

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.

Amazing People! Their Only Consistency Is To Be Consistently Bad

Editor: Last week I was handed the November 4 issue of *Labor Action* the organ of the Workers Party. Being interested in the working class movement I read the paper to find out what they had to offer to the working class. From its confusing and jumbled pages I managed to gather at least one gem that I thought should be brought to your attention. On the top of page 1 in an article by Shachtman called "Concept the War Industries Under Workers Control" I read: "Let us proceed with the bosses in the army the same as we proceed in the factory . . . In the factory they put their superintendents and

managers over us, in the army they put their men over us as officers. In fact some of these same factory superintendents and managers become officers in the army. Big business and the imperialist army are tied together." That sounded pretty good to me until I read a lengthy criticism of the military policy of the Socialist Workers Party by that same confused author in the same issue of the paper. After having Trotsky repudiate Trotsky, Shachtman on page 2 repudiates Shachtman of page 1 as follows: "Cannon with vulgar disregard for Marxist theory, compares the army with a factory, a political with an economic institution."

What amazing people! The only consistency that their paper shows is that it is consistently bad. With warm greetings,

W. Z.

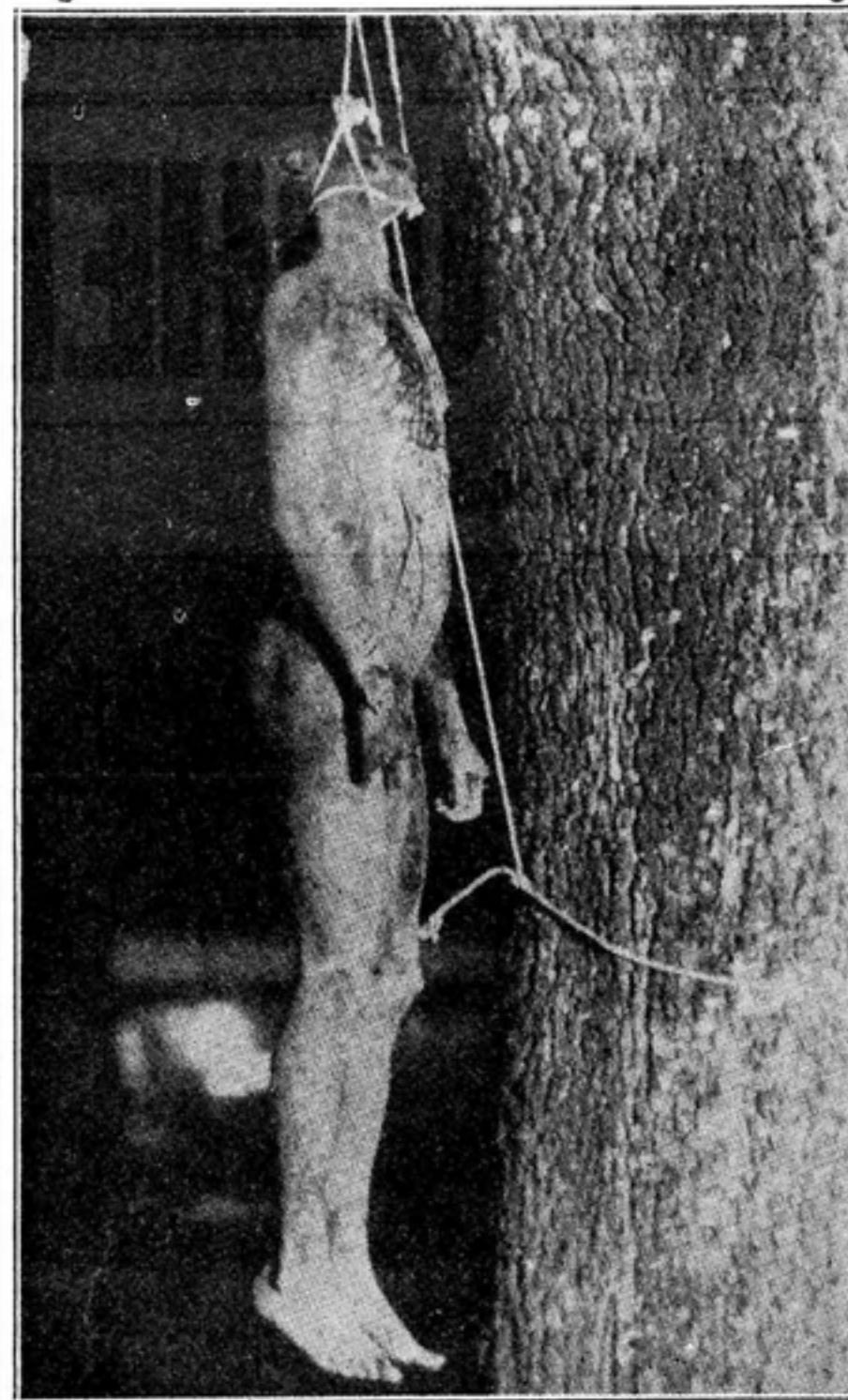
WASHINGTON, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor is now at its all-time membership high, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany reports in the November issue of the American Federationist.

