

# 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.

## Thinks We Don't Realize Importance Of Italian Events

Editor:

The article on Italy appearing in the Socialist Appeal of Dec. 14, 1940, belittles the significance of the collapse of Italy's imperialist armed forces. Not only did the attack on Greece fail miserably, but Italian imperialism now faces the loss of Albania and her African empire. The collapsing imperialist power of Italy, due entirely to the defeatism of the masses, puts on the order of the day the overthrow of the regime and the fight for the socialist revolution.

The defeatism of the Italian soldier masses explains the victory of the Greek armies over a numerically and technically superior foe. The English recognized this (the Appeal did not), and launched a hastily prepared and successful offensive in Egypt. The regime of Mussolini and Co. proceeded to change the general staffs and purge the bureaucracy; Gayda raised the cry of "Fifth Column inspired by the British," not only against the masses but against opponents among the ruling stratum itself. The further development of this tendency of disintegration of the summits of Italian society is inevitable and can only result in collapse of the regime—a regime which can neither satisfy the needs of the masses nor the desires of the imperialist capitalists. The mass basis of the heretofore imposing regime of Mussolini is crumbling.

Even if Hitler should come to the aid of his ally, bolstering up the Italian imperialism, it would offer the Italian regime not more than a short respite. To be effective, the German ally must take over the entire military burden of Italian imperialism: primarily because the Italian army will not fight; secondly because the Germans will soon be infected with the virus of "Italian defeatism." Even should the Germans take over the entire job of fighting the English in Africa, can one conceive of German imperialism turning back to Italy the colonies she has to defend from the English with German armies?

In your treatment of the de-

velopments of the Greco-Italian war you have not seriously considered the nature of the Italian military collapse. In my opinion the fascist regime is just waiting for the proletarian undertaker. He is not very far off.

If you consider the estimation of the situation as expressed in the Appeal a correct one you will yet have to analyze the character of the defeatist moods of the masses, the split among the ruling stratum of the Italian bureaucracy and you will have to state the direction in which events are moving. I consider the coming Italian revolution as inevitable in the very near future; its realization will fundamentally alter the entire direction of the antagonistic social currents of world history if it can survive the combined assaults it will face from Germany, Britain, and the rest of the capitalist world.

Detroit, Mich.

RAYMOND RICE

(The article of which Raymond Rice complains was George Stern's column, "On the War Fronts," which that week limited itself mainly to raising the question: "How far will or can Hitler let his Axis partner slip down into the bog of military reverses which is rapidly engulfing the Italian military machine?" He concluded Hitler would have to move soon.

After giving a number of signs of "an astonishingly wide fissure in the Italian totalitarian facade," Comrade Stern said: "One cannot yet by far deduce from these signs that Italy is close to a complete breakdown. But they do show how quickly reverses in the field can expose the internal weaknesses of a totalitarian regime." The role in these reverses of the revolutionary defeatism of the Italian masses has been dealt with by the APPEAL in previous articles and again in an article in this issue. We confess, however, that unlike our complaining correspondent we aren't ready to set the date for the Italian revolution, now as always; that however, doesn't blind us to the fact that Italian imperialism has not yet shot its last bolt, and may temporarily be extricated from its difficulties by German intervention.—EDITORS.)

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## TROTSKY MEMORIAL FUND

Payments made this week are as follows:

Chicago & Indiana Harbor	\$40.00
Pittsburgh	1.00
Flint	39.00
Minneapolis & St. Paul	100.00
New York	25.00
Texas	5.00
Newark	26.50
Buffalo	3.00
Reading	5.00
New Haven	2.00
San Diego	8.50
Allentown	2.00

TOTAL

\$257.00

Branch	Quota	Amount paid	%
BOSTON	\$ 100.00	\$ 131.00	131%
PORTLAND	10.00	10.50	105
TOLEDO	50.00	51.00	102
Pittsburgh	10.00	10.00	100
Allentown	15.00	15.00	100
Chicago & Indiana Harbor	200.00	200.00	100
Milwaukee	5.10	5.10	100
Reading	5.00	5.00	100
Baltimore	10.00	10.00	100
San Diego	8.50	8.50	100
Rockville	7.00	7.00	100
Texas	5.00	5.00	100
Detroit	200.00	200.00	100
Newark	150.00	150.00	100
Hutchinson	10.00	10.00	100
St. Louis	5.00	5.00	100
Flint	150.00	138.00	92
San Francisco	100.00	85.00	85
Lynn	100.00	85.00	85
Los Angeles	150.00	123.70	82
New Haven	20.00	16.00	80
Buffalo	25.00	19.15	77
Rochester	15.00	10.00	67
Minneapolis & St. Paul	1000.00	630.00	63
Philadelphia	30.00	19.00	63
New York	1000.00	556.00	56
Quakertown	7.00	2.50	36
Akron	10.00	3.00	30
Youngstown	50.00	6.00	12
Cleveland	70.00	0.00	00
Individual Contributions		2.30	
TOTALS	\$3517.60	2518.82	72%

