

# INDUSTRIAL MOBILIZATION --- FOR WHAT?

## GM Bolder Under War Drive Impetus

### Begins Cracking Down With Direct Aid of FBI to Weaken Union's Hand in Negotiations

DETROIT—General Motors Corporation is cracking down on the workers in numerous plants throughout the country, continuing its policy of intimidation and provocation in order to weaken the hand of the union in the current negotiations.

The place that the Roosevelt administration is indicating for the auto industry in its war plans—next to steel, the key place—apparently has given GM added boldness to slug away at the union. And the federal government is cooperating. A vivid proof of the way in which the New Deal has been transformed into the War Deal is that, where labor "conciliators" appeared a year ago, FBI agents turn up now, openly cooperating with the corporation.

In Detroit Fleetwood Body, the management attempted this week to create chaos by delivering an ultimatum to the union committee that standards must be increased by 25% by the end of the week.

In the Ternstedt plant in Detroit, the belligerent management last week abolished the rest period rights for women workers, rights which the women workers have received for years.

**FBI Helps Corporation**  
Carrying through their intimidation campaign, GM has been fingerprinting all employees in the Allison Division of the Detroit Cadillac Company. In this division, which manufactures airplane motors for the GM Allison Company of Indiana, FBI agents have been hanging around the departments and have been keeping out all union organizers.

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In Flint South Fisher, a speed-up campaign has been initiated which has kept the union on its toes every minute of the day. This campaign of provocation grew so

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## ILGWU MEETING UNDER SHADOW OF WAR DRIVE

### Dubinsky War Stand Threatens Fate of Union Itself

The Fortieth Anniversary Convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union opens Monday afternoon, May 27, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Opening under the shadow of the drive to stampee America into the war, the decisions of the International, representing 250,000 men and women workers in the women's wear trades, will have an important bearing on the general trend of the labor movement.

If the Dubinsky leadership, as is anticipated, commits the union to the Roosevelt pro-war policy, the convention is likely to be converted into little more than a third-term rally for Roosevelt, pushing aside the pressing problems of the workers, as happened in the just-concluded Amalgamated Clothing Workers convention.

But if that happens, it means the International will begin sliding down the hill, down toward the point of virtual collapse which it stood at in 1932. For despite all its numerical growth, the International is now faced with a dangerous situation.

The gains made by the militant New York workers, who shed their blood on a thousand picket lines, are being systematically whittled away year by year. On paper the New York market is still committed to relatively good contracts—but what meaning have these contracts when so much of the work is disappearing from New York, leaving a great part of the workers in the industry here without employment? New York's ladies garment workers suffer not only the burden of unemployment which workers in every industry are faced with, but also this additional burden from the decentralization of the industry.

Nor do the workers in other parts of the country benefit from this decentralization. The magnet which draws away the manufacturers from New York is inferior wages and conditions. Where the manufacturers move, they repeat the horrors which in former years made their New York sweatshops so infamous.

**Needs Fundamental Solution**  
All makeshifts previously attempted by the International have failed to solve this problem. It has become clear that the Fortieth Anniversary Convention can solve this problem only by a fundamental and drastic decision.

One "solution" being considered by some people is certainly drastic enough—it would eventually destroy the union. This is to lower the wages and the working conditions of the New York workers out-down to the conditions in the out-of-town shops. That would stop the migration from New York—but it would also put an end to the union.

The solution lies the other way around—to bring the out-of-town shops up to the rates and standards of the New York shops. That, however, requires first of all, the organizing of the out-of-town shops. The fact is that a dangerously-large part of the industry nationally still remains unorganized. This demands that the International launch a militant organization campaign to organize all competitive out-of-town shops and sign agreements aimed at bringing the wages and working conditions of those workers up to the rates of the New York shops.

**Need Standard Agreements**  
One major obstacle in organizing those now unorganized is that if a strike were called today in any locality, the effectiveness of the strike can be nullified because buyers can purchase their garments or have them manufactured in another locality, a situation

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## Capitalism Can Offer Only Destruction

Across the battlefields of Western Europe we are once more being given ghastly proof that this capitalist system we live under is capable only of destruction, blinding, horrifying, all-inclusive, total destruction.