The combined enrollment of all unions affiliated with the A. F. of L., on the basis of per capita tax payments, stands at 4,247,443. This figure is almost 50 per cent above the membership three years ago, when the total was 2,860,933.

A. G. Ruthven, president of the University of Michigan recently invited faculty members who "permit indiscriminate criticism of democratic government" to resign. The learned president declared, ". . . Professors should rid themselves of the notion that romanticism, sentimentalism and indiscriminate tolerance are essential constituents of democracy." And just what is *discriminate* tolerance, Herr Professor?

Maritime Unions Sign Agreement

"National Unity"



The above is a picture of Claude Neal after he had been lynched. Note mutilation of Neal's chest and thighs. Note also how fingers have been cut from hands as "souvenirs." After this picture was taken toes were cut from the feet, also as "souvenirs."

Stalinist Influence Disrupts United Labor Front

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 11.—The one-month old steam schooner strike today approached settlement. The Marine Firemen, the union first to declare the strike, has just accepted a compromise proposal in coastwise balloting. The Marine Cooks and Stewards and the Engineers are now also considering a plan for an agreement.

The proposal voted on by the firemen is a counter-offer to one made by the shipowners for a monthly wage increase of \$7.50. The firemen's terms include a \$5.00 monthly wage increase, 10 cents an hour for overtime and Saturday afternoon off while in port. The shipowners are expected to accept this proposal or some modified version of it.

The schooner strike will end as it began—with the maritime crafts disunited. The firemen, cooks and stewards and engineers will each sign their separate agreements. The Sailors Union of the Pacific with the most men involved is not on strike but will probably return with the best agreement it can get under bad circumstances.

Responsibility for failure to cement a common front rests squarely with the Stalinist elements in control or influential in the firemen, cooks and stewards who in turn have been cooperating closely with Harry Bridges. On two distinct occasions—before the strike began and recently—the Sailors Union urged the other unions to cooperate. In the last issue of the *West Coast Sailors*, fifteen rank and file seamen voicing the sentiment of the overwhelming majority of their brothers addressed the following open letter to members of the MFOW:

SUP PROPOSES UNITY
"Last week the Sailors' Union steamship negotiatory committee proposed to other maritime unions that a joint policy be worked out among all unions involved. The substance of the SUP proposal was as follows:
1. That the SUP, MFOW, MMP and MEBA pool their efforts to secure new agreement on the steamships.
2. That no union or unions

return to work until all unions secure new agreements satisfactory to their own membership.

"3. That no official, union or unions submit any point in dispute, on steamships to arbitration of any type or form.

"What is wrong with this set of proposals?
"What other kind of unity is there?
"How else can we win a strike that involves all of us?
"We restate these principles and address these questions to you because we believe it is necessary for the rank and file of all maritime unions to cut through the barrage of official attacks and counter-attacks.