# UAW Fisher Body Local Blasts Top Board's Rotten Settlement

FLINT, Mich.—The following is the text of the resolution adopted by Local No. 581, Fisher Body, in protest against the action of the International Executive Board in the recent dispute between the UAW-CIO and the Fisher management:

WHEREAS: 17 men, members of Local 581 UAW-CIO, were unjustly suspended by the Management of Fisher No. 1 on September 9, 10 and 11, 1940, and

WHEREAS: Upon proper notification of this action by the Fisher No. 1 to the International Union, Walter P. Reuther with one other of the staff of the G.M. Department and Local 581 officials conferred with the Management. Further conferences were held with G. M. Officials in Detroit and Corporation officials without Local 581 Officers being present,

and these G. M. officials did agree with the Company to the guilt of 17 men causing them to be fired by the Corporation, and

WHEREAS: The Officers of Local 581 and the 17 men affected were offered the alternative of accepting this Union-breaking agreement which was arrived at after nine long weeks of half-hearted negotiations on the part of the G. M. Department or face the possibility of a strike which the International stated they would fight publicly, and

WHEREAS: Eleven of these men under the settlement, accepted by the G. M. Department, are back to work in Fisher No. 1 under a six month's probation period and a one year sentence of not being able to obtain the benefits of the Contract for Union activities. Six men were not allowed to return to Fisher No. 1, but would be placed in some other

unit of G. M. as new men, and at the expiration of six months might apply, personally, as new men to the Manager of Fisher No. 1 for employment. If accepted, they would have to serve an additional probationary period, the length of which to be decided by Fisher No. 1 Management. If their services were satisfactory for the probationary period, to be determined only by the Management, they would have their seniority restored to its original date, and

WHEREAS: In no part of the International Constitution does it state that the International Union can remove without trial Committeemen or Stewards, and

WHEREAS: This settlement has the effect of causing dissatisfaction, disagreement, and disillusionment among our Membership, and

WHEREAS: The welfare and perhaps the very existence of the

Union, depends upon the reversal of the now existing policies of the G. M. Department as practiced by the G. M. Director, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the International Executive Board be requested to remove immediately the present G. M. Director from the position he now holds and select a man for the position who is not a member of the International Executive Board so he may be held responsible for his actions by the Membership in the G. M. Plants, and be it finally

RESOLVED: That copies of this Resolution, letters of explanation, and copies of the settlement on the 17 men be given to all members of the G. M. National Council convening in Detroit Dec. 7, 1940 for their information and action.

LOCAL 581 UAW-CIO

# TRADE UNION NOTES

by Farrell Dobbs

## THESE WORKERS PICKED THEIR OWN PROGRAM

The recent strike of 7,000 CIO aluminum workers in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, was settled by the removal of a fink as demanded by the workers, and a two cent raise in pay.

While the strike was on, every peanut politician around the Pittsburgh industrial area took the opportunity to sound off against the "reds" in the union, to demand laws forbidding strikes in the "defense industries," etc., etc.

Shortly after the strike ended an election was held in this union. Local 2 of the Aluminum Workers of America. One of the slates in the election ran on a "More pay and less speed-up" platform. The following paragraph appeared in a long, red-baiting article in the Pittsburgh Press which viciously attacked this slate:

"On the heels of a public warning by N. A. Zonarch, international president of the Aluminum Workers, that Communists were backing a slate of candidates in the Local 2 election, Rev. Charles Owen Rice (chaplain of the Pittsburgh Association of Catholic Trade Unionists) predicted a 'black day' for the union if the slate is victorious." One of the newspaper articles on this election carried this headline: "Reds in Unions Attacked As Peril to U. S. Defense."

When the votes were counted the "More pay and less speed-up" slate had won by a wide majority. Only one of the candidates endorsed by Father Rice was elected. A similar red-baiting campaign was carried on during the election in the East Pittsburgh Local No. 601 of the UERMW (CIO). Despite the intensive press campaign, none of the candidates endorsed by Father Rice were elected in this local.

If there were members of the Communist Party on the progressive slates which were elected in these two unions they were in a minority. But this is entirely beside the point. A majority of the workers were obviously in favor of "More pay and less speed-up." They were not at all impressed by the dire predictions of a "black day" in the union, and the "peril to U. S. defense" if the exponents of this platform were elected.