Roosevelt's speeded-up drive to mobilize the industry of this country to build war planes, guns, and battleships is a drive heading us straight and fast into the same agony now being suffered by the peoples of Europe.

The capitalist system built a great industrial plant, nurtured great scientific advances, and provided the mechanical means of giving life and plenty to the people of the entire world.

Unable to continue giving life and work because it has grown too big to continue functioning on the basis of national barriers, private property and private profit, the system has been converted by the rival groups of masters—German, French, British—into one vast machine of destruction.

Now it is America's turn to join in the welter of death and destruction.

For over ten years the huge and wonderful industrial machine of this country has been operating by fits and starts.

During all these years millions of men were going around anxious to find work. But idle factories and idle men could not get together. The machines rusted. The workers grew old and lost their skill. The young workers had no opportunity to acquire a trade.

The employed also suffered. Their wages were cut; they could not be kept at work steadily because the market for the products they created was reduced by unemployment.

Now and then there was a spurt of economic activity. Under the Roosevelt regime, at certain times, the productive machine revived—but only for short intervals.

It was under the Roosevelt regime that the plan was introduced on a really large scale of paying farmers for not producing.

The working masses, subjected to tremendous suffering under the Hoover regime, were grateful for the slight improvement in their lot under the Roosevelt regime. But under Roosevelt as well as under Hoover factories remained idle.

Roosevelt has had almost eight years. The industrial machine could not be made to function efficiently.

But soon we shall see that same machine function and produce.

And will the masses, as a result of the increased production have their living standards improved? By no means.

For the industrial machine will be functioning to produce airplanes for destructive purposes, bombs, shells, battleships, anti-aircraft cannons—everything for war, death, destruction.

Did Roosevelt, ever since he has been elected, set the wheels into motion to produce more food, more clothing, more housing? He made gestures and the results were woefully inadequate.

If the industrial machine were geared for the production of goods for the people to eat more and better food, to clothe and house themselves decently, there would not be a single person who would lack anything.

But this is certain: our industrial machine under the capitalist system cannot be made to function to improve the standard of living—it can be made to function only to produce instruments of death.

For there is no profit in producing for the use of the people. There is no necessity to produce for the use of the people. Capitalism is unable to produce for the purposes of peace.

What a united effort, what tremendous energy the owners and managers of industry are capable of exerting when they are called upon to do so to produce armaments, we shall soon see. They who were ready to tear Roosevelt limb from limb are ready to support him wholeheartedly and answer his clarion call for 50,000 planes, for more battleships, for more cannon.

The destitution of millions for over ten years do not act as an incentive to set the wheels of industry into motion. Only the fear of a strong capitalist rival and preparation for war furnished the incentive.

Is any further proof necessary that capitalism has reached the ultimate in decay, that it must be destroyed root and branch? It is a system which, in the words of Winston Churchill, leader of British imperialism, offers to the masses nothing but "toil, sweat, tears and blood."

It cannot produce for life but only for death. The workers of the world must destroy this system which is capable of bringing them only death.

## Black Troops Bearing Brunt of First Rush of Nazi War Machine

France's black colonial slaves are bearing the brunt of the first battles.

R. Walter Merguson, war correspondent for the Pittsburgh Courier, Negro newspaper, cabled from Paris, May 13:

"Black soldiers from the African colonies of France were sped by motor through northwestern Luxembourg and eastern France to meet the oncoming German war machines . . .

"The main body of French troops were held in reserve for mass maneuvers against the Nazis should they get by the delaying tactics of the French Senegalese."

In other words, the blacks have pushed in to take the heaviest blows of the Nazi war machine at the peak of its strength.

In February there were already 320,000 Senegalese troops at the front, with a total of a million to come, out of a population of eighteen million in French West and Equatorial Africa. Other millions are to come from the North African possessions, populated mainly by Arabs and Berbers.