"We believe that unity of all maritime unions can be re-established by the rank and file on the basis of a clearly defined program. "The program offered here has been called phoney."
"What is phoney about it? It is simply a statement of policy!"
"If the membership of the Sailors' Union and the Marine Firemen agree on this program to unite our forces, it will be much clearer for us in the near future who among our officials is phoney."

STALINISTS SILENT
No answer was forthcoming from the Stalinists who control publicity in the Maritime Federation or from officials of the firemen's union to this eminently correct proposal.

There is no question now that the Stalinists did not want a united front with the SUP. After years of trailing behind the sailors union which carried the brunt of the struggle in winning conditions for the seagoing crafts, the Stalinists saw an opportunity to mend their falling fortunes by snatching a small wage increase for the crafts they influence or control without the help of the SUP.

But even here their calculations went awry. While they will win slight gains, the maritime workers on the steamships must pay for them by a month's idleness and a far worse agreement than could have been obtained had unity been established.

Join the Socialist Workers Party

Hunting Season in Michigan Brings Crisis in Auto

By JULES GELLER
FLINT, Mich., Nov. 15.—The hunting season opened today in Michigan and brought about severe crisis in the auto industry.

First of all Charles Weatherald, GM Board Member in charge of Chevrolet manufacturing at \$300,000 a year, was caught red-handed on the multi-millionaire Fisher estate with 81 ducks (which he claims he hit with his own little gun) and is facing a heavy fine and a possible jail sentence for being too greedy and exceeding the limit.

Usually well-informed sources close to Wall Street and the Duponts say that Weatherald's salary will be cut to \$200,000 a year as penalty for his hunting escapade which brought such bad publicity to General Motors, whose executives don't usually get caught poaching.

At the Fisher Body No. 2 plant in Flint a shutdown occurred today totally stopping production and resulting in the shutdown of Chevrolet assembly plants when almost the entire plant took their guns and went out to bag a deer.

Fisher No. 1 also was seriously affected by the mass migration to the North woods and a production crisis gripped this entire city. Since this enthusiastic hunting curtails production for "national defense" it is expected a law will soon be passed to forbid workers from hunting anything but German or Japanese workers and other animals on whom Wall Street has declared open season.

ever they say or do to us is above reproach as far as they are concerned."

Barred from Officer Posts

In the South a Negro is never permitted to rise to any high post in the community or in the government.
In the Navy a Negro, contrary to popular belief, cannot be a petty officer or chief petty officer. According to the *Crisis* article quoted above:

"The highest rank that can be obtained is officers' cook or steward, and even though a steward, one is still looked upon as a mess attendant. . . . After all, he is a mess attendant. Just a mess attendant. Or shall we say 'officer's boy.' . . ."

No Voice Whatsoever

In the South it is the practise to deny the Negro the right to participate in elections, and in general to permit no voice in making the laws or determining the conditions of the community.

In the Navy too the Negro has no voice, can't protest, has no right to ask for a change in conditions, has to obey laws in the making of which he has no part.

"We have no side to our story, and if we have it, it doesn't do any good anyway, so we just keep our mouths shut," say the Sampson sailors.

In the South the Negro is denied his rights by a system of brutal terrorism, lynching and violence, and jail sentences on the chain gang.
In the Navy the Negro is denied his rights by a system of imprisonments-at-large, court martials and jail sentences at hard labor.

"Only in the Balcony"

Even in the North the Negro is restricted and discriminated against socially. In most cities he is barred from restaurants, from "white" dance halls, and from seats in theaters except the balcony. It goes without saying that the Negro's treatment in this sense is much worse in the South.

"Time to do Something About It"
In the Navy too the Negro is restricted and discriminated against socially.
"In our Naval churches—both Protestant and Catholic—discrimination is openly practised. When conditions are so bad

TRADE UNION NOTES

by Farrell Dobbs

The membership of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, CIO, is increasing at a rapid rate with the present figure the largest since the defeat in Little Steel. This organization presents an imposing structure in an important basic industry, but it is a union of unknown strength which has not been thoroughly tested in struggle.