## A BOSS' TEARS AT CHRISTMASTIDE

As the result of strike action, a contract was signed on the Friday before Christmas between the Transformer Corporation of America, a New York City concern, and Local No. 430 of the UERMW (CIO). The workers won an increase in wages, plus a vacation provision. Just before Christmas a letter of "Christmas greetings" from the president of the company was handed to all manufacturing employees. The following are extracts from the letter:

"Normally, the management would hail an agreement of this type with the same enthusiasm as has been evidenced by the majority of the men... Unfortunately, these gains place an additional hardship upon the company... The TCA Management has... repeatedly called the attention of the Shop Chairman to the lax attitude of a number of employees in the shop... it is your job to recuperate the losses which TCA has incurred and is sustaining as a result of employee activity... It will be impossible for us to successfully compete in the open market unless some unusually efficient methods and attitudes are created in the TCA shop... You can't squeeze blood out of a turnip... If TCA is unable to compete... This will mean only one thing to you... either loss of employment or greatly curtailed working hours... It is unfortunate that these sad facts have to be brought forth at what is normally a joyous time of the year... I sincerely trust that every employee will put his shoulder to the wheel in an effort to earn his job and salary..."

"Forgetting business for the moment," the letter concludes, in a two-line paragraph after 447 words of complaint against the workers, "I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year."

The question is, what turnip is being squeezed? The workers squeezed a few concessions out of this boss and now he is trying to put a double squeeze on them. Yes, "forgetting business for the moment," he wishes them a "very Merry Xmas," indeed.

Join the Socialist Workers Party

## Grace Carlson's Speaking Dates

Have you carefully noted when Grace Carlson is speaking in your city on her national tour for the Socialist Workers Party? Here's the schedule of the tour:

Day	Date	Place
Thurs.	Jan. 2	Milwaukee
Friday	Jan. 3	Chicago
Sat.	Jan. 4	"
Sun.	Jan. 5	"
Mon.	Jan. 6	"
Tues.	Jan. 7	Flint
Wed.	Jan. 8	Detroit
Thurs.	Jan. 9	"
Friday	Jan. 10	Toledo
Sat.	Jan. 11	"
Sun.	Jan. 12	Cleveland
Mon.	Jan. 13	Akron
Tues.	Jan. 14	Youngstown
Wed.	Jan. 15	"
Thurs.	Jan. 16	Buffalo
Fri.	Jan. 17	Rochester
Sat.	Jan. 18	Syracuse
Sun.	Jan. 19	Boston
Mon.	Jan. 20	"
Tues.	Jan. 21	"
Wed.	Jan. 22	New Haven
Thurs.	Jan. 23	New York
to Feb 3		
Tues.	Feb. 4	Newark
Wed.	Feb. 5	"
Thurs.	Feb. 6	Allentown
Fri.	Feb. 7	Reading
Sat.	Feb. 8	Quakertown
Sun.	Feb. 9	Philadelphia
Mon.	Feb. 10	"
Tues.	Feb. 11	"
Wed.	Feb. 12	Baltimore
Thurs.	Feb. 13	"
Fri.	Feb. 14	Pittsburgh
Sat.	Feb. 15	"
Sun.	Feb. 16	Indianapolis
Mon.	Feb. 17	Louisville
Tues.	Feb. 18	"
Wed.	Feb. 19	St. Louis
Thurs.	Feb. 20	"
Fri.	Feb. 21	Memphis
Sat.	Feb. 22	"
Sun.	Feb. 23	New Orleans
Mon.	Feb. 24	New Orleans
Tues.	Feb. 25	Houston
Wed.	Feb. 26	"
Thurs.	Feb. 27	"
Fri.	Feb. 28	Los Angeles
Thurs.	March 6	and vicinity
Fri.	March 7	"
Sat.	March 8	San Francisco
Sun.	March 9	"
Mon.	March 10	"
Tues.	March 11	"
Wed.	March 12	"
Thurs.	March 13	"
Fri.	March 14	Portland
Sat.	March 15	"
Sun.	March 16	Seattle
Mon.	March 17	"
Tues.	March 18	"
Wed.	March 19	Plentywood
Thurs.	March 20	Williston
Fri.	March 21	Fargo
Sat.	March 22	"
Sun.	March 23	Twin Cities

# Top Leaders Of Auto Union Are Hemmed In From Two Sides

(Continued from Page 1)

G. M. management, but they are not reconciling themselves to it. The wave of the workers' resentment against the corporation, and even more bitterly against their own union G. M. department, is the first sign of the rising revolt against the whole rotten mess that is being sold them under the name of "National Defense."

## UAW BOARD MEETING

The UAW International Executive Board held its quarterly meeting in Cleveland last week, the first meeting since the Atlantic City CIO convention. It proceeded to the union's pressing problems with customary brilliance. The G. M. hot potato was gingerly disposed of by tossing it back into the laps of the local unions. Henceforth the top negotiating committee is abolished. All negotiations will be conducted right at the plants between the local union bargaining committees and the plant management. If no agreement is reached, the dispute may then be placed in the hands of the "impartial umpire." Program of action for G. M.? The Board did not have any, and what is more was considerably annoyed with having its time wasted over these paltry details.

