

#### Behind the Lines

By GEORGE STERN

One of the factors making for American intervention in the war which has received least public notice is the effect on American foreign trade of the Anglo-French economic union. This union has been made increasingly complete in the first six months of war through successive meetings and decisions of the Allied Supreme Council and trade and industrial representatives of both countries. Through a series of agreements on currency, tariffs, trade quotas, the French and British Empires have been joined into what is almost a single economic unit, with Britain, of course, the dominant party. By the latest accord, signaled by decrees in London and Paris on Feb. 28, all wartime restrictions on trade between France and Britain and the French and British colonies were removed. Goods will move between the two empires without formalities, licenses, delays, or any of the red tape that now attends so much of strangled international trade. According to the Paris correspondent of the *Wall Street Journal* on Feb. 29, this system "ultimately may embrace certain British Dominions." The purpose, as described by this source, will be "that the two empires will be welded still further into one economic unit and that trade between the two will grow at the expense of business outside."

This is the real nub of the matter, this "business outside"—for this means mainly American business. In another dispatch from Washington on the same day, the *Wall Street Journal* bluntly declared that "INCREASING EVIDENCES OF A CLOSED ECONOMY EMBRACING THE BRITISH AND

#### FRENCH EMPIRES IS A SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE WORRY IN CERTAIN QUARTERS IN OFFICIAL WASHINGTON.

It is primarily to counteract this threat, that Secretary of State Hull is carrying on his wide-spread parleys with neutral countries for the purpose of asserting American interests in world trade under wartime conditions as well as under those of the distantly-envisioned peace. The way in which wartime trade conditions are affecting American interests have already become evident in one publicized example—British abandonment of its tobacco purchases in this country and its juggling of its take of American cotton in order to better its position against American rivals in South America. Decrees signed on Feb. 28 in Paris establishing new controls over French imports mean that in the future American exports of automobiles, radio equipment, movie films, business equipment, typewriters, etc., to France are going to be virtually stopped.

While this is going on, of course, Anglo-French imports of other lines from the U.S. will mount—aircraft, copper, steel, etc.—but the shift is certain to cause a serious convulsion in American industry unless the executive committee of Big Business—the Washington government—soon puts a brake on Anglo-French presumptions. And this is going to lead straight to U.S. intervention in the war... together with Britain and France against Germany and Russia, but ALSO against Britain and France on the economic warfronts where the real fight for domination of the world goes on.

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