Its main contracts—U.S. Steel, etc.—have been obtained without a fight. The strike in Little Steel was poorly led and did not put the union to a decisive test of its strength. The main strategy of the strike was dependence on governmental agencies. The official leadership of the SWOC, learning little from this defeat, has continued to base its key policy on the hope of assistance from the government.

CLOSE TO 1929 PEAK
The rise in membership of the SWOC is due in part to increased production and the resultant pick-up in employment. Steel output is now close to the 1929 peak and there is a big backlog of orders. Another important factor which is swelling the ranks of the SWOC is the rise in militancy among the workers.

There have been an increasing number of stoppages involving crews, whole departments and occasionally an entire plant. A recent job action at the Lackawanna (Bethlehem) plant in Buffalo is a typical example of this new militancy. A furnace crew sent a committee in to see the management on a grievance. The demands of the crew were refused and the committee was given fifteen minutes to get back on the job—or else.

SPREAD LIKE WILD FIRE
When the committee reported back to the crew, the news of the management's attitude spread like wildfire among the men and before the fifteen minute deadline had elapsed the entire department of more than 600 men had walked out of the plant. The company officials waited a while for the workers to send in a committee. When this was not done, the bosses soon came out on the street to innocently ask what was wrong. They were told in plain language and it took only a few minutes to straighten out the grievance which the management had refused even to discuss a short time before.

SYMPOMATIC ACTION
These militant actions are symptomatic and they are increasing in size and number. But the trend is only just developing; it has not yet reached into all the corners of the industry. Some workers take comfort from the feeling that there is plenty of work. They remember the past periods of heavy unemployment but try to kid themselves into thinking that this boom will last. They ignore the fact that it is based on preparations for war and not of any improvement in the internal economy of the country. They close their eyes to the dangers of the mountain of grievances that is piling up, especially the violations of the 40 hour week. Other workers are much disturbed over the increasing arrogance of the corporations but hesitate to act because of lack of confidence in the SWOC leadership.

TRIED CURBING ACTION
Prior to the last few weeks, the SWOC officialdom sought to curb "unauthorized" job actions by the steel workers. They sometimes used quite drastic methods to do this. However, the sweeping changes in the whole situation in

that people who say they are believers of God are choicy about who sits next to them, then it is time that we pray and start to do something about it," say the Sampson men.

And:
"On smaller ships in the Navy, the mess boys really do not have a place to eat their food properly. He either has to stand up or sit down on the deck to eat, while the rest of the crew have designated tables, where they may sit, talk, properly masticate and enjoy their food."

The *Crisis* article reports that at the Norfolk training station when dances and special functions are held on board ship, white sailors may bring their girl friends, Negroes may not.

Navy Secretary "Regrets"
For the South there are the 14th and 15th Amendments which are supposed to protect the rights of Negroes, but of course the Bourbon authorities make no pretense of abiding by them.

For the Navy too there is an amendment to the Selective Service Act which prohibits discrimination against drafted or enlisted men in the armed forces because of race or color. Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox announced before it was passed that he regrets the situation but Negroes can be accepted in the Navy only as mess attendants. After its passage, he said he was still sympathetic, but the problem was "insoluble" meaning that things would continue as they had been going.

Add it all up and what does it come to?
In the name of "war for democracy and freedom and equality" the ruling class of this country is asking the Negro to go down to the sea in ships and offer up his life under exactly the same conditions that prevail in that part of the country where the Negro is most systematically denied democracy and freedom and equality!

PROBLEM OF LEADERSHIP
A growing section of the SWOC membership is beginning to realize the impossibility of the present official policy. The demand is spreading: "All union officials off the so-called National Defense Committee."