The Executive Board of the UAW is not a homogeneous body. One part, the majority, is lined up with the Lewis, Stalinist-backed group; another 40% of the Board supports the Hillman-Reuther group. The conflict between the two groups is growing sharper. Personal relations are becoming more embittered, threatening at times to lead to an irreparable break. Despite all this, the fact remains that the two groups stand on the same principled position. Both favor 100% support to the Roosevelt war machine and its executive agency, the Morgan-DuPont "Defense Commission." The only thing Lewis and his friends

have against Hillman is that he is such a piker and perfectly willing to sell labor down the river for a few measly jobs. Lewis, on the other hand, demands, as he says, "recognition." He is holding out for the same price that the English capitalists paid. He wants an assortment of cabinet posts and a voice in the management of the war drive. That is what the differences between Lewis and Hillman amount to and that is all they amount to.

## THE FORD DRIVE

How is the Board solving the pressing tasks of the "organization drives"? With the same brilliance and tactical wisdom displayed in the G. M. situation. In the case of the Ford drive, the Board acted with complete frankness. Acknowledging its bankruptcy in black and white, it voted all questions concerning the Ford drive, its policy, selection of personnel, etc., out of its own hands and into the hands of William, the CIO-appointed Ford Director.

The campaign is in a crucial stage. Thousands of Ford workers have joined the UAW. Now the drive must be pushed to its natural climax: either the opening of negotiations with the company for the purpose of signing a union contract, or preparations for the calling of a strike. Unfortunately no such perspective seems to exist in the mind of the Ford Director. He is depending on the National Labor Relations Board, on Hillman and Roosevelt to do the job for him. It was proper to demand an NLRB election at Ford's in order to give the union time to consolidate its position and strengthen its defenses. But to depend on the NLRB or Roosevelt, to depend on anything but the fighting strength of the union itself, is a terrible mistake and unless corrected, might well lead to the same disaster that overtook the "Little Steel" strike.

With the Vultee strike still ringing in their ears, the Board hastened to wash its hands of all responsibility in the aircraft situation. They abdicated their authority here as they previously had abdicated in the case of the Ford drive. The CIO will appoint a director who will have full authority.

One might ask, of course, why the Board exists altogether, if the most pressing and important union tasks are planned and executed by other people. But only an ignoramus would ask a question like that. Everybody knows the Board is weighed down at the present time with the awesome responsibility of how to manufacture 500 "Spitfires" a day and naturally has not the time to worry about petty shop grievances or cavilling demands for wage increases.

The Vultee strike reminded everyone that the mass production workers are unbeaten. They served notice on the plutocrats that the workers have not yet had their say in the matter of the coming war. That fact is brought home even more forcibly today at every important union gathering where one meets young local leaders and plant stewards, burning with a crusading zeal for the union and constantly demanding more action, a firmer, more realistic and more aggressive policy of their International leaders. These militants, still scattered and unorganized, are being drawn together by their common aspirations and aims. That is why the bosses, in spite of all the belly crawling of Hillman and Reuther and the others, fear the union as the plague itself.

The UAW has a job to do. It must launch a whirlwind campaign to sweep into the union fold the hundreds of thousands of unorganized workers of the auto motive, aircraft, steel-fabricating and parts industries. It must use

its organized strength to cut deep into the swollen profits of the manufacturers. It must do all of this and constantly march forward—or go under in the coming war period as the auto union and the rest of labor went under in France.

The auto workers, it must now be said plainly, cannot depend on their present leadership to push through this job. The present leaders, shortsighted, bewildered and stunned by the rush of events, have already sold themselves to the Roosevelt war government. They have taken on the job of Ed McGrady of NRA days and of Sidney Hillman today—the job of a fireman putting out strikes and "labor trouble."

The auto workers still believe in Roosevelt today. They support the "National Defense" set-up in the mistaken notion that they thereby help defend "democracy." But they are learning fast. This is indicated by the growing unpopularity of Hillman. This is indicated by the auto workers' contempt for Walter Reuther's furious efforts to land a cushy government job. The auto workers are bound to learn even more rapidly in the coming period of rising prices and growing repressions.

The auto workers must complete their education. They must fling away the hypnotism of the company-inspired "National Defense" propaganda. They must break openly and without equivocation from the Roosevelt war government. They must cut loose from the capitalist politicians and take the lead in launching an independent party of labor. Once on this road the auto workers will find no difficulty in building a new union leadership out of the ranks of its militant shop stewards and uncorrupted local union officers, who will lead the union forward on lines that give every assurance of success.