In the last war, France had for the entire war far fewer Senegalese troops—200,000.

## IBEW PICKETS CON-EDISON POWER PLANT

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 3, is waging a strike against the Consolidated Edison Company at the 39th Street power plant, which involves several years work on a modernization project. Members of Local 3, which has for many years had this kind of work, were denied the job. Instead the work is being done by Consolidated Edison employees.

Local 3 works a six-hour day, a thirty-hour week, and a wage-scale on a two dollar an hour basis.

The Independent Brotherhood, the "union" that the company has formed, works under an eight-hour day, and the wage-scale from seventy cents to \$1.10.

**Compare the difference!**  
There is the answer to the question of discrimination! This is what the workers of Local 3 are fighting for: Decent working hours, a decent living wage.

In commenting on the strike, Van Arsdale, business agent of Local 3, said: "We are hopeful that this strike will awaken the 30,000 employees of the company to the realization that they are paid far below the wage level which the company can well afford."

Here is some information that might be of interest to the Independent Brotherhood members now working on the low wage scale: The assets of the Consolidated Edison Co., in property and

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## CIO Leaders Take Pro-War Stand

### Lewis Wants "Share" In Roosevelt's War Drive

John L. Lewis answered Roosevelt's pro-war moves last week by—lining up with the warmongers.

Scheduled to deliver an anti-war, anti-Roosevelt speech during one of the early sessions of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee convention, meeting in Chicago, May 14-17, he sent a telegram cancelling the speech. For, taking advantage of the latest events in Europe, Roosevelt had begun his war drive, and Lewis was coming to heel.

Lewis then made a scheduled address to the Amalgamated Clothing Workers convention on May 17. That convention was a more appropriate place for Lewis to make the transition back to the Roosevelt war camp. In Chicago he would have been at a convention under the control of his lieutenant, Murray, and his speech would have been a complete somersault. Speaking at the Hillman-controlled convention, in the rapidly pro-Roosevelt atmosphere cooked up by the Amalgamated leadership, he was able to make the transition more "gracefully."

His speech was in stark contrast with the speeches he has made in recent months.

**No Word About Roosevelt**

He made not a single reference to Roosevelt. Gone was the slightest hint of the stand, breaking with Roosevelt, that he had taken so dramatically on January 31 at the United Mine Workers convention and repeated at intervals since.

"As the current year opens the Democratic Party is in default to the American people. After seven years of power, it finds itself without solution for the major questions of unemployment, low national income, mounting internal debt, increasing direct and consumer taxation and restricted foreign markets. There still exists the same national unhappiness that it faced seven years ago. . . . In the Congress the unrestrained baiting and defaming of labor by the Democratic majority has become a pastime, never subject to rebuke by the titular or actual leaders of the party."

That's what Lewis had said on January 31. Last week he had rubbed that out.

On Feb. 1 the United Mine Workers convention had adopted a resolution sharply warning the Roosevelt administration "that labor wants no war . . . and will hold to strict accountability any statesman who departs from this policy." The resolution went on to demand that the government "withhold the lending of any money, or the participation either directly or indirectly in the wars now going on in Europe and Asia."

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### Murray Gives Jingo Tone to SWOC Convention

CHICAGO, May 18—The convention of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee which met in Chicago from May 14 to May 17 revealed startling developments within the steel union. The leadership indicated quite clearly that its purpose and aim was to show the American steel capitalists that the SWOC was a respectable and innocent organization. The stand which they took on such vital issues as the war, the six-hour day, and the Constitutional Convention exposed this dangerous and suicidal trend.

Through its appointed resolutions committee, the leadership forced through a patriotic war resolution which, although it gave lip-service to the anti-war sentiments of the workers, then proceeded to guarantee unconditional support to American imperialism. "Our country right or wrong" was the slogan put forth by the resolution; and in defending that slogan, Philip Murray, S.W.O.C. Chairman, declared that the steel union had to demonstrate its readiness to support the government.