The first responsibility of the union leadership is to fight for the rights of the membership. All possible pressure should be brought upon the government to enforce labor legislation, but the SWOC cannot rely upon the government to get union contracts from the steel corporations. The first and most reliable weapon in this fight is trade union action.

An ever-larger number of the steel workers are becoming aware of this fact. The main problem today is one of leadership.

Soldiers Must Buy New Uniforms Out of \$21 Pay

By Special Correspondent
FORT DIX, N. J.—With winter coming on, the self-styled "fugitives from the draft" here are faced with serious lack of clothing and adequate shelter.

Many of the boys complain about the lack of underwear. While it is washed, they must do without it.

Another source of irritation among the men is the Army regulation which requires them to

clean and repair their uniforms at their own expense. Frequently they are ordered out to drill in deep mud and to run through brambles. For a man getting only \$21 a month it is a serious problem to replace a uniform ruined in drill. Officers are seldom seen dirtying their uniforms in such drills.

The men are beginning to formulate a demand that the Army provide repairs and new uniforms when necessary.

Clerks and Butchers Win By United Strike Action

TRENTON, N. J.—Featured by the solidarity of the different AFL unions involved, the month-long strike against the A & P stores and the American stores in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland is nearing the end with a satisfactory union contract in the offing.

Though a settlement between the companies and the Butchers Union had been reached several weeks ago, the Butchers refused to recognize the agreement as effective until the Retail Clerks had

won their demands. The Clerks originally walked out in sympathy with the Butchers. When their own contract expired, they presented demands for an increase in pay, two weeks vacation, and a reduction in hours from 51 to 48.

Since the strike began, members of both unions have been picketing side by side in front of the principal stores and with the cooperation of the Teamsters Union have kept 1100 stores shut down.

Judges Arrest Judges In Election Fraud Cases

JERSEY CITY, N. J.—The judges are hounding each other for a change instead of workers. This pleasant spectacle is an aftermath to the squabble between Republicans and the Hague Democrats for control of New Jersey politics.

It all began when the Republican State legislature created special courts for Hudson County to take jurisdiction over election fraud charges away from the Hague machine's judges. Hague wouldn't allow the Republican to take control of the courts and the election in such easy fashion and so instructed his cops not to recognize the new courts.

When a Republican ward-heeler was arrested on a charge of permitting several score persons to register for the elections from his two-family house, he was hauled before a Hague judge who promptly decided to hold the prisoner for the Hudson County Grand Jury. Out on bail, the Republican promptly rushed to a Republican appointed judge from whom he got a warrant for false arrest against the Hague judge.

Hague got wind of the Republican move and countered by having another of the judges arrest the Republican judge.

If this keeps up, all the judges will soon be behind bars—as the old saying goes, it takes a thief to catch a thief.

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Captain Laughs at Idea Men Freeze in Tents

By Special Correspondent
WINTHROP, Mass., Nov. 9.—The National Guard detachments encamped here at Fort Heath are learning first hand about officers' efficiency and consideration for the men.

Fort Heath is on a promontory which juts out into the Atlantic ocean. With the northeast wind already sweeping down from the North Atlantic, the men are still sleeping in tents.

In a press interview, Capt. Ed-

ward B. Gallant, in private life a lawyer who is now post commandant "laughed at the suggestion that his men might be cold at night. Snug as bugs in a rug," he said.

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Tin Gods With a Whip

Richard C. Watts, Donald Moran and William Seabrook, three Negro sailors on the U. S. S. Sampson, offer additional evidence in their letter in the *Courier*, November 9:

"We are subjected to being roughly spoken to three-fourths of the time, cursed at sometimes, without even a murmur of resentment coming from us. In case of resentment, we are put on report, restricted, fined or sent to the brig for being insubordinate to a superior officer, etc. . . ."

"Wherever we turn we hear the words, 'Don't do this,' or 'Don't do that,' or 'you don't get liberty for a week.' We are not wanted to talk to each other when an officer is around, and in general, an officer is to be treated as though he were a god or king. . . ."

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