

WORKERS' FORUM

Write to us—tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about?—tell us what the bosses are up to—and the G-men and the local cops—and the Stalinists—send us that story the capitalist press didn't print and that story they buried or distorted—our pages are open to you. Letters must carry name and address, but indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Urges Appeal Editors To Use Two-Syllable Words, Bury Dictionary

Editor: After reading the November 2 issue of the *Socialist Appeal*, I was struck, as I have been struck before by its scholastic tone. I believe that the *Appeal* should truly be a workers' paper. I would like to ask if the editor thinks that the American workers can fully comprehend, without the aid of Webster (and they probably do not own one) the Ph. D. theses on Lewis' reversal. It is not the editor's job to give the workers a lesson in five-syllable words but rather to speak in their language, not the language of the university. If the editor does not know how the workers talk, let him go out and live among them for a while.

It has been said that since the *Fourth International* only comes once a month, we therefore need theoretical and semi-theoretical articles in the *Appeal* for the more advanced workers. How about letting the more advanced workers hunger for a few weeks while we feed those workers that we are trying to recruit. Save the deserts for the *Fourth* and give us the staples once a week in the *Appeal*.

I remember the series of articles the *Appeal* carried on the auto workers fight. Do you remember—there were common workers' expressions, simple language—language that Detroit and every other working class city could understand. Have those people forgotten how to write?

Let's tie a few knots down on the typewriter. It's about time that we left the school and walked across the tracks.

Houston, Texas

Editor's Reply:

In place of taking away the editor's copy of Webster—where he searches painfully for the five-syllable words he uses—how about crowding out his articles by sending in some workers' stories from your district?

We are sure that all the readers of the *Appeal* would like to hear labor news from Houston, with or without the typewriter keys tied down.

STEEL WORKERS USE "QUICKIE" TACTIC TO WIN

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, Nov. 1.—"Quickie" strikes are being used with telling effect, particularly in the Republic Steel plant here, to enforce settlement of the swelling list of grievances which have been harassing the steel workers.

On October 18, 100 workers in the shipping department of Republic staged a day-and-a-half "quickie" shut-down which brought the company to terms with an assurance of wage increases to be immediately negotiated with the Republic local of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee.

Prior to the shipping department stoppage, over a hundred shippers pulled a three hour halt, returning to work when the management promised wage increases. They threaten to pull another "quickie" if the company does not come through.

These, and a number of other similar actions, are resulting in large gains for the membership of the SWOC in Youngstown, as the steel workers, disastrously defeated in the Little Steel strike in 1937, begin to take courage again and learn that it is possible for them to buck the steel bosses and win.

The "quickie" tactic is spreading to other steel plants. An effective stoppage of this type was pulled by the entire machine shop department of the MacDonald plant of the Carnegie-Illinois Corp. of U. S. Steel several days after the shipping department walk-out in Republic.

The entire striking department confronted the management as a committee of the whole and in a few hours returned to work with their demands for revision of working schedule and ample advance work notification granted.

Job Training Rights Denied Negro Youths

NEW YORK, Nov. 8.—Negroes will have the "honor" of doing the dirtiest and most dangerous tasks in the army, but they are being systematically excluded from work in the war industries. They are even being denied access to the vocational training being ordered by the National Defense Commission.

State and local administrators of the "national defense" vocational training courses in Alabama, for instance, are refusing outright to permit Negroes to take such training. They argue that the industrial plants in the local communities do not hire colored workers.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has lodged a protest against this policy with the U. S. Office of Education.

Negro Appointed To Higher Rank In Armed Forces

ALBANY, N. Y., Nov. 8.—In a gesture intended to cover up the Jim-Crow policies in the armed forces, Governor Lehman today promoted Lieut. Chauncey M. Hooper, New York City, to command of the 369th Coast Artillery, Negro regiment of the New York National Guard.

Hooper, an attorney who was a delegate to the 1939 State Constitutional Convention, is the first Negro to gain command over a major unit in the state military.