In bold terms, the resolution stated that the S.W.O.C. would support the American government in ANY emergency. While officials gave patriotic speeches in favor of such a resolution, the demands for supporting a popular referendum on war, which was adopted by the 1937 convention, were given the cold-shoulder and the convention was hurriedly pushed on to the next order of business.

**Constitutional Convention 1942**

In order to retard the growing sentiment for a Constitutional Convention, Chairman Murray proposed that such a convention be called in 1942. Nevertheless, a number of lodges insisted that it be called by 1941.

Finally, Murray took the floor himself, made a personal issue of the matter, and with the aid of the reactionary hand-raisers, subdued the opposition.

**Six Hour Day Evaded**

As a solution for unemployment, the leadership proposed a conference of business, labor, farm, and government leaders. No program for establishing the six-hour day was even mentioned. Within the Policy Committee, the six-hour day was declared to be "impractical at the present time." However, a rank-and-file delegate raised the issue from the floor, and a hearty response followed. Delegate after delegate rose to support the six-hour day demand. Once more, Murray himself took the floor, side-tracked the issue, and attempted to dampen the spirit of the rank-and-file delegates. As is the usual case, the matter was finally left up to the S.W.O.C. staff for final action.

**Opposition Growing**

A growing opposition to the policies of the leadership was quite discernible, especially among delegates from large steel plants. Throughout the duration of the convention, the officials were nervous, jittery, and irritable. At the very opening of the first session, Murray warned against caucuses, but the militants paid no heed. Stern measures were taken against the militants, but they showed no signs of being the least bit shaken. As events continue to haunt the leaders, this opposition will continue to grow in influence and effectiveness.

A detailed story and an analysis of the SWOC convention will appear in next week's issue. Don't miss it!

## Behind the Lines

### Roosevelt Seeks to Make Intervention Now Seem More Palatable to Workers

by GEORGE STERN

The blinding "total" war unleashed in Western Europe has not only crushed the lives of hundreds of thousands of men and women countries. It has also brought crumbling down a good many notions about the war in general and the perspectives it offers for the near future. One thing is certain: to the rulers of this country the rumble of Hitler's motorized divisions across the Netherlands, Belgium, and Northern France have for the first time actually opened up the possibility of an Allied defeat. The New York Herald-Tribune last week declared bluntly that American war plans must be made with that contingency primarily in mind.

Thus, instead of envisaging American intervention at the side of the Allies in Europe, the press and politicians are beginning to rearrange their war propaganda to fit the more terrifying prospect of a Nazi conquest of Europe followed eventually by an invasion of the Western hemisphere, probably via South America, with Japan cooperatively attacking in the Pacific. This was the main burden of the case as it was presented by President Roosevelt in his first open war speech to the Congress last Thursday.

Can Hitler actually inflict a military defeat upon the Allies despite their superior economic resources? The answer is probably in the affirmative. It is quite possible to envisage a German victory in this phase of the war. But it remains only the opening phase of the war. Hitler may win his way to the channel and even occupy Paris but it is doubtful whether his knockout blow can

in this single swoop, as Winston Churchill said in his radio speech, destroy armies of millions of men equipped with weapons almost as modern as Germany's. Neither can it destroy the British fleet. To strike at the rest of the Anglo-French empires he will have to have the help of Italy and Japan and will have to fight American imperialism.

These things all still add up to a long, long conflict, a conflict on a vast world scale even larger than the present initial great battles. Blitzkrieg or no blitzkrieg, the perspectives of this war must still be counted in years, not in months or weeks.

That is why the sudden panicky propaganda over here must be regarded primarily as an attempt to make American intervention in the war in Europe seem like a lesser and necessary evil to the American masses.

Roosevelt & Co. may really be worried whether they can carry out this intervention speedily and effectively enough to save the situation once more for the Allies.

But such intervention is the real purpose of the "defense" program, the whipping up of the new "preparedness" drive, and the beginning of the campaign to ram industrial mobilization down the throats of the American workers. First move is the talk of suspending operation of the Walsh-Healey Act and removing existing meager safeguards from wages and hours of workers in the principal industrial lines needed to transform the country into an armed camp.