This isolated move corresponds to the pre-election gesture of Roosevelt in belatedly appointing another Negro, Colonel Benjamin Davis, to the rank of brigadier-general. Davis had been ignored at the time when scores of white colonels had been promoted. But the possibility of losing Negro votes after the Administration had openly declared its intention of maintaining its traditional policy of segregation of Negroes in all branches of the armed service, led the president to this last minute move. Davis is to be retired in a few months anyway.

Rapid Expansion of Army Follows Draft Lottery

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8.—The nation's land forces will be expanded to 1,000,000 men within the next four months, according to plans just announced by the War Dept. In order to facilitate the training of such a huge force within a shorter period than had been announced prior to the elections, the new recruits will be sandwiched into regular Army and National Guard units.

Speeding up of the draft program following the elections is natural. Up to the present, the press has been playing up the angle that not so many of the

Police Raid Office Seize Trotskyist Literature

Police raided the home and law office of John Royston Wishart in Sidney, according to reports in the Australian press, and seized a quantity of anti-war leaflets addressed to soldiers, and other documents including one purported to be an organizational report of the Communist League of Australia, section of the Fourth International.

The leaflet beginning "Revolutionary Greetings" was distributed to soldiers during a march through the city, according to the press report.

In the raid, declared detectives, they found five copies of a document headed "To the Soldiers of the Second A.I.F." in Wishart's office, and nine more in the room in which he lived. Three copies of one headed "This Imperialist War" were found at the office and four more in his room, they said.

The raid was made just prior to the Australian elections.

A.L.P. Doubles Vote of 1936 In New York

Since 1936, the American Labor Party has nearly doubled its strength in the state of New York election returns indicate.

With 33 districts still to report, the party received 422,656 votes as compared with 274,924 four years ago.

The vote is significant despite the fact that all the ballots cast for the ALP went to Roosevelt, since the same fact held true in 1936.

The vote for the Socialist Party in the state of New York declined to less than one fourth of what it received in 1936, Norman Thomas obtaining only 20,114. According to the New York election law a party must receive a minority of 50,000 votes to remain on the ballot for the subsequent election. The Communist Party was barred by an arbitrary ruling of the courts.

MASSES FAVOR CONSCRIPTION POLL SHOWS

There is a "growing sentiment in favor of compulsory military training," according to a survey made public on November 10 by Dr. George Gallup, director of the American Institute of Public Opinion.

"By the end of August," he declares, "the institute found seventy-one persons in every hundred in favor of a program that would give a year's military training to selected young men in their twenties and early thirties."

"The surveys found little difference in the views of Democrats and Republicans—of men or of women. While President Roosevelt may have lost votes to some extent on this issue, it is certain that by far the largest part of the public—in both political camps—had come to view conscription as a national necessity."

The report of the Gallup institute bears out the analysis made by the Socialist Workers Party some time ago, that mass sentiment in the United States favors conscription.

The effect of the war upon the voting is also indicated by the latest figures of a poll taken on the eve of the election:

Believe Roosevelt would do best job of strengthening national defense . . . 61%
Believe Willkie would do best job . . . 39%
Prefer Roosevelt in Event

draft registrants will be taken right away. The Administration prefers to slip the bad news to the draftees piece-meal, especially those who will be leaving civilian jobs for the \$21 per month army pay, or have dependents.

Draft registrants are in for a shock if they think the draft is not going to move along with lightning speed from now on.

The campaign to play down the imminence and scope of the draft is part of the general propaganda campaign to present the notoriously harsh life in the army in a pleasant aspect.

of War . . . 60%
Prefer Willkie in Event of War . . . 40%
Inasmuch as Roosevelt received only 54.5 percent of the vote despite the war issue, it is clear that he would never have gained his third term if the war had not entered as a factor, obscuring the unrest and dissatisfaction among the workers and farmers over unemployment, low wages, long hours, low prices for farm products—the general impasse of capitalism in its death agony.

We Love Our Boss

EL PASO, Tex., 8.—Seven out of seventeen employees of J. T. Guynes, owner of a printing company, who was ordered by the U. S. Department of Labor to pay his employees \$2,060.78 in back wages, refused their checks on the grounds they considered themselves paid in full.

COME ONE! COME ALL

The Fair has closed, but you can come to the

Boro Park Social
FOR A LIVELY EVENING OF FUN!

Refreshments, Drinks, Dancing, Games, Entertainment

Grand Opening!

3623 15 Ave. B'klyn 25c

Bad Health Has Army Worried

Now that they are ready to start the slaughter, the capitalist class and its medical flunkies are getting very solicitous of our health. Witness:

1. A National Committee to Conserve Manpower in the Defense Industries, made up of 24 volunteers operating as special agents of the U. S. Department of Labor, has been set up to devise systems designed to prevent industrial accidents and to "watch the safety and health" of workers in war industry.

2. The American Medical Association has set up a National Committee on Preparedness to watch the health of workers, especially women, drawn freshly into war work. This body will carry on research in occupational diseases and industrial poisons and increase health and safety education.

3. The mayor of New York City and the governor of New York have appealed to the American Medical Association for lists of physicians with a "broad community view" to serve with draft boards as members of the board rather than as physicians.

4. The U. S. Army is watching with interest British experiments in fortifying margarine with Vitamin B-1. (Why not give the British workers butter for a change?) "Our British cousins" have found that the diet they have been allowing their workers induces "moodiness, sluggishness, indifference, mental and physical fatigue and wear." Which seems to be all right in peace times when the worst an individual worker might do is commit suicide. But in a

war it's something else again. No stamina, determination or hope mean no resistance to the invader. Hence the spiking of the margarine.

The whole business is brought right home to our doorstep by a report of the Department of Agriculture which "views with alarm" the fact that American diets are as deficient in B-1 as the British. The unemployed here may expect an injection of B-1 any day now to hold them together for the war. The tip-off comes in the statement that this is done "to enable citizens to keep up despite lower rations."

5. Doctors and public health bodies are urged to devote themselves with increased energy to the study of social hygiene.

With this embarrassing increase of attention, those of us who are left after the war ought to be in pretty good shape for the revolution.

Natalia Trotsky Greeted on Nov. 7

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—A Twin City membership meeting gathered on November 7th to honor the twenty-third anniversary of the Russian revolution. By unanimous vote the membership sent the following message to Natalia Trotsky:

"With great pride, love and gratitude we greet you today on the anniversary of October."

Draftee Jobs Guaranteed Draft Head Alleges

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 8.—Draft Director Dykstra today ruled that men who enlisted voluntarily for service in the armed forces are entitled to "the same job protection as those who are drafted."

As a result of the tremendous disillusionment of the returning soldiers of the last world war who found their jobs gone, and the resultant scandal, the government has found it necessary to make a pretence of safeguarding the civilian jobs of drafted and enlisted men.

"The same job protection as

those who are drafted," however, gives enlisted men little encouragement. According to the actual wording of the Selective Service Act, employers must reinstate a drafted employee upon his return from army duty to his old job, if application is made within 60 days, "unless the employer's circumstances have so changed as to make it impossible or unreasonable to do so."

And what employer will consider it "reasonable" to re-employ a soldier during the tremendous economic collapse which will follow the present war, as after the last?

Soldiers at Fort Dix Gain Rise in Their Wages

FORT DIX, N. J., Nov. 7.—As a result of the open protest of the ranks of the 44th Division, in training here, when they received their first pay-checks several weeks ago and discovered only \$21 instead of \$30 as promised, an official memorandum has just been issued granting them base pay of \$30 a month.

As reported in the *Appeal* of several issues ago, what amounted to an open demonstration by a group of recruits from the New York area was conducted before newspaper correspondents. The

officers and the daily press were unable to suppress the fact that the men were being outrageously over-charged for laundry and other expenses, and that their dependents at home in a number of instances were being cut off relief.

The raising of the pay in this instance demonstrates the concern of the army heads against the idea spreading just prior to the beginning of the general draft, of the actual conditions prevailing in the armed forces.

Latin American Notes

Despite extraordinary material difficulties due to the indescribable poverty of the masses in Cuba, the Revolutionary Workers Party, Cuban section of the Fourth International, is meeting fifth encouraging gains according to a report just received from Cuba.

The influence of Stalinism has declined precipitously in Cuba. In the period between the Constitutional Assembly elections and the recent general elections, the Stalinists lost 25 percent of their voting strength.

This decline is largely due to the treacherous collaboration of the Stalinists with representatives of American imperialism and the native ruling class. They are supporters of President Batista, butcher of the Cuban workers.

Some time ago a large group of working class revolutionists broke from the Masonic reformist Socialist Party of Chile and joined the ranks of the Fourth International, giving a considerable spurt to the growth of our movement in Chile.

Lucha Sindical (Trade Union Struggle), official organ of the progressive group in one of the largest locals of the Chilean railway unions, lauds Trotsky's great contributions to the world working class, condemns his assassination by Stalin, and warns that Stalin may now try to do away with Trotsky's widow, Natalia Sedoff Trotsky.

From Argentina a comrade reports: "The Trotskyist movement is already born. It is here to stay and will go ahead. For the first time in its history it has recruited trade union elements into its ranks, workers who go out and distribute our literature widely and it has finally been released from its shell of isolation."

The Workers Metallurgical Union of La Plata, Argentina, in a strongly worded resolution expressed its sorrow over the assassination of Leon Trotsky and placed the responsibility for the murder squarely on the doorstep of Stalin.

The resolution calls on all workers' organizations to cleanse their ranks of the Stalinist "paid agents, counter-revolutionary curs and ambush assassins."

TRADE UNION NOTES

by Farrell Dobbs

On November 18, the CIO convention will open at Atlantic City. The AFL gathering will convene on the same date at New Orleans. The main issue before both bodies is the question of the renewal of unity negotiations with strong pressure for unity coming from the White House.

Now that the Third Term election is out of the way, Roosevelt is moving more swiftly than ever toward war. Therefore,

complete regimentation of the trade union movement has become more imperative to him. The main instrument for this job of regimentation is the patriotic trade union officialdom.

However, the conflict between the AFL and the CIO creates conditions which are dangerous to Roosevelt's war program. He must have a maximum of harmony among the class-collaborationist trade union leaders. Hence the strong pressure for the unification of the AFL and the CIO.

COCKY ATTITUDE OF AFL

The AFL approaches the negotiations with a cocky attitude. The Executive Council feels that the craft unionists are in a very strong position. George Meany reports a current AFL membership of four and one-quarter millions. This is an increase of 50 percent over the membership figure after the CIO was suspended. While the Executive Council, through Green, officially proclaimed "neutrality" in the presidential election, a big majority of the AFL officials supported Roosevelt. This, they feel, gives them an edge over the CIO at the White House because of Lewis' support of Willkie. They add to these factors the internal conflict now raging within the CIO which cannot help but weaken it in the unity negotiations.

CIO IN TURMOIL

The CIO, on the other hand, is in great turmoil. A realignment is taking place in the leadership, a section of which has come out strong for unity with the apparent intention of deserting the CIO if the impending unity negotiations break down. It is clear that Lewis lost much of his influence by supporting Willkie. This weakened him in the CIO, not only among the Roosevelt supporters, but also among the many CIO workers who agreed with his criticism of Roosevelt and hoped against hope that he would declare for an independent labor party. Lewis' threat to resign, however, gave the rabidly pro-Roosevelt Hillmanites just what they needed.

The Hillman forces have been moving rapidly in the direction of labor unity "in the interests of the national defense" and at whatever cost to the industrial union movement. They now demand the elimination of Lewis under a threat to bolt the CIO. What they really mean is that they will bolt unless the CIO makes peace with the AFL regardless of the terms. The attack on Lewis is mainly a cover for this policy. If Lewis does resign and unity does not follow, Hillman and Company will more than likely leave the CIO anyway and follow Dubinsky into the AFL.

The prestige which Lewis has lost in his own union, the miners, creates a new situation in his personal machine. His principal lieutenants did not follow him into the Willkie camp. Instead, they continued in support of Roosevelt. While some emphasized that they were also for Lewis, the fact remains that they did not follow his political line. It was only second string men who went over to Willkie along with Lewis.

The Stalinist-inspired "draft Lewis" movement has found very little echo among the Lewis machine men or for that matter in any union not Stalinist dominated. Instead, the Lewis men are quietly making their preparations for the CIO convention with an ear to the ground to see what Lewis is going to do. It is doubtful that there is anyone among them who considers himself strong enough, even under the new conditions, to fight the "chief." If Lewis decides to fight to hold the CIO presidency, he will probably retain the support of most of his personal followers.

LEWIS LOST PRESTIGE

It is most likely, however, that he will withdraw. If so, Phillip Murray is the most probable successor. Hillman could find Murray acceptable, provided that he negotiates unity with the AFL. Murray, as CIO president, would continue to lean heavily upon Lewis who would, therefore, in a large degree remain the actual "chief."

LEWIS WITHDRAWAL LIKELY

The Stalinist backing of Lewis is predicated on their hopes to retain the special position in the CIO which Lewis has accorded

them and his opposition to Roosevelt's foreign policy.

ROOSEVELT PRESSURE

The CIO unions go to Atlantic City fighting with their backs to the wall to preserve their industrial form of organization. The Roosevelt administration is bringing strong pressure to force unity. The AFL, still basically a craft union organization, is very confident of its strength and will attempt to drive a hard bargain. The CIO is weakened by internal conflict. There is grave danger of a capitulation on some of the basic premises of industrial unionism. There is almost the certainty of a split in the CIO if the AFL terms are found unacceptable and refused by a majority of the CIO.

LEADERSHIP PREVENTED UNITY

The evil fruits of machine domination in the trade unions have fallen upon both the AFL and the CIO workers throughout the entire period of the split. Cowardly leadership, uncontrolled by the workers, has frequently capitulated before the pressure of the bosses, thus depriving the workers of the gains that they could have made through their unions. With the mass of the workers, both AFL and CIO, prepared to establish unity on a fair and proper basis, this uncontrolled leadership has arbitrarily stood in the way of labor peace. Now, under pressure from the War Deal, these same officials place the hard-earned gains of the workers in great jeopardy by putting the industrial unions on the block in a head-long rush towards unity.

These are the evils of the wide gap between the top leadership and the membership in both the AFL and the CIO. The AFL workers, who do not desire the decimation of the unions of the mass production workers, will have little voice in deciding the AFL terms. The CIO workers on their part are placed in double jeopardy by the crisis in the CIO leadership. Here then is a situation which may provide the impetus for a rank and file uprising to reduce this terrible gap between leaders and members and restore the policy-making powers of the trade unions to the membership where they rightfully belong.

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UNITY WITH GUARANTEES

The industrial unions are composed of the most exploited layers of the industrial proletariat, the most militant sections of the trade union movement—the auto workers, miners, steel workers, rubber workers, etc. The mass production workers know what will happen to them if they lose their industrial unions. The AFL workers also realize that if the industrial unions are weakened this will be the signal for an anti-union drive by their employers as well.

The workers want unity, the complete unification of the labor movement—AFL, CIO and the Railroad Brotherhoods. But unity must come only on the basis of full guarantees for the preservation and extension of the industrial union method of organization.

STEEL PROFITS SOAR

War—it's wonderful!
The *New York Times* reported in last Sunday's financial section, "The profits of twenty-eight steel companies for the first 9 months of 1940 were \$169,919,408, compared with \$54,606,254 in the same period in 1939, despite the fact that tax appropriations for the current year were virtually double those in the comparable period. The increase amounts to 211 percent for the nine months. If a similar rate of gain were possible in the final quarter of 1940, earnings for the full year eclipse the record profits established by the industry in 1929."

In a morbid after thought the *Times* adds that it may be a little tough holding on to the rate of gain for the last quarter due to further tax increases; but ends up on the understatement of the week, "Nevertheless, the steel results are not discouraging." Chins up, lads! Let's not let a 211 percent profit gain get us down!

MARXIST SCHOOL

Lectures for the Coming Week

Dialectical Materialism and Natural Science
Monday 7:10 to 8:40
Lecturer: William F. Warde

The Revolutionary Fight Against Fascism
Monday 8:50 to 10:20
Lecturer: Felix Morrow

The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Rise of Fascism
Tuesday 7:10 to 8:40
Lecturer: Murry Weiss

Trade Unions and Transitional Demands
Tuesday 8:50 to 10:20
Lecturer: Farrell Dobbs

To be held at IRVING PLAZA
Irving Place and 15th St.
New York City